APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH, CERTIFICATE IN (POST-BACCALAUREATE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

Program goal
This certificate program is designed to enable practitioners to acquire additional knowledge and skills in applied social research without necessarily pursuing a graduate degree and provide marketable job/career skills for graduate degree-seeking students in sociology as well as other graduate programs. Because the certificate program involves a limited number of credit hours and coordinates with the type of statistics and methods courses offered in a number of graduate degree programs, it may be pursued simultaneously with other graduate programs such as sociology, social work, public administration, social policy and urban services. At the same time, individuals seeking more limited, specialized training may pursue the certificate independently.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of applied social research methodology.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to produce data-based social scientific research reports for relevant audiences.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students may not be able to enroll full time or complete the certificate in one year given the limits on course scheduling.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Students possessing a B.A. or B.S. degree and beginning level skills in statistics/research methods are eligible for admission into the certificate program.
2. Relevant course or research experience will be considered in evaluating admission and substitution of courses. Equivalency tests are available for required courses in statistics and methods.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the applied social research certificate program are required to earn a minimum of 18 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate.
2. Grade requirements: An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for award of the certificate, and no more than three credit hours of C may be earned in the certificate program curriculum.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 601</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 602</td>
<td>Applications of Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Applied Social Research, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY/STAT 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 699</td>
<td>Seminar in Sociological Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students select six credits of electives, as approved by the sociology department's graduate program director prior to registration; the courses shown below are recommended electives and may be taken without the approval of the sociology graduate program director.

- **PADM 625** Public Policy Analysis
- **PADM 627** Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation
- **PSYC 631** Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives
- **PSYC 643** Principles of Psychological Measurement
- **SBHD 637** Program Evaluation
- **SBHD 638** Applications in Qualitative Research Methods
- **SOCY 603** Seminar in Population Studies
- **SOCY/PADM 605** Survey Research Methods
- **SOCY 656** Social Network Analysis
- **SOCY 676** Digital Data for the Social Sciences
- **SOCY 691** Special Topics (Data Visualization)
- **URSP 621** Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- **URSP 622** Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS

**Total Hours** 18

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 18.

**Graduate program director**
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**Program website:** sociology.vcu.edu (http://www.sociology.vcu.edu)