

GRADUATE PROGRAM in DEMOGRAPHY

Department of Sociology

The objective of the graduate program in demography is to prepare students for careers in teaching, research, and/or governmental or community service focusing on demography. The program gives students insights into the complexities of population processes, including fertility, mortality/morbidity, migration, and family formation, and the relationships between such processes and broader social and economic contexts and trends. The Department of Sociology presently offers a general PhD program in sociology with a concentration in demography. Students in the doctoral program who do not already have an MA will complete one during their course of study. Students interested in a terminal MA degree should apply to our MA program in applied demography (see brief description below). All graduate students in demography are encouraged to develop a professional orientation toward instruction, research, and publication through direct involvement in the activities of the faculty.

MA in Applied Demography

This is a specialized degree intended to prepare students for employment in a variety of service, government, or business settings, and it is generally intended to be a terminal degree. Students who intend to continue their education through the doctoral degree are advised to consider the PhD program in general sociology with a concentration in demography. The requirements for the MA program in Applied Demography are different from those of the general master's program in Sociology as outlined above (and covered more fully in the [Graduate Student Handbook](#)); and they are specified in detail in a separate program announcement describing the graduate program in Applied Demography. Students interested in this more specialized program should consult this separate program announcement.

PhD in Sociology with a Concentration in Demography

The doctoral program in demography at BGSU has as its goal the training of well-rounded generalists rather than narrow specialists; and all students electing to concentrate in this area will be expected to demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of (a) the major substantive areas of demography, and (b) the data and research tools that are unique to the field of demography. The normal procedures for students to acquire this knowledge and understanding are: (1) independent study and research under the tutelage of various members of the faculty; (2) reading on their own initiative in the current journals of the profession; and (3) participating in the formal seminars offered by the department of sociology.

Students participating in the Demography doctoral program at BGSU will be expected to meet all of the general requirements of the PhD degree as outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook of the Department of Sociology. In addition to the general doctoral requirements with respect to core sociology courses and a minor area of concentration, all PhD students pursuing a specialization in demography must, *as a minimum*, complete the following required courses (6 hours) or their equivalent.

- Sociology 5200 Techniques of Demographic Analysis
- Sociology 6210 Population and Society

Electives (Minimum of 9 Semester Hours Required). All PhD demography students must take at least three courses among the following:

- Sociology 6560 Family Demography
- Sociology 7190 Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Sociology 7200 Techniques of Demographic Analysis II
- Sociology 7260 Migration
- Sociology 7270 Morbidity and Mortality
- Sociology 7280 Human Fertility and Family Planning

Other courses in the Demography program which students are encouraged to take as their schedule allows include the following:

- Sociology 6270 Introduction to Applied Demography
- Sociology 6580 Sociology of Aging
- Sociology 7190 Advanced Statistics
- Sociology 7230 Population and Third World Development
- Earth, Environment, & Society 5100 Geographic Information Systems

The Department's PhD preliminary examination policy requires that eight-hour examinations be completed in *both* the area of general demographic knowledge and the student's area of specialization. Areas of specialization from which students may choose are family demography, fertility, mortality, and migration.

Students who pursue a PhD minor in demography need to complete a minimum of four courses from the lists provided above. The four selected courses *must* include both Sociology 5200 and Sociology 6210. Please also note that students who earned their MA degree in Sociology at BGSU and specialized in either applied demography or demography may count substantive courses used to complete their MA degree towards the two required elective courses.

MA in Sociology with a Concentration in Demography

The master's degree in Sociology is designed to provide students with a basic background in general sociological theories and research methods, as well as provide a more in-depth course of study in a specialized area of the student's own choosing. The general requirements for the master's degree (e.g., the thesis) are described more fully in the Graduate Student Handbook of the Department of Sociology, and all students should make themselves thoroughly familiar with the contents of this document. In addition to meeting all the general requirements outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook, students wishing to pursue a master's degree in Sociology with a concentration in demography must, as a minimum, complete the following courses or their equivalent.

Required Courses. MA students majoring in demography are required to take the following two courses (6 hours):

- Sociology 5200 Techniques of Demographic Analysis
- Sociology 6210 Population and Society

Electives (3 Semester Hours Required). All students must take one demography elective from the following list.

- Sociology 6560 Family Demography
- Sociology 6580 Sociology of Aging
- Sociology 7200 Techniques of Demographic Analysis II
- Sociology 7260 Migration
- Sociology 7270 Morbidity and Mortality
- Sociology 7280 Human Fertility and Family Planning

Demography Faculty

- Kelly S. Balistreri, Associate Professor
PhD, 2006—Bowling Green State University
Migration; immigrant children; health and inequality; overweight and obesity
- Susan Brown, Distinguished Professor
PhD, 1998—Pennsylvania State University
Family demography; family formation and dissolution; cohabitation; fertility
- Wendy Manning, Dr. Howard E. and Penny Daum Aldrich Distinguished Professor
PhD, 1992—University of Wisconsin
Family demography; cohabitation; nonresident fathers; nonmarital fertility; adolescence

- Lauren Newmyer, Assistant Professor
PhD, 2023—Pennsylvania State University
Fertility; health; aging; social networks
- Laura Sanchez, Professor
PhD, 1992—University of Wisconsin
Family demography; marriage; gender; animal-human interactions
- Jenira Yahirun, Associate Professor
PhD, 2012—UCLA 2012
Family; Demography; Migration/Immigration