

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

Academic Director:

Yi-min LIN, Associate Professor 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 2014-15 is HK\$95,000 for the MA 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).

* *Currently, the GD program does not admit new students.*

a) Foundation courses

SOSC 5110 Social Science Research Design and Methods
SSMA 5020 Quantitative Methods in Social Science

b) Required courses

Designed specifically for the GD/MA students, the required SSMA courses cover disciplines in sociology, psychology, economics, and political science. Students are required to take courses from one or more of these disciplines. At the beginning of each term, the Program Office will announce a list of courses to be offered by the Division.

c) Elective courses

Students can take any postgraduate courses (and a maximum of one undergraduate course at 4000-level) offered by the School of Humanities and Social Science.

Should students wish to take courses other than those specified above, prior approval must be obtained from the Academic Director.

Language Requirement

Most courses are taught in English. Students who wish to enroll in courses in which Chinese materials are used extensively must 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 Academic Director of the program.

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.