

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Master of Arts in Sociology Applied Social Research



Program Description

The Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology – Applied Social Research at Nipissing University is an applied social research degree focusing on the application of social theories and research methodologies that assist with understanding and addressing social problems and development challenges in northern and rural communities, including Indigenous communities. The program brings together faculty expertise in applied sociology, health and population studies, gerontology, anthropology, science and environmental studies, criminology and criminal justice, and will appeal to those with interests from across the broad range of social science and health studies disciplines. Active involvement of community and government agency partners, a curriculum of research intensive courses, and practicum placements provide you with a theoretical foundation, opportunities to hone quantitative and qualitative research skills, and occasion to sharpen evaluation and policy studies in government, not-for-profit and private sector organizations. You will be well prepared for more advanced studies in sociology, anthropology and criminology at the doctoral level.

There are three required courses that are the foundation of the degree and include: SOCI 5106 Advanced Sociological Theory; SOCI 5216 Research Design; and either SOCI 5217 Quantitative Analysis or SOCI 5417 Qualitative Analysis. You can elect to complete the one-year Major Research Paper (MRP) or the two-year Thesis Research Project (TRP). Both MRP and TRP routes provide the option of completing a practicum component with a placement in a government, not-for-profit, or private agency. Working under the supervision of faculty, community, and regional members of the program advisory committee, you will undertake applied research and evaluation studies with governments, social service agencies and private businesses.

Streams/Specializations

Options for completing your MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research are available in the form of either the one-year Major Research Paper (MRP), or the two-year Thesis Research project (TRP).

The Major Research Paper (MRP) will be completed during the Fall, Winter, and Summer semesters. This option is designed for those who decide to conduct library-based research, including reviews of literature and secondary analyses of data (e.g. census and survey data) that focus on social issues and policy analysis. It is intended for those who plan to seek employment opportunities as research or policy analysts/evaluators within government and/or the social services sector.

Those who choose this option will be supervised by a MRP committee that is made up of one faculty supervisor, and one consulting committee member from a government, community, or private sector organization whose experience is directly related to your MRP topic. You will complete a total of 18 credits, including required courses in Sociological Theory, Research Design, and either Quantitative Analysis or Qualitative Analysis, along with three additional elective courses, which may include a practicum placement with a government, community or private agency.

The Thesis Research Project (TRP) option takes two years to complete over six semesters (Fall, Winter and Summer x 2). It is designed for those who plan to undertake original, primary source empirical research that explores a social problem or social issue, and for those who plan to continue on to further academic studies or to work in a front-line research capacity with a community, private sector organization, or with the government.

A TRP committee made up of a faculty supervisor, an additional two faculty members, and one consulting committee member from a government,





community or private sector organization with experience directly related to your TRP topic will supervise and advise your project.

Those opting for the TRP route will complete a total of 15 credits, including required courses in Sociological Theory, Research Design and either Quantitative Analysis or Qualitative Analysis, along with two additional elective courses, which may include a practicum placement with a government, community or private agency.

Facilities

The Canada Research Chair in Life Course Transitions in Northern & Rural Communities is a federally-funded program of research that brings together faculty with expertise in social demography, education and work, gerontology, health informatics and health care delivery, research with Indigenous communities, contemporary social, economic and technological development, and criminal justice administration and law. All students within the MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research program will engage with faculty, visiting scholars, and post-doctoral researchers in applied research projects to investigate relevant local, national, and global social problems and issues.

The Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) – the only such facility in northern Ontario – provides those in the MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research degree program with access to micro-level data from Canadian census and surveys on population, work and education, health, economics, ethnicity, migration, aging, crime, Indigenous populations, family, youth and children, and other topics. This facility provides a pivotal advantage to faculty and graduate students who are engaged in significant research that addresses germane and universal social issues. For additional information, visit our website at crdcn.org/toronto-rdc-nipissing-branch

The Sociology Lab, with more than 40 personal computers, provides Sociology students with various statistical and data management software (e.g., SPSS, Stata, SAS, and NVivo) to analyze public-use microdata survey and census data and organize qualitative data for their research projects and thesis. The Lab is also used to train students on how to employ the

software, analyze and organize the data.

The Institute for Applied Social Research (IASR) is a fully self-funded institute of researchers conducting applied research and evaluation projects in policing, corrections, mental health and education/employment training. Students in the MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research will be employed to assist faculty in the IASR with in-field research projects.

The Harris Learning Library is a modern, award-winning library facility with comprehensive electronic database access to academic and research books, articles, theses and monographs, in combination with on-site library holdings. Casual and quiet study areas, on-site computer and photocopying/printing facilities, and group study and meeting rooms make the Harris Learning Library a focal point of the Nipissing University campus for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

The Graduate Student Centre is a modern, shared facility for all graduate students on campus, with individual study carrels available for graduate student use, along with telephone, hardwired and wireless internet, and shared printing/copying facilities.

Why Nipissing?

The MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research program at Nipissing is a unique master's degree that focuses on providing an academic background, the applied research skills, and evaluation competencies that are required to effectively analyze and report on diverse social, developmental, environmental, health, legal and justice issues. Graduates of the program acquire the skills required to provide research, analysis and interpretation of information that informs decision-making, and ultimately, provides the foundation for social problem-solving and social change.

This degree builds on the University's reputation for faculty and student research, where small classes, one-to-one interaction with faculty, sense of community, and picturesque northern environment all work to create an excellent atmosphere for learning, conducting research, and cultivating the desire to make a difference in the world.

Careers

The Nipissing University MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research degree will provide students with the academic background and applied research and evaluation skills to work in a wide variety of occupations and fields where research, analysis and interpretation skills are required.

Graduates will find employment as research and policy analysts within government, community and private sector organizations, including “big data” organizations like credit card and internet-based companies. Graduates of the program are highly-educated and qualified social service, police, customs, military and probation officers. Some choose to become survey research designers and analysts, qualitative research analysts and focus group facilitators. Others are social epidemiologists and demographers who are employed by healthcare and other government organizations. Graduates of this program are candidates for more advanced studies at the doctoral level in sociology, anthropology, criminology and related fields.

Application and Deadlines

The deadline for applications to the Nipissing University Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology – Applied Social Research is in mid-January, but applications after this date may be considered if room remains in the program.

To apply to the MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research, please visit: www.nipissingu.ca/applygradstudies
Students will be asked to register with a user ID and a password, and complete the online registration.

In addition, students applying for the MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research will be required to complete a Supplemental Application, including three letters of reference, available at the website address below: www.nipissingu.ca/masociologyapplication

Financial Aid and Funding

Funding is available to graduate students from both internal and external sources. Internal funding includes teaching/research assistantships, faculty research grants, and Nipissing Graduate Scholarships. The value of these scholarships varies. Students are also encouraged to compete for scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS), the Canada Graduate Scholarship, and the Mackenzie King Memorial Scholarship.

For more information on scholarships, visit:
www.nipissingu.ca/gradfunding

Contact Information

For further information about the Nipissing University Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology – Applied Social Research we encourage you to contact:

Professor Amir Erfani, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, by email at amire@nipissingu.ca or by telephone at (705) 474-3461 extension 4019; or,

Dr. Carly Dokis, Chair, MA in Sociology – Applied Social Research Graduate Committee, by email at carlyd@nipissingu.ca or by telephone at (705) 474-3461 extension 4310.

Admissions – Office of the Registrar

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www.nipissingu.ca/masociology



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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