



Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate



Enhancing the health and quality of life for individuals and communities are central goals to societies the world over. Medical sociology is a subfield devoted to the study of the causes of health inequalities, social meanings of health and illness, doctor-patient relationships, community influences on health, and healthcare delivery systems and policies. The Sociology Department's Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate provides methodological and substantive training to examine individual experience, institutional structures, and laws and policies that affect health, as well as broader systems of inequality that lead to unequal rates of illness and access to care. This certificate is ideal for students planning to pursue 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.

Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will:

- Identify key social factors that drive health disparities, including socioeconomic inequality, sexism, and race-based discrimination
- Articulate foundational theoretical perspectives outlining the mechanisms connecting social determinants of health to adverse health outcomes and health inequities
- Utilize analytic techniques common to interdisciplinary health scholarship, including knowledge of data sources, data management techniques, and both the quantitative and qualitative methods used by health scholars to assess population health
- Describe the current architecture of health policy in the US and abroad
- Plan original research projects investigating the connections among social factors and population health

Curriculum

To obtain the certificate, students must complete three core requirements and two electives, totaling a minimum of 15 hours. SOCY 3440 - Medical Sociology, is required and ideally taken prior to the required methods courses because it familiarizes students with key concepts related to medical sociology and population health that can be explored in the methods courses.

Core Requirements - All courses for certificates must be taken at CU Denver. If any of the following required courses were transferred, an elective from the approved electives below can be substituted for those missing credits.

- 1) SOCY 3440 - Medical Sociology (3 cr.)
- 2) SOCY 3115 - Quantitative Methods (4 cr.) and SOCY 3119 - Qualitative Methods (4 cr.)

OR

A statistics course in a student's major discipline (e.g., PSYC 2090, PSYC 3090, PSCI 3011, PHIL 3440, PHIL 2441, ECON 3801, ECON 3811, GEOG 2080, GEOG 4080) may be substituted for SOCY 3115. A qualitative methods course from the student's major discipline (e.g., COMM 4221, PBHL 4031) may be substituted for SOCY 3119. All methods substitutions must be approved by the certificate administrator to ensure they are equivalent courses to those they are replacing.

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3) Two related electives from the following sample of approved courses:

SOCY 3010: Sociology of Human Sexuality
SOCY 3040: Drugs, Alcohol & Society
SOCY 3570: Death & Dying: Social & Medical Perspectives
SOCY 4050: Health Disparities
SOCY 4110: Sociology of Health Care
SOCY 4220: Population Change and Analysis
SOCY 4270: Social Meanings of Reproduction
SOCY 4290: Aging, Society & Social Policy
ANTH 3042: Cannabis Culture
ANTH 4010: Medical Anthropology: Global Health
ANTH 4290: Anthropology & Public Health
COMM 4500: Health Communication
COMM 4525: Health & Community
COMM 4550: Rhetorics of Medicine & Health
COMM 4558: Digital Health Narratives
ECON 4660: Health Economics
ETST 3002: Ethnicity, Health, & Social Justice
GEOG 3501: Geography of Health
GEOG 4235: GIS Applications in Health Sciences
HEHM 3100: Introduction to Health Humanities
HIST 3606: Science, Technology, & Society in the Modern World
HIST 4345: Gender, Science, & Medicine: 1600 to the Present
HIST 4346: Medicine & Society: The Ancients to the Present
PBHL 3030: Health Policy
PBHL 3070: Perspective in Global Health
PBHL 4031: Ethnographic Research in Public Health
PHIL 3550: Philosophy of Death & Dying
PHIL 4242: Bioethics
PSCI 4330: U.S. Health Policy
PSYC 2205: Lifespan Developmental Psychology for Health Majors
PSYC 3262: Health Psychology
PSYC 3822: Aging, Brain & Behavior
WGST 4345: Gender, Science, & Medicine: 1600 to the Present

Program Requirements

Eligibility

While housed in Sociology, the study of health and medical issues is a multidisciplinary endeavor that draws from diverse fields, including Public Health, Anthropology, Communications, Psychology, and History, among others. Thus, CU Denver undergraduate students in any discipline can enroll in the program.

Application Procedures

Students are encouraged to apply for the Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate at any point in their undergraduate studies. More information can be obtained from the Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate Administrator, Dr. Adam Lippert (Adam.Lippert@ucdenver.edu).

Performance Requirements

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 1.7 or higher and earn a minimum of a “C-” in each course applied to the certificate. The certificate will be added to students’ transcript when all requirements are completed.
