

Interdisciplinary PhD Emphasis in Demography

The departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Sociology, and Global Studies are now offering, in cooperation with the Broom Center, a PhD Emphasis in Demography. The goal of this program is to give doctoral students in core disciplines an opportunity to gain a broader interdisciplinary understanding of concepts and methods in population-related research, beyond the resources available in their home departments. Participation in the Demography Emphasis is independent of the doctoral curriculum and degree requirements established by a student's home department. Upon completion of the requirements, the student will receive a Demography Emphasis certificate when their disciplinary PhD is awarded.

Rationale:

Demography is an interdisciplinary field in the social sciences that focuses on the study of human populations. Increasingly broad in scope, demography now incorporates research on population health, family structure and gender relations, and human-environment and hormone-behavior interactions, as well as the traditional topics of fertility, mortality, and migration. Methodologies developed in one field are crossing disciplinary boundaries as well, with spatial techniques, the collection and analysis of biomarkers, econometric methods, field and laboratory experiments, and qualitative methods such as structured interviewing becoming broadly used across the demographic sciences. Expertise in demography is highly valued in academic and policy environments as a rigorously empirical and multidisciplinary science. A PhD Emphasis in Demography will provide graduate students with both core training in demography and opportunities to gain access to methodological expertise in other departments and to interact with faculty in fields other than their own.

Requirements (in addition to departmental PhD requirements):

1. Core course in demography. Each student will be required to take GEOG 254: Population Geography, or ANTH 245: Anthropological Demography and Life History, usually during their first year in the program. This course will focus on the analysis of human population dynamics through fertility, mortality, and migration. The core course will usually be offered during winter quarter.
2. Population studies courses. Each student must complete three demography-related courses, at least one of which must be outside the student's own discipline. A list of currently-eligible courses in the four departments appears below.
3. Regular attendance at the Broom Center Seminar. Regular attendance at the biweekly Broom Center seminar for two years (defined as attending at least 80% of all regular seminars) will be required for students enrolled in the Demography Emphasis.
4. Demography seminar/reading group. All students in the Emphasis must attend a one-quarter reading group (ECON 290DM), usually in spring of their first year in the program, that focuses on reading and discussing key research in demography across the participating disciplines.

5. Broom graduate student seminar presentation. Each student will be expected to present their research in the Broom Center's "lab lunch" informal seminar for graduate students.

6. Dissertation topic. Completed dissertations that qualify for the Emphasis must consist of (or include, in the case of multi-project dissertations) research with a strong focus in demography, and the committee must include least one Emphasis core faculty member.

How to Apply for Admission to the Demography Emphasis Program

Students enrolled in the PhD programs in the departments of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, and Sociology are eligible to apply for enrollment in the Demography Emphasis. As a rule, applications will be accepted each spring for admission the following fall. Applications should be emailed to the Emphasis director, Shelly Lundberg (slundberg@ucsb.edu) and will consist of a letter outlining the student's proposed plan of study and dissertation research. In general, students will apply during their first or second year of study at UCSB and begin the program during the subsequent fall quarter. If the student has an advisor, a letter of support should accompany the application.

Eligible population courses:

- Anthropology: ANTH 209 Applying Evolutionary Anthropology (Lawson)
ANTH 245. Anthropological Demography and Life History (Gurven)
ANTH 253. Human Biology Laboratory Methods (Blackwell)
ANTH 256. Modeling Social Behavior (Gurven)
ANTH 257. Human Behavioral Ecology Theory and Method (Gurven)
ANTH 276. Culture Contact and Interaction (Smith)
- Geography: GEOG 241A-C. Population Geography (Lopez-Carr, Sweeney)
GEOG 288SC. Social and Environmental Disparities in Health (Cassels)
- Sociology SOC 226. International Immigration (Telles)
SOC 234. Social Inequalities (Charles)
SOC 245A. Seminar on Gender (Thébaud)
SOC 246. Seminar on the Life Course (Bielby)
SOC 248MA. Social Network Analysis (Friedkin)
SOC 272. Race, Crime, and Punishment (Sutton, Rios)
- Economics: Labor Economics sequence: ECON 250A-C (Kuhn, Bedard, Royer)
ECON 250D Population Economics (Lundberg)
[Note: This course has no economics prerequisites]