MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED SOCIOLOGY

OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

Applied Sociology is a branch of Sociology that focuses on using sociological theories and methods to solve real world problems. Northern Arizona University's Master's program was among the first applied sociology graduate programs in the United States. It has gone through a number of significant changes since its inception in 1975, reflecting both our experiences with the program and changes in the broader society. Our present program is built around a strong methodological and theoretical core of coursework. In addition to the core courses, students are able to choose their remaining coursework from an array of electives. Upon successful completion of their coursework, all students enrolled in our program are required to complete either an internship or thesis. In special circumstances and in consultation with an advisor, a course only option is available to students who do not intend to pursue further graduate study in sociology.

Current areas of strength in the department include: race/ethnicity, deviance, family, gender, sexuality, race/class/gender, policy, demography, environment, social psychology, and planning & evaluation. Since the department provides students with the opportunity to individualize their programs of study, we are able to draw upon the strengths of the kindred disciplines in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In the end, we aim to blend the theories, concepts, ideas, and skills learned in the classroom with the practicalities and diverse realities of the larger society.
PROGRAM COURSEWORK

The program in applied sociology requires the successful completion of 30 units of coursework (plus 1 unit for the Orientation Seminar), and 6 units of either an internship or a thesis. A minimum 3.0 grade point average is required in order to graduate from the program.

A core of three classes is required of all students in the program as well as an initial pass/fail for the Orientation Seminar.

The remaining twenty-one hours of coursework are composed of elective courses selected by you in consultation with your academic advisor. The graduate coordinator is your advisor for the first year of graduate study, and the chair of your thesis or internship committee is your key advisor the subsequent year(s). The final six hours of the program is comprised of an internship or thesis option.

The core courses and the semesters they are offered are listed below:

* SOC 698 - Graduate Seminar: Orientation (Fall, 1 unit)
* SOC 651 - Applied Sociological Theory (Fall, 3 units)
* SOC 653 - Applied Research Methods (Fall, 3 units)

and one of the following:

* SOC 654 - Qualitative Methods and Analysis (CCJ 610) (Spring, 3 units) OR
* SOC 655 - Quantitative Analysis (CCJ 614) (Spring, 3 units)

The core courses are sequenced in that SOC 653 provides the basis for either SOC 654 or SOC 655. Students may, and are encouraged to, take both SOC 654 and SOC 655, but only one is required.

The core courses conclude with:

* SOC 696 - Internship (Fall, Spring, Summer) OR
* SOC 699 - Thesis (Fall, Spring, Summer)

The Internship or Thesis option, SOC 696 or SOC 699, is to be taken after all 31 units of coursework are completed for the degree as documented in the Course of Study Form. You may not register for internship or thesis hours with an outstanding "Incomplete" or "In Progress."

One exception - If you must maintain "full-time" status, you may petition your graduate committee to admit you to register for internship or thesis units with twenty-eight units of coursework completed. However, you must take your final three units of coursework at the same time you are pursuing your internship or thesis units.
The Internship/Thesis Options

As indicated earlier, our program offers you two options for completing your program, Internship or Thesis. In selecting an option, you should evaluate your career goals and discuss the options with your graduate committee. If you plan to continue your education beyond the master's level, we strongly encourage you to select the thesis option. You will NOT be allowed to register for either of these courses until a "Thesis/Internship Permission to Register" form and an internship or thesis proposal is on file in the department office. See the Internship and Thesis Option sections for complete details.

Topics Courses and Independent Study/Graduate Research Courses

SOC 599 - Contemporary Developments and SOC 610 - Seminar in Sociology are designated as "open lines," which means different topics may be offered at different times under these numbers. You may, if the topic has changed and your advisor approves, repeat these courses once.

SOC 685 - Graduate Research and SOC 697 - Independent Study are courses designed for individualized studies, which allow you to pursue a specific interest in an area where established coursework is not available. If you select independent work, you must do so in concert with the faculty member directing the study and your advisor with the approval of the department chair. Any combination of up to 6 credit hours for Graduate Research and/or Independent Study work is permitted. In other words, only two such courses are counted toward the 36 units of coursework required for the master’s degree.

Other Coursework

Under certain circumstances and only when they are applicable to your program of studies, you are allowed to take a limited number of courses outside the department. Similarly, you may include no more than two 400 level courses in your Master's program. Either of these options requires prior approval by your advisor.

In order to register for a 400-level course, you will need to submit the “Override Authorization: Audit/Class Links/Out of Career” form to the Office of the Registrar. This form will need to be signed by your advisor.

Finally, you may transfer a limited number (no more than nine hours) of graduate courses from another institution into your program at NAU if these courses were not used to secure a degree at the former institution. If they were used as part of a prior degree program, they can not be counted toward your degree at NAU, but they may be used to waive a requirement. All requests for transfer of units are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If you want to transfer credit into the program or waive a course requirement, you must submit a letter to the coordinator justifying your request.

Course Only Option

In consultation with your advisor and with their permission, students who do not intend to pursue further graduate study in sociology may substitute additional coursework for the thesis or internship.