**SOCIAL SCIENCE M.S.**

Degree: Master of Science  
https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/interdisciplinary/grad/socialscience/

Program Director: Dr. Paul McCartney  
Phone: 410-704-5218  
Email: pmccartney@towson.edu

The Master of Science degree program in Social Science offers the opportunity for professional enhancement especially in content areas of the social sciences. Experienced teachers wishing to return to TU to study the latest advancements in theoretical, methodological and substantive issues in the social sciences will be especially served. The Global Analysis track of study will be of particular interest to students wishing to pursue or continue careers in a number of different settings, including human rights, homeland security and intelligence, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and policy analysis. The program is also open to all post-baccalaureate students and may be of particular interest to professionals active in government and applied fields attracted to the latest developments in the social sciences.

Students will follow a program of study coordinated by the departments of Economics; Geography and Environmental Planning; History; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. The program aims to familiarize students with research, theoretical advances, applications and methodological approaches to current topics important to the field of social sciences and the world. The program exposes students to interdisciplinary approaches to related subjects and also allows them to specialize in a discipline of particular interest.

There are two possible tracks of study, the General track and the Global Analysis track. Each track has different degree requirements.

**Admission Requirements**

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university** with a GPA of 3.00 during last 60 undergraduate units

Submit the online application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply) plus the following:

- Three letters of recommendation each accompanied by a graduate recommendation form
- A two-page statement of intent

**Non-immigrant International Students**

**Program Enrollment:** F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying-j1-f1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/isso) with questions.

**Admission Procedures:** See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**General Track**

**Degree Requirements**

- Completion of the 36-unit program of study, including 18 units of core requirements.
- Completion of 18 units beyond the required core with 12 units required within a selected discipline and 6 units required within any of the other five program disciplines. For the Thesis Option, 6 of the 12 units within the selected discipline will be thesis units.
- Students choose their departmental disciplinary emphasis.
- Within each disciplinary emphasis students choose between the Thesis and Professional Presentation options.

The offerings within the core program of study for this track will include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 600</td>
<td>INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select five of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 601</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHER’S VIEW</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 602</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 603</td>
<td>THE ECONOMIST’S PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 605</td>
<td>AMERICAN POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 606</td>
<td>SOCIOLOGICAL INSIGHT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 609</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL HUMAN LEARNING: A LIFESPAN APPROACH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 607</td>
<td>ADVANCED FEMINIST THEORY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units: 18

**Thesis Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500-700-level courses (two from selected discipline)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-700-level courses (any other discipline)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis (within track department)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units: 18

**Professional Presentation Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500-700-level courses (in selected discipline)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-700-level courses (any other discipline or disciplines)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Presentation Students must deliver a peer-reviewed presentation for a university or local or national conference organized by their chosen discipline, or give a presentation to an assembly of Towson University faculty and program peers.

Total Units: 18

**Transfer Credit**

Students may apply 6 transfer units with the grade of “B” or better to the elective requirements only within the selected disciplinary emphasis. The program director must approve transfer credit. Approval may be conditional upon the submission of previous written work. All transfers are subject to the seven-year statute of limitations.

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html).**
**Final Portfolio**

The program requires that all students prepare a final portfolio of their work under the direction of their track adviser. For portfolio submission requirements, visit [www.towson.edu/msosci](http://www.towson.edu/msosci).

**Exit Interview**

Each graduating student must schedule an exit interview with the program director to be held no later than two weeks prior to the end of the term in which the student has applied for graduation.

**Global Analysis Track**

**Degree Requirements**

- Completion of the 36-unit program of study, including 15 units of core requirements.
- Completion of 15 elective units beyond the core courses.
- Completion of 6 thesis units.
- Demonstration of language proficiency at the intermediate level. Four terms of college-level foreign language training are required to complete this requirement. Students may complete this by taking Elements I and II and Intermediate I and II at Towson University or by passing an Equivalence Examination at the intermediate level, administered by the Department of Foreign Languages each November. Students who have taken several years of a language in high school will need to consult the chair of Foreign Languages to determine the necessary steps needed to fulfill this language requirement. Students whose native language is one other than English should consult the program director.

The offerings within the core program of study for this track will include:

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 600</td>
<td>INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select four of the following: 12

- SOSC 601 GEORGEBER’S VIEW
- SOSC 602 COMPARATIVE HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY
- SOSC 603 THE ECONOMIST’S PERSPECTIVE
- SOSC 604 EAST ASIAN SECURITY ISSUES, 1945-PRESENT

**Electives: Regional or Topical Selections**

Students may follow one of two directions when choosing electives in the Global Analysis track. They may choose to focus their studies on a particular region of the world (e.g., the Middle East or Latin America), or they may take a broader, more topical approach, focusing for instance on inequality and power from a comparative perspective. For the regional focus, at least three of the five electives must be related to the geographical area of emphasis. For the topical focus, students should strive to connect all five electives with a thematic emphasis. For either choice, students must consult with the program adviser in selecting appropriate courses. The following list provides possible course options for the electives within the Global Analysis track. Students may select other electives not listed below, subject to the approval of the program adviser.

NOTE: Students should keep in mind the Graduate Studies policy that only three courses at the 500 level can be applied to the graduate degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 530</td>
<td>TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 567</td>
<td>PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 568</td>
<td>GLOBALIZATION IN CROSS-CULTURE PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 569</td>
<td>TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 511</td>
<td>CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 562</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 564</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY OF EAST ASIA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 565</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 568</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 513</td>
<td>REVOLUTIONARY CHINA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 607</td>
<td>LATIN AMERICA &amp; THE UNITED STATES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 684</td>
<td>DISEASE AND HISTORY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 502</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHIES OF CHINA AND JAPAN</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSC 509</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSC 512</td>
<td>THE LATIN AMERICAN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 532</td>
<td>CROSS CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 533</td>
<td>POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSC 625</td>
<td>TOPICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis**

6 units are required to complete this component. Students choosing the Regional Focus plan must write the thesis in their area of regional focus. Students choosing the Topical Focus are encouraged to pursue a thesis in their particular topical area. There is no Professional Presentation option for the Global Analysis track of study.

**Transfer Credit**

Students may apply 6 transfer units with the grade of “B” or better to the elective requirements, at the discretion of the program director. The program director must approve transfer credit. Approval may be conditional upon the submission of previous written work. All transfers are subject to the seven-year statute of limitations.

**Final Portfolio**

The program requires that all students prepare a final portfolio of their work under the direction of their track adviser. For portfolio submission requirements, visit [www.towson.edu/msosci](http://www.towson.edu/msosci).

**Exit Interview**

Each graduating student must schedule an exit interview with the program director to be held no later than two weeks prior to the end of the term in which the student has applied for graduation.

1. Students will be able to understand, and communicate effectively about, contemporary social issues from a broad, multi-disciplinary perspective.
2. Students will demonstrate currency, depth, and analysis of content knowledge related to their particular social science discipline (or across several social science disciplines).
3. Students will exhibit the ability to research and assess specialized
knowledge of a particular area.
4. Students will demonstrate informational and technological
competencies relevant to the social sciences.

Courses

**SOSC 600 INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS**
(3)
Interdisciplinary approaches to global problems; comparative
frameworks; issues include economic integration, urbanization,
environment.

**SOSC 601 GEOGRAPHER’S VIEW**
(3)
The role of geography within the social sciences through an exploration
of recent trends in the discipline.

**SOSC 602 COMPARATIVE HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY**
(3)
Examination of selected topics in comparative history, including
consideration of the developed and less developed world. Exploration of
competing approaches and leading historiographical issues.

**SOSC 603 THE ECONOMIST’S PERSPECTIVE**
(3)
Use of economic concepts and tools (such as cost and benefit, supply
and demand) to facilitate logical thinking about complex social issues
and, therefore, to promote understanding of society and of other social
sciences.

**SOSC 604 EAST ASIAN SECURITY ISSUES, 1945-PRESENT**
(3)
Examines the post war search for security and stability in East Asia
through economic development, diplomacy, and military action by the
major powers, such as the United States, Japan, the People’s Republic
of China, and the Soviet Union. The efforts of smaller states, such as
North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan also merit attention. Focus on the
historical continuities in security concerns from the pre- to post-Cold War
eras.

**SOSC 605 AMERICAN POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
(3)
The course will constitute the political science department’s core offering
to the Master of Science degree in Social Science. It will address the
change and continuity in American politics and American political
science in the last 50 years.

**SOSC 606 SOCIOLOGICAL INSIGHT**
(3)
Theories, methods and substantive issues in sociology. Consideration of
recent advances in sociological research.

**SOSC 609 DEVELOPMENTAL HUMAN LEARNING: A LIFESPAN
APPROACH**
(3)
Provides graduate students with basic theories, historical development
and application of scientific methods to human learning.

**SOSC 625 TOPICS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**
(3)
Content will be selected from different areas of the Social Sciences
to complement course offerings and the needs of students and the
program. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 units provided a different
topic is taken each time.

**SOSC 787 DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL READINGS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**
(1-6)
Research and reading with a social science topic to be selected by the
instructor and the student. No more than 6 units may be applied toward
a degree. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing and 18 units of SOSC core
courses.

**SOSC 897 SOCIAL SCIENCE THESIS**
(6)
Topically selected research and reading within a specifically selected
social science discipline for the purpose of producing a master’s thesis.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and 18 units of SOSC core courses.

**SOSC 898 SOCIAL SCIENCE THESIS**
(3)
Topically selected research and reading within a specifically selected
social science discipline for the purpose of producing a master’s thesis.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and 18 units of SOSC core courses.

**SOSC 899 SOCIAL SCIENCE MASTER’S THESIS CONTINUUM**
(1)
Individual research and writing of master’s thesis. Prerequisite: 6 units of
SOSC 897 or SOSC 898.