

M.A. in DISASTER STUDIES

utrgv.edu/sociology/graduate

Overview

The Disaster Studies MA Program offers students broad interdisciplinary training in the fields of Sociology of Disaster and emergency management with classes on both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses and online. Graduates from the program will enjoy a wide range of career opportunities as emergency management specialists, homeland security officers, hospital emergency preparedness administrators, public health planners, communication officers, and emergency response technicians. The program also prepares students for Ph.D. programs in emergency management, public health, sociology, and related fields. Funding opportunities in the form of assistantships are available for both domestic and international students.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Disaster Studies MA program, prospective candidates must first meet all requirements for graduate admission to UT Rio Grande Valley, as well as the other requirements listed below:

1. Undergraduate degree from any major
2. Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester credit hours. If applicant does not meet minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, the GRE general test score is required for conditional admission. GRE test scores are valid for 5 years
3. TOEFL or IELTS for international students

More information: University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - Disaster Studies (MA) (smartcatalogiq.com)

Our Graduates






Some of our graduates are working in the following local, county, state, and federal governmental organizations and non-profit organizations.

- Emergency Management Specialist, Office of Emergency Management, the City of Corpus Christi, Texas
- GIS Manager, the City of Pharr, Texas
- Researcher, Economic Development and Tourism Division, Office of the Texas Governor, Austin, Texas
- Program Manager, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Texas
- Risk Manager, the City of Lake Stevens, Washington
- Disaster Manager, American Red Cross-Greater Houston, Texas
- Planner, Cameron County Emergency, Texas Management Office, Texas
- EMS, Willacy County Emergency Management Office, Texas
- Reservist, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Fire fighters in local governmental organizations

Several of our graduates are also pursuing their doctoral studies at the following accredited universities.

- PhD in Disaster Science and Management, University of Delaware
- PhD in Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication, University of Texas-Austin
- DrPH Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, University of Houston Health Science Center

Application Information

-  Accepting applications on a rolling basis
-  Applications could be submitted 24/7 online
-  **Edinburg campus:** ELABN 3.344, 1201 W University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78539
-  **Brownsville campus:** Main 1.440, One West University Boulevard, Brownsville, TX 78520
-  dean.kyne@utrgv.edu
Brownsville campus contact point:
dawid.wladyka@utrgv.edu

More information: dean.kyne@utrgv.edu

Apply: <https://www.utrgv.edu/sociology/graduate/disaster-studies-ma/index.htm>

MA in Disaster Studies

Degree Plan

Thesis		Non-Thesis	
18	Required Core	18	
6	Core Elective	6	
0	Prescribed Elective	9	
6	Capstone	3	
6	Thesis	0	
36 credits		36 credits	

Required Core Courses - 18 Hours

SOCI 6300 Statistics
SOCI 6301 Social Theory
Or
SOCI 6302 Research Methods
SOCI 6331 Disasters and Society
SOCI 6332 Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Management
SOCI 6333 Principles of Emergency Management
SOCI 6377 Disaster Resiliency and Sustainability

Core Electives - 6 Hours

Choose from the following - 6 Hours
ANTH 6314 Environmental Anthropology
CRJ 6322 Terrorism
PAFF 6380 Global Security
SOCI 6334 Disaster Vulnerability
SOCI 6335 Environmental Sociology
SOCI 6336 Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness

Prescribed Electives - 6 Hours (Thesis) 9 Hours (Non-Thesis)

Choose two areas - 6 /9 Hours

Area 1: Public Health

INTM 6334 Human Rights, Justice, and Health
INTM 6331 Ethnicity, Culture, Race and Health Equity
INTM 6305 Narrative Bioethics

Area 2: Government and Public Administration

PAFF 6303 Policy Implementation and Program Evaluation
PAFF 6304 Public Budgeting and Finance
PAFF 6305 Political Leadership
PAFF 6310 Public Service Ethics
PAFF 6312 State and Local Government
PAFF 6314 Formulation of Public Policy
PAFF 6317 Grant Writing and Fund Development
PAFF 6319 Public Finance Administration
PAFF 6372 Special Topics in Public Administration

Area 3: Organizational Communication

COMM 6322 Culture and Communication
ENGL 6326 Professional Writing
MGMT 6301 Foundations of Management

Thesis Requirement - 6 Hours (Thesis Plan Only)

SOCI 7300 Thesis I
SOCI 7301 Thesis II

Capstone Requirement - 3 Hours (Non-Thesis Plan Only)

SOCI 6304 Research Capstone

Sample Course Schedule

Year 1: Fall (Semester 1)

SOCI 6300 Statistics
SOCI 6331 Disasters and Society
Core Elective

Year 1: Spring (Semester 2)

SOCI 6302 Research Methods
SOCI 6332 Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Management
Core Elective

Year 2: Fall (Semester 3)

SOCI 6377 Disaster Resiliency and Sustainability
SOCI 6333 Principles of Emergency Management
SOCI 7300 Thesis I/ SOCI 6304 Research Capstone (Non-Thesis)

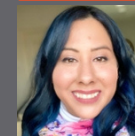
Year 2: Spring (Semester 4)

Prescribed Elective
Prescribed Elective
SOCI 7301 Thesis II/Prescribed Elective (Non-Thesis)

Faculty Members

Dean Kyne, PhD

Associate Professor
Disaster Studies Program Coordinator
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6331, 6332, 6377

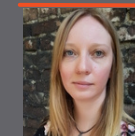
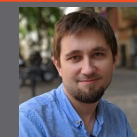


Arlett Lomeli, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6335

Dawid Wladyka, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6302, 6334, 6335, 6336



Katarzyna Sepielak, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6300

Luis E. Espinoza, PhD, MPH, CHES®, CPH

Lecturer I
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6333, 6335

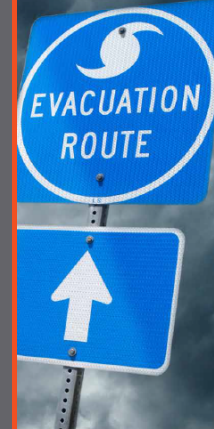
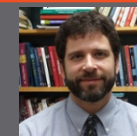


Marla D. Perez-Lugo, PhD

Professor
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SOCI 6331, 6335

William Donner, PhD

Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
SOCI 6302, 6304, 6333



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The University of Texas
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