Twin Cities Campus

Population Studies Minor

Sociology

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Undergraduate free-standing minor
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2022
- Required credits in this minor: 15 to 18

Population studies encompasses the study of the size, structure, and distribution of populations and spatial or temporal changes in them in response to birth, migration, aging, and death. Changes in the size and composition of populations, as well as in the underlying components of population change (i.e., mortality, fertility, and migration), strongly influence and are influenced by natural and human systems in ways that are increasingly consequential.

Population studies equips students with the ability to connect to demography in ways that promote understanding, preparedness, leadership, and service in a period of rapid social change. This program draws from a rich set of resources at the University of Minnesota with a possible experience with the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) via internships, employment, or course offerings.

Coursework focuses on the intersections of population studies with ecology, economics, education, environmental science, epidemiology, geography, history, political science, public health, public policy, sociology, and statistics. Faculty interests in the comparative study of demography and institutions in various countries add an international emphasis to these areas of study. All population studies courses emphasize the skills of social inquiry necessary for analyzing patterns of social relationships.

For those students who pursue completion of an advanced minor elective, the minor will also equip and credential undergraduates with highly marketable skills for employment in a range of business, government, and non-profit organizations. The population studies minor would help to qualify students and signal qualifications to employers for jobs such as: data science and data management; research analysts in government and non-profit organizations focused on social services, urban planning, elder services, environmental stewardship, and resource management, family planning, health, transportation, and education; market analysts and consultants employing market forecasting based on demographic projections; and actuaries.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Minor Requirements

Students may combine the minor in population studies with any other major or minor.

Foundation Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:

- GEOG 3381W - Population in an Interacting World [SOCS, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- SOC 3511 - World Population Problems [GP] (3.0 cr)

or SOC 3511H - Honors: World Population Problems [GP] (3.0 cr)

Electives

Electives must be taken from at least two different departments (excluding Advanced Population Studies Elective Options). Students who are interested in graduate programs related to population studies should take an advanced population studies elective option.

Take 4 or more course(s) totaling 12 - 15 credit(s) from the following:

Geography, Environment & Society

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- GEOG 3379 - Environment and Development in the Third World [SOCS, ENV] (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 3401W - Geography of Environmental Systems and Global Change [ENV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 3411W - Geography of Health and Health Care [WI] (3.0 cr)
- GEOG 3561 - Principles of Geographic Information Science (4.0 cr)

or GEOG 5561 - Principles of Geographic Information Science (4.0 cr)

- **History**

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- HIST 3411W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
- HIST 3797 - History of Population [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- AAS 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

or CHIC 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

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or HIST 3862 - American Immigration History [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

- **Public Affairs**

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- PA 5301 - Population Methods & Issues for the United States & Global South (3.0 cr)

- **Public Health**

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- PUBH 3351 - Epidemiology: People, Places, and Disease (2.0 cr)

- **Sociology**

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- SOC 3246 - Diseases, Disasters & Other Killers [HIS, ENV] (3.0 cr)
- SOC 3501 - Sociology of Families [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- SOC 3507 *{Inactive}*[DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- SOC 4246 - Sociology of Health and Illness (3.0 cr)
- SOC 4511 - Sociology of Children & Youth (3.0 cr)
- SOC 3505 - Migrations: People in Motion [GP] (3.0 cr)

or GLOS 3705 - Migrations: People in Motion [GP] (3.0 cr)

- **Advanced Population Studies Elective Options**

Students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and with instructor and advisor consent, may request permission for a 3-credit 8xxx-level population studies course to count as the Advanced Population Studies Elective. Credit for population studies related internships may be counted toward the minor with approval from the advisor.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

Population Studies Research Practicum

Students enrolled in this course will gain hands-on experience with population studies research by working with a researcher or on a research team at the MPC. Students in the course will meet weekly with the instructor to discuss their research experiences and develop a final research product, and students will attend the weekly MPC Seminar Series. Note: Students may petition the instructor to use a relevant non-MPC internship placement to fulfill the hands-on learning component of the course.

- SOC 4881 - Population Studies Research Practicum (3.0 cr)

- **Coursework Options**

- GCC 3014 - The Future of Work and Life in the 21st Century [TS] (3.0 cr)

or GCC 5014 - The Future of Work and Life in the 21st Century [TS] (3.0 cr)

or SOC 4821 - Measuring the Social World: Concepts and Analysis (3.0 cr)

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