

# Applied Sociology (P.S.M.)

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## About The Program:

The Professional Science Master's (P.S.M.) degree in Applied Sociology is designed to train research professionals in a wide range of social research methods and data analysis. Students take a set of core courses in research design, quantitative methods, qualitative methods, and research ethics, as well as additional methods courses as electives.

**Career Options:** Graduates of the program are typically employed as applied researchers in public and private firms.

**Prerequisites for Admission:** No specific courses are required at the moment, but background in Sociology or a related Social Science discipline is recommended.

**Affiliation(s):** The program is affiliated with the American Sociological Association (ASA).

## Areas of Specialization:

- Data Analysis
- Qualitative Methods
- Research Design
- Research Ethics
- Statistics

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## Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 31
- **Culminating Events:** This program has no culminating events beyond successful completion of coursework. The P.S.M. degree in Applied Sociology is awarded to any candidate who earns a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the degree curriculum

## *Core Courses:*

**Logic Of Inquiry** – This course is an introduction to the logic and methods of social research. We will examine the issues that arise in doing and evaluating both quantitative and qualitative research by reading the sociological literature. We will spend some time on the simple tools, e.g. tables and graphs, needed to summarize research results. However the focus will be on larger issues, namely, how researchers draw conclusions from empirical data, and how we can assess the validity of the conclusions they reach.

**Inferential and Multivariate Statistics**– This course starts with a review of bivariate statistics and moves quickly into multivariate statistics focusing on multiple regression. The emphasis of this course is on conceptual understanding, interpretation, and application. All major computations are performed using the SPSS computing program. Students are also expected to learn the basic skills for working with large social science data sets, such as the GSS. This course serves as a prerequisite for SOC 9211, which

involves the application of the statistical procedures taught in this class to the study of real social issues through secondary data analysis.

**Qualitative Methods** – This course introduces the assumptions, theories and practices of qualitative research methods. The course is designed to provide opportunities for developing specific qualitative research skills while gaining familiarity with theories, issues, and problems in qualitative research.

**The Ethics of Social Research** – This course examines many of the ethical dimensions of conducting social research. Social researchers are accountable to: a) their own consciences and their own ethics, b) the actual people they are studying, c) international and federal laws, d) institutional policies and practices, e) their disciplines and sub-fields, f) their peers and colleagues, and g) any other communities to which they belong or in which they participate. This course examines a series of readings organized around key themes in research ethics. In addition, students are asked to investigate particular cases of alleged research misconduct and to take a position on the controversy. By the end of this class, students should: 1) Know the key laws and statutes governing social research; 2) Be familiar with the ethical resources available to social researchers; 3) Be able to evaluate the ethics of particular research cases; and 4) Be able to weigh ethical dilemmas in their own research practice and make responsible decisions about those dilemmas.

**Graduate Data Analysis** – In this course, you will do original sociological research using secondary data analysis. In this course, in addition to looking for meaningful relationships between variables in the data, we apply quantitative research methods to examine explanations for why relationships between variables may exist. To do this, we explore whether and how a relationship between two variables changes when we add a third (or fourth or fifth...) variable. The research process consists of several steps: (1) construct a research question, (2) formulate one or more theories related to your research question based on a literature review, (3) turn those theories into testable hypotheses, and (4) test those hypotheses using secondary data. Your research will be presented in a final paper organized according to the standards of the discipline and then summarized in an oral presentation.

**Qualitative Data Analysis** – The central goal of this course is to have students complete a qualitative research project. It focuses on how to collect data, how to organize data for analysis, and how to use the data to answer a research question and/or develop concepts that might inform future research. Toward this end, the course begins with readings about the qualitative research process. The readings detail the agenda(s), logic, and epistemological foundation of qualitative research.

**Internship in Social Research** – The internship in social research provides a learning experience that unites the core concepts of sociology with professional organizational settings and the community as a whole, while also guiding students as they transition into their own professional lives

**Independent Study Program** – With the consent of the graduate chairperson and the instructor concerned, students may select an intensive program of study and/or research within a specific area of sociology.

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## Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Statistical Methods in Sociology
- Socialization
- Sexuality and Gender
- Urban Sociology
- Political Sociology
- Sociology of the Environment
- Social Movements & Social Conflict
- Health and Disease in American Society
- Class in Modern Society
- Selected Topics in Sociology
- Selected Topics of Sociology
- Logic of Inquiry
- Classical Social Theory
- Inferential and Multivariate Statistics
- Qualitative Methods
- Demography & Immigration
- The Ethics of Social Research
- Sociology of Education
- Political Sociology
- Race and Ethnicity
- Sociology of Kinship
- Complex Organizations
- Urban Sociology
- Sociology of Culture
- Social Inequality
- Medical Sociology
- Sexuality and Gender
- Gender and Body
- Urban Health
- Globalization and Development
- Special Departmental Seminar
- Departmental Seminar
- Symposium in Sociology
- Teaching of Sociology
- Introduction to Computing
- Contemporary Sociological Theory
- Advanced Sociological Theory
- Theories of Identity
- Theories of Globalization
- Graduate Data Analysis
- Theory and Practice of Statistical Sampling
- Methodology of Social Surveys
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Departmental Seminar in Research Methods
- Immigration and Inequality
- Theories of Race and Racism
- Independent Study Program
- Internship in Social Research