TRAINING AND DEGREES

Predoctoral training is provided through a multidisciplinary, dual-title graduate program in Demography. This unique program allows students to earn a dual-title master’s and doctoral degree in Demography and one of the following fields: agricultural, environmental, and regional economics; anthropology; economics; health policy and administration; human development and family studies; rural sociology; or sociology. The program enables students to develop expertise and skills in demographic theory, methodologies, and policy analysis while maintaining a professional identification with their social science disciplines. Demography studies the size, composition, and distribution of the population; changes in these characteristics; the processes that determine these changes (fertility, mortality, aging, family status changes, immigration); and their social, economic, and cultural causes and consequences.

The following Graduate School–awarded, dual-title degrees are conferred:

- M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology and Demography
- M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics and Demography
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Energy, Environmental, and Food Economics, and Demography
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Health Policy and Administration and Demography
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies and Demography
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Demography
- M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography

A doctoral minor in Demography is available to Penn State graduate students in programs other than the dual-degree programs listed above. Graduate students taking the doctoral minor have most recently come from Biobehavioral Health, Educational Theory and Policy, and Geography.

DEMOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The Demography dual-title degree program is administered by the program director and the Demography Program Advisory Committee, who are responsible for the program’s management. The director and advisory committee maintain the program definition, identify faculty and courses appropriate to the program, and recommend policies and procedures for its operation to the Dean of the Graduate School. The program enables students from diverse graduate departments to attain knowledge of and be identified with the content, techniques, methodology, and policy implications of demography, while maintaining a close association with areas of application.

Admission Requirements

To pursue a dual-title degree under the Demography program, the student must first apply to the Graduate School and be admitted to Penn State through one of the following graduate degree programs: Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics; Anthropology; Economics; Health Policy and Administration; Human Development and Family Studies; Rural Sociology; or Sociology. Applicants must follow the formal application process and meet the requirements of Penn State’s Graduate School (see gradschool.psu.edu).

The application process to join the Demography program typically, although not necessarily, occurs at the beginning of their first semester at Penn State. Briefly, upon admission to one of the above programs at Penn State (not before), the graduate student will then complete an application to join the Demography Program (available from the director of the Demography Program and available online at sites.psu.edu/demography under “Graduate Students”). This application requires that the graduate student already has a Penn State ID number and that it also be signed by a Demography program faculty member and/or the director of Graduate Studies in the graduate student’s home department. The student will submit the form to the director of the Demography Program then soon after be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Demography.
The Penn State Model for Demography Training

(based on a dual-degree structure in seven departments:
Energy, Environmental, and Food Economics; Anthropology; Economics;
Health Policy and Administration; Human Development and Family Studies;
Rural Sociology; or Sociology)
**DEMOGRAPHY FACULTY**

**Program Director**

Stephen A. Matthews, Ph.D. (Wales, Cardiff, UK)  
Liberal Arts Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, and Demography

**Program Faculty**

David G. Abler, Ph.D. (Chicago) Professor of Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics, and Demography

Yubraj Acharya, Ph.D. (Michigan) Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration, and Demography

David M. Almeida Ph.D. (Victoria, Canada) Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Demography

David Baker, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins) Professor of Education and Sociology, and Demography

Katerina Bodovski, Ph.D. (Penn State) Associate Professor of Education, and Demography

Soo-young Byun, Ph.D. (Minnesota) Associate Professor of Education, and Demography

Guangqing Chi, Ph.D. (Wisconsin—Madison) Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography

H. Harrington (Bo) Cleveland III, Ph.D. (Arizona) Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Demography

Sarah Damaske, Ph.D. (New York) Associate Professor of Labor and Employment Relations, Sociology, Women’s Studies, and Demography

Jonathan (JD) Daw, Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill) Assistant Professor of Sociology and Demography

Francis Dodoo, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania) Liberal Arts Research Professor of Sociology and Demography

Diane Felmlee, Ph.D. (Wisconsin—Madison) Professor of Sociology and Demography

Andrew Fenelon, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania) Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Sociology, and Demography

Christopher S. Fowler, Ph.D. (Washington) Associate Professor of Geography, and Demography

Erica Frankenberg, Ph.D. (Harvard) Associate Professor of Education, and Demography

Michelle Frisco, Ph.D. (Texas, Austin) Associate Professor of Sociology and Demography

Jennifer Glick, Ph.D. (Texas, Austin) Hoffman Professor of Sociology and Demography

Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D. (Michigan State) Professor of Agricultural Environmental and Regional Economics

Steven A. Haas, Ph.D. (Wisconsin) Associate Professor of Sociology and Demography

Melissa A. Hardy, Ph.D. (Indiana) Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography

Louisa Holmes, Ph.D. (U. Southern California) Assistant Professor of Geography and Demography

John Iceland, Ph.D. (Brown) Professor of Sociology and Demography

Rukmale Jayakody, Ph.D. (Michigan) Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Demography

Leif I. Jensen, Ph.D. (Wisconsin) Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography

Valarie King, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania) Professor of Sociology, Demography, and Human Development and Family Studies

Derek Kreager, Ph.D. (Washington) Liberal Arts Professor of Sociology and Criminology, and Demography

Laszlo Kulcsar, Ph.D. (Cornell) Professor of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education, and Demography

Nancy Luke, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania) Associate Professor of Sociology and Demography

Liying Luo, Ph.D. (Minnesota) Assistant Professor of Sociology and Demography

Molly Martin, Ph.D. (Wisconsin—Madison) Associate Professor of Sociology and Demography

Susan M. McHale, Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill) Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Demography

Paul Morgan, Ph.D. (Vanderbilt) Professor of Education and Demography

Léa Pessin, Ph.D. (Pompeu Fabra) Assistant Professor of Sociology and Demography

Selena Ortiz, Ph.D. (UC Los Angeles) Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration, and Demography

Heather Randell, Ph.D. (Brown University) Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology, and Demography

Asher Y. Rosinger, Ph.D. (Georgia) Assistant Professor of Biobehavioral Health and Anthropology, and Demography

Alexis R. Santos (Santos-Lozada), Ph.D. (Texas, San Antonio) Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Demography

Mary Shenk, Ph.D. (Washington) Associate Professor of Anthropology and Demography

Jeremy Staff, Ph.D. (Minnesota) Professor of Sociology and Criminology, and Demography

Brian Thiede, Ph.D. (Cornell) Assistant Professor, Rural Sociology and Demography

Ann Tickamyer, Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill) Professor of Rural Sociology, Sociology, and Women’s Studies, and Demography

Jennifer Van Hook, Ph.D. (Texas, Austin) Roy C. Buck Professor of Sociology and Demography

Ashston Verder, Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill) Assistant Professor of Sociology and Demography

Scott Yabiku, Ph.D. (Michigan) Professor of Sociology and Demography

There are also several retired professors affiliated with the Graduate Program in Demography. Retired faculty cannot serve as a committee member without prior approval of the Graduate School. Similarly, faculty who have left Penn State can serve as committee members with approval from the Graduate School, but note there are usually very severe time limitations on this.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the graduate program in which they are enrolled, including the communication/foreign language requirements, if any. In addition, they must satisfy the minimum requirements in the Demography program option described below, as established by the Demography program committee. Within this framework, final course selection is determined in consultation with the student’s doctoral committee.

Master’s Degree

- Complete a minimum of 12 demography-related course credits in the following curriculum categories:
  - Disciplinary survey course (3 credits)
  - Demographic methods courses (3 credits)
  - Seminars in demographic processes (3 credits)
  - Seminars in population studies (3 credits)

Some courses may satisfy the requirements of both the graduate major program and Demography.

- Write a masters’s thesis on a topic related to demography. The thesis supervisor (or co-supervisor) must be a faculty member of the graduate program granting the degree and the Demography program.

- Enroll in Demography 590 or an equivalent approved alternative (for 1 credit) at least once prior to the completion of the MA. Students will usually complete Demography 590 during their first Fall semester.

Ph.D. Degree

- Complete a minimum of 24 demography-related course credits. The following is required as a minimum in each curriculum category:
  - Disciplinary survey course* (3 credits)
  - Demographic methods courses* (6 credits)
  - Seminars in demographic processes (6 credits)
  - Seminars in population studies (3 credits)
  - Elective core demography courses (6 credits)

  * These courses are required and will typically have been completed as part of the MA (see above).

An individual studies course (Demography 596, 3 credits) can be used to enhance training in demographic scholarship, methods, or research experience (subject to approval by the program director). Final course selection is determined in consultation with the student’s doctoral committee. For students entering with a master’s degree from another institution, equivalent course credits may be accepted.

At least 3 demography course credits must be taken outside the graduate major (i.e., home) department.

- A four-member committee is required for a dual-title degree program. That is, the chair or co-chair of dissertation research and at least one additional member of the doctoral committee must be members of the Demography program faculty. The Demography faculty members on the student’s committee are responsible for the demographic component of both instruction and research (including where relevant administering an examination in demography as part of the Comprehensive Examination of the doctoral student).

- Write a dissertation on a demography-related topic.

- Enroll in Demography 590 for 1 credit twice prior to the completion of a Comprehensive Exam (Students will usually take Demography 590 during Spring of their third year).

Minor in Demography

A Ph.D. minor in Demography is available for doctoral students in graduate programs who find it advantageous to include demographic content, methods, and policy analysis in their program of study. The student’s doctoral committee must approve of the choice of this minor, and at least one member of the doctoral committee must be from the Demography program faculty. To qualify for a minor in Demography, students must satisfy the requirements of their graduate major program and complete 15 course credits in demography (outside of their home department) plus Demography 590.

A minimum of 3 credits is required in each of the following curriculum categories

- Disciplinary survey course
- Demographic methods courses
- Seminars in demographic processes
- Seminars in population studies

An additional 3 credits are required (from any approved Demography course). And, doctoral minor students must enroll in Demography 590 for 1 credit at least once before completion of all course work.

Student Aid

In addition to the financial aid described in the student aid section of the Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin or offered through the student’s participating department, the following awards typically have been available to graduate students in this program: NICHD traineeships in family demography, and Demography program and Population Research Institute research assistantships
Demography Dual-Degree Curriculum: Core Pedagogic Training Areas and Courses

A minimum of eight academic courses are required for the dual-Ph.D., and four courses for a dual-master’s degree. Demography curriculum courses offered through the student’s home department may count toward both home department and Demography dual-degree requirements. However, at least some Ph.D. program demography courses must be taken outside the student’s major program department. A doctoral minor in Demography requires five academic courses outside of their home department.

Discipline Survey Courses (one course required for all candidates)
- Anthropology 408, Anthropological Demography
- Economics 463, Economic Demography
- Sociology 423, Social Demography

Demographic Methods Courses (one course required for master’s and doctoral minor candidates and two courses required for Ph.D.; a third course can count as an elective)
- Sociology 573, Demographic Techniques (required)
- Sociology 576, Applied Mathematical Demography
- Sociology 577, Techniques of Event History Modeling
- Sociology 579, Spatial Demography
- Sociology 580, Social Network Analysis
  Students may count one but not both of the following:
  - Human Development and Family Studies 517, Multivariate (Multi-level) Change
  - Sociology 578, Multi-level Models

Special Topics (597 Courses) methods courses have included Longitudinal Data Analysis and Spatial Analysis of Social Data (the latter cannot count towards Demography is you have taken Soc 579).

Demographic Processes Seminars (one course required for master’s and doctoral minor candidates and two courses required for Ph.D.; additional course(s) can count as an elective(s)
- Anthropology 566, Infectious Diseases in Human Populations
- Rural Sociology 525, Fertility, Population Change, and Development
- Sociology 521, Family Demography
- Sociology 523, Internal and International Migration
- Sociology 524, The Demography of Human Fertility
- Sociology 525, Immigration, Incorporation, and Inequalities
- Sociology 526/Health Policy Administration 526, Health Disparities
- Sociology 527, Migration, Urbanization and Policy in the Developing World
- Sociology 532, Global Health and Mortality

Population Studies Seminars (one course required for master’s and doctoral minor candidates and up to three courses required for Ph.D.)
- Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics 550, International Economic Development and Agriculture
- Anthropology 559, Human Ecology
- Anthropology 575, Population, Food, and Traditional Farming
- Anthropology 566, Infectious Diseases in Human Populations
- Educational Theory and Policy 516, Education and Demographic Change in the U.S. and Abroad
- Educational Theory and Policy 517, Education of Immigrants’ Children
- Health Policy Administration 525, Health and Health Services Across the Life Course
- Health Policy Administration 541, Poverty, Race, Ethnicity and Child Health
- Human Development and Family Studies 525, Introduction to Family Studies
- Human Development and Family Studies 531, Family Disorganization
- Human Development and Family Studies 537, Family Development and Family Studies 577, Poverty, Policies & Child Development
- Rural Sociology 516, Social Change in Rural America
- Rural Sociology 517: International Rural Social Change
- Rural Sociology 530, Sociology and Demography of Poverty
- Sociology 522, Demography of the Life Course
- Sociology 530, Sociology of the Family
- Sociology 560, Urban Sociology

Special Topics (a.k.a. 597 Courses)

Special Topic courses are offered almost every semester reflecting new faculty research interests and new faculty hires. Recent Special Topics courses offered as Demographic Process Seminars or as Population Studies Seminars have included: Immigration, Family and Health; Immigrant, Youth and Health; Migration and Child Wellbeing; Immigration, Race and Residential Inequality; Race, Ethnicity, and Family Processes; Population and Gender; Work, Family Demography, and Policy; Demography of Social Stratification; Demography of Aging; Health and Health Services Across the Life Course; Population and Environment; and Education and World Health.

Professional Development
- Demography 590. Demography Colloquium (one credit required once for MA and doctoral minor, and twice for Ph.D. prior to completion of Comprehensive Exam)
CORE COURSES IN DEMOGRAPHY

For official course descriptions please see individual department listings available at: bulletins.psu.edu/graduate

Professional Development

Demography 590 Colloquium: Professional Development
Seminars and Workshops

Disciplinary Survey Courses

Anthropology 408 Anthropological Demography: Analysis of demographic studies in traditional and very small populations.

Economics 463 Economic Demography: Economic aspects of growing versus stationary populations; historical interrelationships between demographic and economic factors; economic welfare and policy implications.

Sociology 423 Social Demography: Social demographic perspectives on fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, demographic transitions, immigration, family, aging population, and minorities.

Demographic Methods Courses

Demographic Techniques (Sociology 573) is required for all dual-degree and doctoral minor candidates, and one additional seminar is required for dual-Ph.D. candidates. A third methods course can count as an elective.

Sociology 573 Demographic Techniques: Survey of demographic research methods; demographic data; measures of health, mortality, fertility, migration, and population; life tables; population projections. (Required)

Sociology 576 Applied Mathematical Demography: Survey of mathematical models used in the study of population growth; survivorship; fertility, migration, stability, kinship, labor force projections.

Sociology 577 Techniques of Event History Modeling: In-depth review of survival analysis methods for the analysis of change in discrete dependent variables.

Sociology 579 Spatial Demography: Spatial concepts and analysis tools applied to demographic research, including issues in the collection, integration, manipulation, visualization, and analysis of both primary and secondary demographic data sources in GIS.

Sociology 580 Social Network Analysis: Overview of analytic methods of social network approaches to social science research, including network centrality, clustering, triads, weak ties, structural equivalence, and network visualization, as well as advanced topics (exponential random graph models and dynamic networks).

Human Development and Family Studies 517 The General Linear Mixed Model: Analysis of both general linear mixed models and the multilevel formulation, i.e., the hierarchical linear model (HLM). Also there is an emphasis on longitudinal (growth curve) models.

Sociology 578 Multilevel Models: Contextual analysis and growth modeling as applied to characteristics of schools, neighborhood, geographic regions, and individual outcomes. The emphasis is on 2-level and 3-level models, multilevel analysis of discrete dependent variables, and latent variable models.

Seminars in Demographic Processes

Anthropology 566 Infectious Diseases in Human Populations: Population aspects of infectious disease demography, ecology, and epidemiology; interactions between human host and its microparasites; and the implications of infectious diseases in modeling human population dynamics and ecology.

Rural Sociology 525 Fertility, Population Change, and Development: Fertility and population growth in less-developed countries; theories of fertility change, agricultural development, and population policies.

Sociology 521 Family Demography: Current theoretical, methodological, and substantive issues in family demography; nuptiality, divorce, household composition, female employment, migration, and fertility.

Sociology 523 Internal and International Migration: Theories, frameworks, and policies related to internal and international migration patterns in developed and developing nations.

Sociology 524 The Demography of Human Fertility: Overview of major issues and methodological approaches in the demographic study of human fertility in developing and developed countries.

Sociology 525 Immigration, Incorporation, and Inequality: Current research in incorporation and assimilation of immigrants; linkages among immigration, inequality, and racial stratification.

Sociology 526 Health Disparities: Analysis of health outcomes, the social conditions that are related to population health disparities, and some of the demographic mechanisms through which these patterns are produced.

Sociology 527 Migration Urbanization and Policy in the Developing World: Dynamics of international and internal migration process in the developing world; impacts on urbanization; human capital and “brain-drain” migration, policy implications and management of migration.
Sociology 532 Global Health and Mortality: Major issues in international health and mortality from a demographic perspective. Special attention to global South health and mortality patterns and health/mortality data quality issues.

Seminars in Population Studies

Agricultural, Environmental, Regional Economics 550
International Economic Development and Agriculture: The economic development process with particular emphasis on agriculture and population.

Anthropology 559 Human Ecology: Ecological anthropology, emphasizing the adaptive aspects of subsistence, including foraging, and settlement pattern, as well as human life histories, population ecology, and reproductive decisions.

Anthropology 575 Population, Food, and Traditional Farming: Examination of theories and evidence about population and preindustrial agriculture and formulating new models of the traditional farming household as a demographic enterprise.

Educational Theory and Policy 516 Education and Demographic Change in the United States and Abroad: Interrelationship between schooling and employment, marriage, fertility, and migration. Focus comparatively on the United States and developing countries.

Educational Theory and Policy 517 Education of Immigrants’ Children: Theoretical perspectives and empirical research on how different groups of immigrants’ children fare by level of education, student’s cognitive development, and school contexts.

Health Policy and Administration 525 Health and Health Services Across the Life Course. Explores health and health services across the life course using a population health approach.

Health Policy and Administration 541 Poverty, Race, Ethnicity, and Child’s Health: This graduate seminar focuses on socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in the health and well-being of infants, children, and adolescents, as well as policies and programs aimed at improving children’s health and reducing disparities.

Human Development and Family Studies 525 Introduction to Family Studies: Interdisciplinary introduction to issues pertaining to family studies, and relationships to demography.

Human Development and Family Studies 531/ Sociology 531 Family Disorganization: Theory and research on population-related family processes, including family formation, parent–child relations, divorce, and family in remarriage.

Human Development and Family Studies 537/
Sociology 537 Biosocial Perspectives on the Family: Theoretical and measurement advances in knowledge about family processes resulting from the integration of information from the fields of behavioral endocrinology (study of hormones), behavioral genetics, evolutionary psychology, and demography.

Human Development and Family Studies 577
Poverty, Policies, and Child Development: Interrelationships among demographic trends in family change, poverty, and social policies.

Rural Sociology 516 Social Change in Rural America: Drivers of social change in rural areas of the U.S., including demographic change, urbanization, industrialization and post-industrial economies, globalization and technology, as well as how individuals, families, and communities adapt to these broad forces.

Rural Sociology 517 International Rural Social Change: Implications of planned change for international rural societies, considering basic structural constraints, known institutional linkages, and potential synergistic consequences.

Rural Sociology 530 Sociology and Demography of Poverty in the United States: Theory and measurement of poverty (emphasis on the U.S.); social and demographic characteristics of the poor, urban underclass, and vulnerable rural groups; social welfare policy.

Sociology 522 Demography of the Life Course: Theoretical bases, critical concepts, and methods of life course analysis: applications to age and gender population cohorts.

Sociology 530 Sociology of the Family: In-depth analysis of major issues and demographic empirical research in family, work, and gender; social class and families; fathers and grandparents: family law and policy issues.

Sociology 560 Urban Sociology: Examination of the structure and dynamics of North American cities and the residents’ experiences in such settings.

Population Studies Special Topics (a.k.a. 597 Courses) are periodically offered.

Demography 596 Individual Studies: Creative projects, including non-thesis research, which are supervised (by a Demography Faculty) on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses (subject to approval by the program director).
CONTACT INFORMATION

For information contact:

Stephen A. Matthews, Ph.D.
Director
Graduate Program in Demography

The Pennsylvania State University
507 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802 USA
Phone: 814-863-9721
Fax: 814-863-8342

Email: sxm27@psu.edu
Website: https://pop.psu.edu/demography
         https://pop.psu.edu/training

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