Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Social Justice and Human Rights

The MA program in social justice and human rights addresses urgent social issues related to human security, labor, migration, children, family, education and the environment.

The coursework in this theoretically and methodologically rigorous program examines social issues in contexts defined by multiple and intersecting forms of social identity and disadvantage, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality and nationality.

The program requires an internship to be completed domestically or internationally, in which students typically work alongside other advocates for social justice to help refugees, migrants, workers and survivors of violence or human trafficking.

Students may select from three degree tracks: research, advocacy, or critical trauma studies and social work. The research track prepares students for positions as researchers, analysts and advocates in governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental agencies. The advocacy track prepares students to be leaders in nonprofit, social movement, governmental and intergovernmental organizations. The critical trauma studies and social work track prepares students to assist vulnerable people, especially survivors of extreme violence, poverty, war, sex trafficking, human trafficking, gender-based violence and various forms of marginalization.

Graduates are also prepared to enter doctoral programs.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West campus or online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- American Studies, BA
- Applied Science, BAS
- Biology, BA
- Communication, BA
- Communication, BS
- English, BA
- Environmental Science, BA
- Ethnicity, Race and First Nations Studies, BA
- History, BA
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance, BA
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, BA
- Latin American Studies, BA
- Philosophy, Religion and Society, BA
- Political Science, BA
- Political Science, BS
- Psychology, BA
- Psychology, BS
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, BA
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, BS
- Social and Cultural Analysis (American Studies), BA
- Social and Cultural Analysis (Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Studies), BA
- Social and Cultural Analysis (Latin American Studies), BA
- Social and Cultural Analysis (Peace Studies), BA
- Social and Cultural Analysis (Queer and Sexuality Studies), BA
Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

33 credit hours and a thesis, or
33 credit hours including the required applied project course (JHR 593)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**

- JHR 501 Proseminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
- JHR 506 Grant Writing and Development for Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
- JHR 510 Problem-Based Seminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
- JHR 525 Action Research in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
- JHR 584 Internship (3)

**Track (6 credit hours)**

**Electives (3-6 credit hours)**

**Research (3 credit hours)**

- JHR 500 Research (3)

**Culminating Experience (3-6 credit hours)**

- JHR 593 Applied Project (3) or
- JHR 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

This program has three tracks: social justice and human rights research, social justice and human rights advocacy, and critical trauma studies and social work. Students select one of the three tracks and select courses for the track and electives requirements in consultation with faculty.

Students completing an applied project for their culminating experience select an additional electives course for three credit hours to meet the program's 33 credit hour requirement.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate application application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. two letters of recommendation
5. an academic writing sample (preferred) or professional writing sample
6. resume or curriculum vitae
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The statement of purpose should describe the educational background, scholarly interests, and academic and professional goals of the applicant.

It is preferred that letters of recommendation be from faculty members who know the applicant’s work well; if these are not available, letters of recommendation from individuals in supervisory or professional roles will be accepted. If letters of recommendation from two faculty members are not available, then it is strongly preferred that at least one letter be from a faculty member.

If the applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirements, the application may still be considered.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.
Application Deadlines

Fall
Spring
Summer

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning six continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses with ASU professors during the summer or during academic breaks offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/graduate-students

Contact Information

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