



Undergraduate Certificate in Social Dimensions of Health and Health Care

This certificate provides undergraduate-level sociology students with a greater understanding of social dimensions of health and health care, highlighting position in the social structure on risk of exposure to disease vectors and disaster impacts, access to health care and the likelihood of treatment, and health outcomes. Stereotypes, stigma, and social construction of body image and “worthiness” of people and diseases for medial, financial, and political intervention are central. This certificate is beneficial for enhancing career options with disaster response agencies, mental health organizations, and community action and social service organizations. It is also beneficial for students who are applying to graduate and professional schools, social work programs, and governmental organizations.

Specific skills covered include:

- Critical thinking - problem solving, practical analysis, and theoretical application
- Critical writing
- Team-based research, including communication and oral presentation skills
- Research methodologies that apply to these broader settings

General Requirements

- **Minimum requirement for completion: four courses, for a total of twelve credits.**
- **A minimum grade of 3.3 is required for each course applied toward the certificate.**
- **All courses must be at the 3000 level or above in Sociology; independent studies may not be used to earn this certificate.**
- **Additional sociology special-topic methods courses may be offered that can be counted toward the certificate. These courses must be approved in advance by the certificate coordinator.**
- **To complete the certificate program, students are required to submit a transcript and a five-page self-statement, evaluating theoretical and methodological perspectives that relate to this field of study. Students will also evaluate changes in their perceptions of the health system as a result of program participation and implications for future scholarly and professional work.**
- **The certificate will be mailed to recipients upon completion of a certificate audit and graduation and will appear on the transcript.**

Required Courses

SOC 3350 Sociology of Health and Illness
OR
SOC 4640 Sociology of Medicine

Students may take both courses

Suggested Courses

SOC 3340 Food, Health, and Inequality
SOC 3360 Sociology of Drugs and Addiction
SOC 3380 Social Dimensions of Disasters
SOC 4120 Body, Culture and Power
SOC 4230 Foundations of Disability Studies
SOC 4240 Sociology of Disability
SOC 4620 Sociology of Aging
SOC 4650 Sociology of Mental Illness
SOC 4670 Sociology of Death and Dying

For Further Information:
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