Graduate Program in Social Science

On This Page:

- Graduate Concentration in Demographic and Social Analysis
  - Admission
  - Requirements
  - Courses
- Graduate Concentration in Medicine, Science and Technology Studies
  - Program Requirements
  - Course Offerings
- M.A. in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE)
- Master of Public Policy
- Graduate Concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Science
  - Admission
  - General Requirements
- Emphasis in Social Networks
- Emphasis in Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems
- Master of Arts Degree

In addition to the departmental graduate programs, the School offers the M.A. in Social Science with concentrations in Demographic and Social Analysis and Medicine, Science and Technology Studies (http://www.anthropology.uci.edu), the M.A. in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics, the Master of Public Policy, and the Ph.D. in Social Science with a concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences. Each program is administered by a different group of faculty.

Graduate Concentration in Demographic and Social Analysis
http://www.demography.uci.edu

The M.A. in Social Science with a concentration in Demographic and Social Analysis offers specialized training in the research skills to address practical problems confronting society, business, government, and the nonprofit sector. The concentration emphasizes the Pacific Rim and issues defining Southern California’s population, such as immigration, changing household and family structure, racial and economic inequalities, and the impact of local and regional population growth. Informed by the interdisciplinary field of demography, the program draws on faculty and courses in the Schools of Social Sciences and Social Ecology.

Admission
Students are admitted to the program in the fall quarter. Students must hold a B.A. or B.S., normally in a social science or related field, and should have had at least four units of undergraduate statistics or equivalent mathematics courses. Students must meet the general admission requirements for graduate studies, which include official transcripts of all college course work, Graduate Record Examination scores for tests taken within the past five years, and three letters of recommendation. Applicants whose first language is not English must also take the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and achieve a score of at least 80 out of 120. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination may be used instead, in which case a minimum overall score of 7 out of 9 is required, with a score of not less than 6 out of 9 on any individual module.

Requirements
The M.A. requires 36 units of study and an oral exit examination. All students must complete 20 units of required courses which include one course in research design, one in demographic methods, one in populations, and two in statistics. In addition, students must complete 16 units of elective courses in population issues or research methods. No more than four units may be internship, independent study, directed readings, or thesis courses (to prepare for the oral examination). One or two electives may be upper-division undergraduate courses, with the remainder being graduate courses. All courses must be completed with a grade of B or better.

The M.A. in Social Science with a concentration in Demographic and Social Analysis may also be awarded to Ph.D. students who complete the necessary requirements.

Courses
For graduate courses in Social Science click on the "Courses" tab above and scroll down to SOC SCI 209.

Graduate Concentration in Medicine, Science and Technology Studies
http://www.anthropology.uci.edu
The Department of Anthropology offers a Masters of Arts concentration in the School of Social Sciences focused on Medicine, Science, and Technology Studies, informally known as the M.A. in MSTS. Students who complete the program will earn an M.A. in Social Sciences (Medicine, Science, and Technology Studies).

This degree is the only terminal M.A. degree in either medical anthropology or science and technology studies in the University of California system. The program recognizes that these two fields and the social phenomena they examine are inextricably linked, and flexible course offerings provide students with an opportunity to pursue projects that focus on either field or that bridge both areas of study.

Ethnographers of medicine, science, and technology are in high demand, and the M.A. in MSTS will enable students to respond to the significant and rapidly changing impact of medicine, science, and technology upon economies and societies around the world. The program helps to prepare students for a range of employment opportunities in academia, public health, technology industries, and the nonprofit sector.

Students admitted for Fall 2014 will form the program’s first cohort and will be enrolled in courses with current Ph.D. and possibly B.A. students. The program is administered by the Department of Anthropology, but draws on the expertise of faculty across the Irvine campus.

Program Requirements

Course Requirements

The M.A. in MSTS is a one-year program. Students will take three courses per quarter for a total of nine courses (36 units). All courses must be completed with a grade of B or better.

Required courses include:

1. ANTHRO 204A Proseminar in Medicine, Science, and Technology (4 units)
2. One methods course from the following options: ANTHRO 211A Statistics and Research Design or ANTHRO 212A Research Design and Data Analysis (4 units)
3. Seven elective courses (28 units) that may include:
   • Approved graduate courses in the Anthropology department
   • An internship, independent study, or directed reading (up to 4 units)
   • Up to two electives may be approved upper-division undergraduate courses in the Anthropology department
   • Up to two electives may be approved courses taken outside the Anthropology department
   • Up to two electives may be additional Anthropology methods courses

Comprehensive Examination

In addition to completing the required coursework, students must successfully complete a written comprehensive examination administered each year by the program committee.

Optional: Master’s with Honors Paper

In addition to the comprehensive exam, students in the program who wish to produce a written analysis larger than those created in conjunction with specific graduate courses may also complete the “Master’s with Honor’s Paper” option.

Students must declare their intention to earn a “Master’s with Honors Paper” in the fall quarter of the program. The “Master’s with Honors paper” involves combining two or three graduate seminar papers into a longer comprehensive thesis under the supervision of a program faculty member. Papers from undergraduate courses cannot be used for this option.

After completing this option, students may list the approved Honors Paper on their curricula vitae.

Course Offerings

Approved Graduate Courses in the Anthropology Department

The following Anthropology graduate courses may be counted as electives toward the M.A. in MSTS:

ANTHRO 231C Technomethods for Sociocultural Research
ANTHRO 232B Medical Anthropology
ANTHRO 232C Ethnographies of Science and Medicine
ANTHRO 249A Humanism and Posthumanism
ANTHRO 249B Multispecies Anthropology
ANTHRO 250A The Cultural Politics of Visual Representation
ANTHRO 250B Digital Technologies, Culture, and Media
ANTHRO 253A Design, Aesthetics, and Social Life
ANTHRO 256A Ethnographies of Technology
ANTHRO 257A Natures and Environments
ANTHRO 289 Other Knowledges

Approved Upper-Division Undergraduate Courses in the Anthropology Department

Up to two of the following Anthropology undergraduate courses may be counted as electives toward the M.A. in MSTS:

ANTHRO 125B Ecological Anthropology
ANTHRO 125F Humans and Other Animals
ANTHRO 125B Ecological Anthropology
ANTHRO 128C Digital Cultures
ANTHRO 132A Psychological Anthropology
ANTHRO 134A Medical Anthropology
ANTHRO 134C Medicine, Food, and Health
ANTHRO 139 Anthropology of the Body
ANTHRO 139 Anthropology of Biomedicine and Biotechnology

Students may petition for additional courses to be counted as electives.

M.A. in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE)

http://www.lps.uci.edu/grad/ppe

PPE aims at providing students with a broad yet thorough education in the three constitutive fields: Philosophy. The program’s objective is to train individuals to critically evaluate individual and collective decision-making and public policy. Philosophy equips students with tools to reason rigorously and facilitates ethical reflection. Economics provides tools for evaluating individual and collective decision-making. And Political Science provides an understanding of the real contexts in which ethical and economic principles must be applied. Thus the three disciplines inherent in PPE are mutually supportive and a background in each is necessary for an individual to gain a robust understanding of social phenomena.

The 4+1 M.A. in PPE may be of considerable interest to students interested in obtaining additional education focused on ethics, logic, decision-making, and public policy. This is also excellent preparation for students considering law school. A full description of the program, with relevant application information, can be found at the LPS Department Graduate Program webpage (http://www.lps.uci.edu/grad/ppe.php).

Master of Public Policy

The Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) program is a two-year professional degree program administered by both the School of Social Ecology and the School of Social Sciences. Students are required to complete 72 units of graduate courses. In the first year, students will attend an introductory conference, participate in a workshop, and take seven core courses and two elective courses. In the summer after the first year, students will participate in a policy-relevant internship in an appropriate government, business, or nonprofit setting. In the second year, students take three core courses and five elective courses.

The core course requirements in year one of the program are Qualitative Methods and Public Policy, Statistical Methods for Public Policy, Information and the Policy Process, Microeconomics and Public Policy, Policy Processes and Institutions of Governance, Collaborative Governance and Public Management, and Social Mobilization, Power, and Justice. The core course requirements in year two are The Economics of Government, Policy and Ethics, and Capstone Research Project and Briefing.

Additional information is available at the Master of Public Policy website (http://mpp.web.uci.edu).

Graduate Concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences

http://www.imbs.uci.edu/graduate

The concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences offers a program of interdisciplinary and mathematical approaches to the study of human behavior, providing high levels of training in current mathematical modeling and in mathematics and software use and programming. The program is administered by an interdisciplinary group of faculty. Within the concentration, two optional emphases are available: Social Networks; and Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems. Specific requirements are detailed below.

Admission

Admission to the concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences requires evidence of appreciable mathematical skill and knowledge. As an absolute minimum, a candidate should have taken one full year of calculus, including calculus of several variables, and one course in linear algebra, and should also provide evidence of additional mathematical depth. This depth can be manifested in a number of different ways including, but not restricted to, an undergraduate degree in mathematics or physical science, a high score on the quantitative section of the GRE general test, or a strong undergraduate minor in mathematics. In addition, students should have some exposure to a behavioral science field. Especially useful is some experience with behavioral science modeling.
Those students interested in either the emphasis in Social Networks or the emphasis in Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems should make this clear in their application. A student is free at any time after admission to move into or out of either emphasis, but will be subject to the requirements in effect at the time of original admission to the concentration in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences.

**General Requirements**

Four major classes of requirements must be fulfilled. Since a number of options are available, the student will, in consultation with an advisor, develop a plan of study.

**Quantitative/Mathematical.** To be completed by the end of the third year:

1. one course each in analysis beyond calculus, abstract algebra beyond linear algebra, and logic; and
2. two quarters of mathematical statistics, with calculus as a prerequisite and covering the fundamentals of probability and random variables.

A list of courses eligible for satisfying the Quantitative/Mathematical requirement is available at the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences website (http://www.imbs.uci.edu/graduate/masters.php).

**Language/Computer.** All students must be sufficiently familiar with various computer programs and languages to be able to conduct serious research in their field of interest and must submit either proposed courses or some demonstration of competency as part of their plan of study. In addition, students must either

1. attain proficiency in reading social science technical publications in one foreign language with a substantial relevant technical literature or
2. demonstrate proficiency in computer programming considerably beyond that of the standard computer requirement.

Because of the continually changing nature of computer languages and software, the conditions for fulfilling this additional computer expertise requirement is left to the judgment of the faculty subcommittee on computers of the Ph.D. program.

**Substantive Minor.** Students are expected to develop considerable expertise in some substantive field and in the application of models to it. This requires the completion of three courses at the upper-division or graduate level that do not necessarily entail extensive modeling, and three courses or seminars in which the primary thrust is mathematical modeling.

**Research Papers and Colloquia.** At the end of the second year, a 10–20-page paper reporting original research or a penetrating analysis of some subtopic of mathematical behavioral science (or either social networks, or games, decisions, and dynamical systems with a formal or mathematical component) is expected. An oral presentation will be given to faculty and graduate students. Two faculty members are assigned to read and evaluate the paper and talk.

Students are required to take for credit four quarters of the Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Colloquium, SOC SCI 211A--SOC SCI 211C, during their first three years. Although not a formal requirement, students are expected to attend the colloquium on a regular basis whenever in residence.

**Time to Degree.** Students must advance to candidacy in their fourth year. The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is six years. The maximum time permitted is seven years.

**Emphasis in Social Networks**

The requirements for the emphasis in Social Networks are the same as the general requirements noted above, with the following exceptions:

Students may choose to complete the first part of the Quantitative/Mathematical requirement with one course each in discrete mathematics, graph theory, and logic.

Social Networks students are required to attend about 75 percent of the Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Colloquia, including all that are designated as Social Networks Colloquia, and also must attend occasional colloquia, usually of local faculty and graduate students, which are separate from the general Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Colloquia.

**Emphasis in Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems**

The requirements for the emphasis in Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems are the same as the general requirements noted above, with the following exceptions:

Students must complete eight graduate courses emphasizing game theory, decision theory, or dynamical systems. Examples of such courses are:

| ANTHRO 289 | Special Topics in Anthropology (when topics are Networks and Social Evolution; Cognition, Technology, and Genes; Dynamical Processes.) |
| ECON 243A | Game Theory |
| ECON 270A- 270B- 270C | Political Economy I and Political Economy II and Political Economy III |
These courses will count toward the substantive minor requirement.

Students are required to attend about 75 percent of the Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Colloquia, including all that are designated as Games, Decisions, and Dynamical Systems colloquia, and must also attend occasional colloquia, usually of local faculty and graduate students, which are separate from the general Mathematical Behavioral Sciences Colloquia.

**Master of Arts Degree**

The M.A. degree is awarded to UCI Ph.D. students who complete necessary requirements or to students currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program (or equivalent) at another institution who are directly admitted for graduate study leading only to the master’s degree at UCI. Such applicants must provide evidence that their Ph.D. program agrees to this one-year arrangement. Requirements include the submission of a petition to the Graduate Committee along with a proposed plan of study consisting of 36 units of relevant Mathematical Behavioral Science courses, normally including the core requirement in mathematical statistics, and the satisfactory completion of a comprehensive examination.

**Faculty**

Nurudeen O. Alao, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Lecturer of Social Sciences; International Studies

Jeanett Castellanos, Ph.D. Washington State University, Lecturer with Security of Employment of Social Sciences

Raúl A. Fernández, Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University, Executive Secretary of the UC-Cuba Academic Initiative and Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies; Social Sciences

Gilbert G. Gonzalez, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies; Social Sciences

James R. Hull, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment of Social Sciences; Sociology (social networks and social exchange, monetization, barter, multidimensional poverty measures, migration outcomes at origin, classroom technologies and scaling, student engagement, scholarship of teaching and learning)

Bojan M. Petrovic, Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Lecturer of Social Sciences

Paul R. Shirey, Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Lecturer of Social Sciences; Economics

Alfonso Valdez, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Lecturer of Social Sciences

Joseph L. White, Ph.D. Michigan State University, Professor Emeritus of Social Sciences

Valerie L. Wright, Ph.D. Fuller Theological Seminary, Lecturer of Social Sciences