

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY



Why the MA in Applied Demography?

A growing number of administrative, planning, and statistical agencies at all levels of government, public policy research organizations, and private industries are showing an interest in employing persons whose primary training and expertise is in the use and analysis of population statistics. The graduate program in Applied Demography prepares graduates for employment in a variety of service, government, or business settings upon the completion of the master's degree.

Why the MA in Applied Demography at BGSU?

Our graduate program is ranked in the top 20 nationally by the National Research Council, in part because of high research productivity and superior student outcomes. Our faculty include a recent President of the Population Association of America, Sutherland Award winner (highest honor from American Society of Criminology), the Editor of Population Research and Policy Review, a PAA Clifford Clogg award recipient, a Top Contributor in Work-Family research, an expert witness to federal cases on bail reform, author of the ASA's amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges case, among many other faculty acclaimed for their research and teaching.

Graduates of our master's program have been well placed in a variety of settings, including government agencies (e.g., Census Bureau), non-profit think tanks (e.g., Child Trends), research centers (e.g., National Opinion Research Center), as well as the private sector (e.g., Nielsen, Fifth/Third Bank, marketing).

Some Applied Demography students have also applied to and entered our PhD program in sociology.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to evaluate and defend relevant theories and literature related to their research, statistically analyze empirical data from large social survey datasets, and assess the strengths and limitations of analytical methods and defend choices to use some methods over others. They will also be able to argue effectively to technical and non-technical audiences orally and in writing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Ray Swisher, Program Director,
College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Sociology
at rswishe@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-8054.

Program strengths and uniqueness

- Opportunities to work closely with faculty as research and teaching apprentices, and to collaborate with faculty and other graduate students on research projects, many of them resulting in conference presentations and co-authored publications.
- Financial support. We provide graduate assistantships for all our students in the form of teaching or research assistantships.
- Small graduate seminars offer advanced training in our areas of concentration, in addition to cutting-edge and highly marketable research and data analytical skills.
- Opportunities to affiliate with two major national research centers: the NIH-funded Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR) and the National Center for Family and Marriage Research (NCFMR). The centers provide research opportunities, colloquia series, statistical training, working groups, access to national datasets, and opportunities to network with prominent scholars from around the country.
- Supportive graduate student and departmental culture. The department thrives because of collegial and supportive relationships among faculty, graduate students and staff. An active graduate student association provides opportunities to get involved and further support for graduate students.



"The master's program in Applied Demography at BGSU gave me the opportunity not only to learn from professors who are well known and respected in their areas of research, but to also gain valuable experience through the assistantship opportunities that are available. My time with the Center for Family and Demographic Research allowed me to build skills that have been beneficial throughout my career."

— Zac Williams '12
Sales Analyst, Dart Container

Admission requirements

Admission to the MA program in Applied Demography is contingent on the completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale. Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted. Applicants are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Applicants must also submit the following materials:

- Résumé.
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from professors familiar with the applicant's academic work.
- Example of your academic writing, such as a class paper.
- 500-word personal statement describing the research interests you hope to pursue in graduate school, professional goals and aspirations, and why you believe that Bowling Green's graduate program will help you pursue these interests and achieve these goals. Please include in your statement the names of any faculty with interests similar to your own.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Financial assistance

Teaching assistantships and research assistantships are available for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Fall Application Deadline: Applications and supporting materials should be received by January 15th to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding. Applications received after January 15th will be reviewed for admission, but consideration for financial assistance may be limited based on available funds.

Curriculum

Students in the Applied Demography program must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate level course work and write a Master's Thesis.

Required courses: All students are required to take the following four courses:

- Sociology 5200: Techniques of Demographic Analysis I (3)
- Sociology 6110: Intermediate Methodology (3)
- Sociology 6120: Intermediate Statistics (3)
- Sociology 6210: Population and Society (3)

Electives (Minimum of 6 Hours). All students must take two electives, with one selected from the substantive electives and the other from among the techniques electives.

Substantive Electives (select at least one):

- Sociology 6560. Family Demography
- Sociology 6580. Sociology of Aging
- Sociology 7230. Population and Development
- Sociology 7260. Migration
- Sociology 7270. Morbidity and Mortality
- Sociology 7280. Human Fertility and Family Planning

Techniques Electives (select at least one):

- Sociology 6270. Data Analysis
- Sociology 7190. Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Geography 5240. Geographic Information Systems

Thesis Credits (Minimum of 3 Hours, up to maximum of 6): All students specializing in Applied Demography are required to write a Master's Thesis and to register for at least 3 credits of Sociology 6990 Thesis Research. To reach the minimum 30 credit hours student may take additional graduate courses in sociology, other BGSU graduate departments, additional Thesis credits, or pursue the internship option.

Internship Option. Since experience is often the best teacher, the internship option provides students with an excellent opportunity to further develop their applied demography skills. Students who elect this option will be assisted in selecting a placement appropriate to their interests and career aspirations either with a local public agency or private business establishment. Depending on the particular placement the intern will work either on a project of their own design, one designed in consultation with their academic advisor and internship supervisor, or one assigned by the internship supervisor.