Social Science Research Methods (Graduate Certificate)

Boost your data analysis credentials with a graduate certificate in Social Science Research Methods. Data analysis skills are highly valued and transferable in the corporate world as well as academia.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Social Science Research Methods (Certificate)

The graduate certificate program in social science research methods prepares students to acquire, manage and analyze a broad range of data on human thought and human behavior. Data can be qualitative (e.g., text, images or sound) or quantitative (e.g., direct observation, surveys or geospatial). Data acquisition skills may include the downloading and managing of information from online sources or the primary collection of data in surveys or in direct observation. A key feature of this program is a focus on data analysis, so students and professionals will be able to analyze and interpret any data that they can collect. All students in this program will demonstrate skills in statistical analysis plus skills in a selection of methods related to their interests.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus, West campus

Degree Requirements

18 credit hours including an applied project course (GCU 593)
Required Core (3 credit hours)
SOC 508 Structural Equation Analysis for the Social Sciences (3) or
STP 533 Applied Multivariate Analysis (3) or
POS 604 Polimetrics II (3)

Electives or Research (12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
GCU 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students will select one of the multivariate data analysis core courses for a total of three credit hours.

Students select four three-credit hour elective and research methods courses for a total of 12 credit hours in consultation with the program directors. The program recognizes that other graduate-level courses on research methods are offered at ASU. Advanced courses on methods are often taught in omnibus courses, courses that have rotating content and whose content is not reflected in their titles. Students may include these courses in their certificate curriculum with approval of the program directors.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in a field such as human development, sustainability, geography or political science. Other subject areas may be accepted with approval from the academic unit.

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

Applicants must have completed an introductory statistics course before admission to the program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of interest
4. 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.

Examples of introductory statistics courses include:
CRJ 504 Statistical Tools for Criminology and Criminal Justice
NUR 617 Foundational Concepts in Science and Statistics
POS 603 Polimetrics I
STP 530 Applied Regression Analysis
or equivalent with approval of the academic unit

A statement of interest should include how the certificate program will enhance the applicant’s graduate studies or professional work.

Contact Information
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning | COOR 5544
issrinfo@asu.edu | 480-965-5005