

Graduate Diploma (GD) and Master of Arts (MA) Programs in Social Science

Academic Director:

Xiaogang WU, Associate Professor in the Division of Social Science

The Graduate Diploma (GD) and Master of Arts (MA) programs in Social Science offer an interdisciplinary curriculum for those seeking employment in business, government, mass media, and education, as well as those who subsequently wish to pursue a research program in one of the social science disciplines. The taught programs are designed to provide the necessary skills required for social science research and a broad spectrum of analytical perspectives for a critical understanding of a variety of issues and phenomena in the modern world.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from a university or a recognized institution, or have obtained qualifications approved by the University to be equivalent to a first degree.

Program Duration

The MA program can normally be completed in 12 months in full-time mode, or 24 months in part-time mode. Full-time students are required to take a minimum of 9 credits of coursework each regular term, whereas part-time students are required to take a minimum of 3 credits each regular term. With the approval of the Academic Director, a student may take study leave for no more than one regular term.

Program Fee

The total program fee for 2011-12 is HK\$74,400 for the MA program, and HK\$46,500 for the GD program. New students admitted with credit transfer are also required to pay the full program fee. Students who need to retake failed course(s) must pay the pro-rated fee for the necessary course(s).

Curriculum

MA Degree

MA students must take eight courses (24 credits), including two foundation courses (6 credits), four required courses (12 credits), and two elective courses (6 credits).

Graduate Diploma

GD students must take five courses (15 credits), including one foundation course (3 credits), three required courses (9 credits), and one elective course (3 credits).

1. Foundation courses

SSMA 5010 Principles of Social Science
SSMA 5020 Social Statistics

2. Required courses

The required courses cover sociology, psychology, economics, and political science. SSMA classes are specially designed for GD/MA students. For every term, the Program Office will produce a list of courses.

3. Elective courses

Students can take any PG course (and a maximum of one UG course at 4000-level) offered by the Division of Social Science (courses prefixed by SOSC or SSMA)

With prior approval of the Academic Director, students may take other courses offered by the Division of Social Science to fulfill the program requirements.

Language Requirements

Most courses are taught in English. Students who wish to enroll in courses in which Chinese materials are used and/or Chinese is the teaching medium must be able to demonstrate proficiency in Chinese.

Credit Transfer

Subject to the approval of the Academic Director, graduates from the GD program may transfer up to 15 credits of coursework to the MA program.

Program Transfer

Subject to the approval of the Academic Director, students of the MA program may subsequently apply for transfer to the GD program.

Academic Advising

Upon entering the program, students' progress will be monitored by the Taught Postgraduate Programs Office of the School of Humanities and Social Science.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete the program with a graduation grade average (GGA) of 2.850 or above as required of all postgraduate students at the University.