

Health, Medicine and Aging Concentration

Phone: (216) 368-2700
Mather Memorial, Room 226

Concentrations in Sociology

Students majoring in Sociology have the option of either selecting one of 4 concentrations areas, or majoring in Sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours, or 4 courses. The 4 concentrations are:

- Crime, Law and Justice
- Health, Medicine and Aging
- Gender, Work and Family
- Social Inequality

Health, Medicine and Aging Concentration

Undergraduate students majoring in Sociology have a special opportunity to receive training in health, medicine and aging, an area for which our doctoral program is nationally and internationally recognized. Faculty are exploring a wide range of questions related to aging, medical care and health.

Some of these questions are: What is the relationship between health and social behavior? How do race, social class and gender impact health and adjustment to illness? How are illness and disability socially constructed? What is the process of becoming a physician or other health care provider? We also link health and aging in our courses and research. We ask questions such as why are the populations of modern societies “graying” and what are the consequences of this trend for health, relationships and lifestyles? What is “successful aging” and how do we achieve it? To what extent is aging “environmentally or culturally produced? How can families most effectively cope with care needs of their ill and older loved ones? These are just some of the important questions studied by Sociologists interested in age and health. Our contemporary society needs social scientists and health care practitioners to address the needs of individuals who are vulnerable because of the challenges of illness and aging. The mix of courses in our concentration addresses the complex mix of factors that influence health and well-being in late life, especially amidst rapidly changing health care systems.

The study of aging, however, is not only about old people. It is also about how family, education, work and leisure experiences and institutions are being transformed for young and old alike. It is also about how these experiences influence the way that an individual ages. There is a pressing need to evaluate these effects and translate knowledge for policymakers and practitioners.

Required Core Courses:

12 CREDIT HOURS

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- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 300: Modern Sociological Thought
SOCI 306: Logic of Social Inquiry
One of the four statistics courses listed below:
ANTH 319: Introduction to Statistical Analysis in the Social Sciences
SOCI 307: Social Statistics
STAT 201: Basic Statistics for Social and Life Sciences
PSCL 282: Quantitative Methods in Psychology
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Health, Medicine and Aging Concentration requires four (4) of the following courses:

12 CREDIT HOURS

- SOCI 203: Human Development: Medical and Social
SOCI 264: Body, Culture and Disability
SOCI 275: Lives in Medicine: Becoming and Being a Physician
SOCI 310: Individual in Society
SOCI 311: Health, Illness and Social Behavior
SOCI 313: Sociology of Stress and Coping
SOCI 319: Sociology of Institutional Care
SOCI 344: Health Disparities
SOCI 345: Sociology of Mental Illness
SOCI 361: The Life Course
SOCI 365: Health Care Delivery
SOCI 369: Aging in American Society
SOCI 377: Population Dynamics and Changing Societies
SOCI 443: Medical Sociology
SOCI 469: Aging in American Society
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As the major requires a total of 30 credits, 6 additional credits (two electives) will need to be taken. These credits can either be within the concentration or from any of the other sociology courses.

In addition to the requirements listed above for Sociology major, Case Western Reserve University also requires all undergraduate students to participate in courses through SAGES. These requirements include First Seminar (first year), two University Seminars (by the end of the second year), a Department Seminar (third year) and finally a Senior Capstone.

Concentration Coordinators

Professor Gary Deimling

Office: Mather Memorial, Room 231A
Phone: 368-5173
Email: gary.deimling@case.edu

Professor Eva Kahana

Office: Mather Memorial, Room 231B
Phone: 368-2704
Email: eva.kahana@case.edu