



Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography (GISD)

Rationale for Development

Demography is the study of how the three core population processes -- fertility, mortality, and migration -- interrelate with major societal institutions, such as the family and the economy. Demographic issues encompass some of the most pressing social issues of our time including population aging, unprecedented changes in the structure and functioning of the family, social inequality, and environmental challenges, to name a few. Owing to this wide breadth, the field of demography is inherently interdisciplinary, drawing from diverse fields such as anthropology, biology, economics, geography, history, medicine, public health, public policy and sociology. But it also possesses a clear identity as a scientific field, with professional associations, annual conferences, and peer-reviewed journals dedicated to demography (broadly defined).

During the past decade, OSU has achieved prominence in demography with faculty hires under the Population and Health TIE and with the securing in 2009 by the Institute for Population Research [IPR] of a highly competitive infrastructure award from the National Institutes of Health. IPR is on the forefront of tackling population and health issues, nurturing interdisciplinary faculty alliances across the University through its weekly seminar series, didactic workshops, and an active faculty seed grant program.

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To these developments, the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography (GISD) adds a much needed integrative graduate training program. The GISD will provide students with the opportunity to obtain comprehensive demographic training—both methodological and substantive. Through coursework, interactions with faculty and engagement with OSU’s Institute for Population Research (IPR), the GISD will expose students to cutting- edge population and health research. Across departments and colleges, training in demography (both techniques and substance) will be an asset for graduate students from a wide variety of fields, and formal recognition of such study on the student’s transcript upon completion will improve prospects in the academic and non-academic job market.

Description of Proposed Curriculum

The GISD offers students advanced training in the techniques and substance of demography through both required and elective coursework. The specialization’s two required courses are: (i) a proseminar and (ii) a methods course on fundamental demographic techniques. The required coursework will provide students with a basis in fundamental demographic techniques (via the methods course) and expose them to the most recent demographic scholarship (via the proseminar which will encompass IPR’s weekly seminar).

We have selected the elective courses in consultation with the faculty, graduate studies chairs and department chairs of each respective department with two goals in mind. First, we have selected courses that contain significant demographic content. Second, we selected elective courses that will provide students with particular skill sets for their future careers in demography.

Students must successfully complete at least 10 but no more than 20 hours of graduate-level coursework. These hours must include at least three different courses, and at least 9 hours must be from outside the home graduate program but may include cross-listed courses (cross-listed courses that comprise this 9 hours minimum must be enrolled in outside the home department).

The specialization consists of the following components:

1. A required three-credit (3) hour core proseminar course. The proseminar will focus on demography and will be divided into two components. First, a weekly two-hour class that focuses on a broad survey of the field of demography. Second, immediately following the proseminar, students will attend the weekly IPR seminar. Each Tuesday IPR hosts a demography seminar that brings in speakers (both internal and external to the University) to present their recent population

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related research. The seminar will expose GISD graduate students to cutting-edge demographic research methods.

2. A required three-credit (3) hour course in Demographic Techniques. A core component of demographic training is its methodological toolkit. This course will cover the materials and methods of fundamental demographic analysis.
3. Electives will be drawn from existing courses offered across the University which contain significant demographic content and/or provide technical training that will advance research on demographic topics.

To view required and elective courses go to <http://ipr.osu.edu/gisd-courses>.

How to Enroll in the GISD (see <http://ipr.osu.edu/GISD> for details)

1. The student completes the GISD's Program Form (pages 2 and 3), including obtaining his/her advisor's signature. Once the form is complete, the student turns in the form to the GISD coordinator, Susan Pennington.
2. The student completes the on-line GISD application form <https://gradforms.osu.edu>
3. Once the gradform is completed by the student, it routes to the GISD coordinator for approval. If the program form is complete, the GISD coordinator approves the on-line gradform.
4. The student receives notification from the gradform, when it has been approved.
5. The student must adhere to the curriculum of the GISD, as indicated on the approved GISD Program Form. If changes in the approved curriculum are necessary, the student must complete a new GISD Graduate Program Form following the above steps. Departures from the approved GISD Program could lead the specialization not appearing on the student's transcript.
6. Upon completion of the Graduate GISD Program, the student will enter the information on gradforms on-line form to receive the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography on the transcript.

For more information please go to the GISD website:

<http://ipr.osu.edu/GISD>

Or contact:

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