

The MA Program in Sociology at CU Denver provides a coherent, progressive, educational experience that prepares students for either immediate entry to a master's level career or continued study in Ph.D. programs. The program requires completion of 33 total credit hours, 27 of which are courses and 6 comprise the student's comprehensive paper. The comprehensive paper is either a thesis or an internship with a final report.

### **Program Strengths**

***Emphasis on Methodology*** - This program distinguishes itself, in part, by its strong emphasis on methodology. All students are required to take 9 credit hours of research methodology and analysis (Research Methods, Quantitative Data Analysis, and Qualitative Data Analysis).

***Institutional Connections*** - Our proximity and institutional connection to the top-rated University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) offer training opportunities as well, which are facilitated by engagement of departmental faculty with AMC medical researchers. In addition, strong integration of our faculty with the CU Denver campus community supports collaborative teaching and training efforts with faculty in the Departments of Geography, Anthropology, and Health & Behavioral Sciences.

***An Urban Environment*** - The MA program in Sociology at CU Denver benefits tremendously from its location in a state capital and one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the U.S. This dynamic context provides a natural classroom for teaching our specialties: Health & Society; Crime, Law & Deviance; and, Family, Social Services & Community.

### **Substantive Concentrations**

In addition to education and training for sociology generalists, the program offers concentrations in three substantive areas. To receive an area concentration, students must successfully complete three courses within the area. Eligible courses are either within or outside the department, but the student may only take two courses outside the department.

***Crime, Law, and Deviance*** The focus of this concentration is to provide students with an in-depth understanding



of criminology including the social construction of laws, the causes of crime, reactions to law violations, and the prevention, control, and treatment of crime. Additionally, the program teaches students how deviant categories are created, how groups gain control over social definitions, and the consequences these definitions have in the form of norms, laws, and social sanctions. The concentration on crime, law, and deviance also focuses on how legal systems maintain and reproduces social inequalities. This offers an essential foundation for students pursuing careers in criminal justice, victim and community services, criminal law, and non-profit organizations in local and international contexts. Students may ultimately use this degree to conduct social research on crime, influence public policy, and inform government decisions about crime and law.



Enhancing the health and quality of life for individuals and communities are central goals to societies the world over. Health and medical sociology is a subfield devoted to the study of population health, health care systems and policy, and the social dimensions of illness and healing. Health and medical sociologists study the causes of health inequalities, social constructions of health and illness, origins of medical authority, doctor-patient relationships, community influences on health, and the social forces that affect policy. The Sociology Department's MA concentration in Health and Society provides training in the core research methodologies and theories of medical sociology, examining individual experience, institutional structures, laws and policies that affect health, and broader systems of inequality that lead to unequal rates of illness and access to care. This area of concentration provides in-depth training and is ideal for students interested in further graduate-level study and social research on health and medicine as well as those interested in careers in public health, health care services, and non-profit organizations.

## **Family, Social Services, and Community**



Families play a significant part in individuals' lives and society. At the micro or interpersonal level they are a setting for small-group processes such as socialization, conflict, communication and intimacy. At the meso or institutional level they interact with other major social institutions including those affecting education, law, healthcare, religion, the economy, criminal justice, and welfare. At the macro or structural level, the family—in its varied and diverse

forms also is key to understanding how inequality is experienced and reproduced in society. The interplay of these multiple levels—the micro or interpersonal, the meso or institutional, and the macro or structural—is important as well as individuals influence social structures and institutions, and the latter, in turn, affect family interactions and relationships. This concentration provides in depth understanding of the complex role of families and family members at multiple levels, as well as the social systems, organizations and communities responsible for supporting families and individuals.

### **Degree Requirements**

The degree requirements for an MA in Sociology at CU Denver include 15 credit hours of core courses; 12 credit hours of electives; and six credit hours of a research paper, either a thesis or an applied research paper, for a total of 33 credit hours.

### **Required Course**

All incoming graduate students must take SOCY 5024 Professional seminar during the fall semester of their first year in the program.

#### **Course Requirements (27 credit hours)**

<b>SOCY 5000 - Professional Seminar</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOCY 5016, Social Theory</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOCY 5024, Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOCY 5183, Quantitative Data Analysis</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOCY 5193, Qualitative Data Analysis</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Graduate Electives</b>	<b>12</b>

#### **Research Paper (6 credit hours)**

<b>SOCY 5955, Master's Thesis</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>OR</b>	
<b>SOCY 5939/5940, Applied Experience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOCY 5964, Master's Final Paper</b>	<b>3</b>

**If you have any questions about our MA program, please contact the Sociology Graduate Program Director:**

**Dr. Stacey Bosick**

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***New Mexico - North Dakota - Oregon - South Dakota - Utah - Washington State - Wyoming***