



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 population health, health care systems and policy, and the social dimensions of illness and healing. 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 Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate 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 certificate provides depth of training in these areas and is ideal for students interested in 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:

- Articulate the central explanations for historical shifts in disease, including neighborhood effects and behaviors that may increase risk of disease, and mortality
- Identify social factors that contribute to population health inequalities, including race, ethnicity, gender, class, immigration status, sexuality, or disability
- Understand the social influences that shape medical authority, knowledge, and patient experiences with illness and treatment
- Be able to use different methodologies to understand the social aspects of health and medicine
- Know how to conduct original research, analyze policy, and evaluate community needs for organizations devoted to improving 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 should be taken prior to the required methods courses because it familiarizes students with key concepts related to medical sociology and health that can be explored hands-on in their 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 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
ANTH 4600: Medical Anthropology
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
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 3265: Drugs, Brain & Behavior
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 in fact a multidisciplinary field that draws from diverse liberal arts fields, including 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 2.0 or higher and earn a minimum of a “C” in each course applied to the certificate. The certificate will be transcribed when all requirements are completed.
