



## Overview of the Certificate in Applied Social Science Research

The *Certificate in Applied Social Science Research* is an interdisciplinary embedded Certificate aimed at developing students' research skills in the social sciences through a combination of course work and hands-on research experience. This Certificate is open to undergraduate students across Faculties, but is primarily geared toward those enrolled in the Faculty of Arts. Completion of the Certificate provides students with marketable skills and experiences in applied social research and strong preparation for graduate study in the social sciences.

**CERTIFICATE ADVISOR EMAIL:** Dr. Michelle Maroto - [cassr@ualberta.ca](mailto:cassr@ualberta.ca).

### **CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS**

To be awarded the Certificate, students must demonstrate that they have completed:

**A) \*15 of course work that includes the following:**

- \*3 One introductory statistics course (e.g., SOC 210, STAT 151)
- \*3 One introductory overview course in social science methodology course (e.g., PSYCO 212, NS 390, SOC 315)
- \*6 Two advanced methods or statistics courses (e.g., STAT 252, ECON 399, SOC 456, SOC 418, HGP 470, ANTHR 401)
- \*3 Completion of SOC 415: Applied Research Internship **OR** other approved Capstone course

**B) Presentation**

All students must publicly present their research projects. Students taking SOC 415 present their project with their cohort as part of the course, which meets this presentation requirement. For students taking a different Capstone course, other presentation options for students to present their project will be considered, with the approval of the Certificate Advisor.

### **WHAT COURSES COUNT TOWARD THE CERTIFICATE?**

A variety of courses can be used to meet the requirements of the certificate. Table A1 below, provides an overview of the courses, in relation to the broader requirements that they fulfill. Students may apply for other courses to count towards the Certificate, with approval of the Certificate Advisor. Students taking a course other than SOC 415 to meet the capstone requirement for this certificate must get the course approved by the Certificate Advisor prior to commencement, as not all courses necessarily qualify.

### **PREREQUISITES**

No prerequisite courses or program approval are required for entrance into the certificate. However, enrolment in certain courses will require prerequisites, which will be indicated on Bear Tracks.

## **APPLYING FOR THE CERTIFICATE**

Applying for the certificate involves two steps:

- Step 1: Students submit the [Intention to Complete the Certificate in Applied Social Science Research](#) Google form to the Certificate Advisor, **prior** to completing either SOC 415 or other Capstone course, or by Fall of your intended year of graduation, whichever comes first.
- Step 2: Students must submit the on-line google form titled “Declaration or Change of Certificate(s)”, available at: <https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/student-services/undergraduate-student-services/forms-for-students>. We recommend doing this early, but it must be done prior to applying to graduate on Bear Tracks.

## **APPLIED RESEARCH INTERNSHIP (SOC 415) OR OTHER CAPSTONE COURSE**

### **SOC 415: Applied Research Internship**

In this course, students participate as research assistants in a project conducted in association with an outside organization. Students also participate in a series of professionalization activities. These may include developing skill-based CVs/resumes, researching potential job opportunities, and meeting with social scientists working outside academia to discuss their employment pathways and the nature of their work. At the end of the semester, students will then present their research.

### **Capstone course**

As an alternative to SOC 415, students may complete an independent study course, other capstone course, or honors thesis, if that course/thesis has a substantial experiential learning component (i.e., involves a social science orientated internship or direct engagement with research). To clarify, library-based research would not be sufficient to satisfy the experiential learning component. Students should check in advance with the Certificate Advisor to ensure their capstone work meets the certificate’s requirements.

### **Guidelines for using a capstone course to fulfil the certificate’s experiential learning component**

- Students must demonstrate that their capstone course involved their participation in original social science research (See Capstone course above).
- To ensure that *the Capstone* course fulfills the requirements for research-based experiential learning, students must:
  - Submit information about their planned capstone course to the Certificate Advisor **prior** to beginning the course.
  - After the course is completed, submit a copy of an undergraduate thesis, final research paper, or a letter from a supervising professor attesting to the original research performed by the student.
  - Present their research findings at a public forum approved by the Certificate Advisor in advance.
- The Certificate Advisor has the authority to determine whether the capstone course meets the certificate requirement.

**Table A1: Certificate Requirements and Courses**

**\*3 Introductory statistics course from:**

<i>Descriptive Statistics, basic inferential statistics</i>	SCI 151	InSciTE: Scientific Inquiry and Data Analysis
	SOC 210	Introduction to Social Statistics
	STAT 151	Introduction to Applied Statistics I

**\*3 Introductory overview course in social science methodology from:**

<i>Overview of research methods often used in social science research</i>	HGP 399	Research Methods in Human Geography and Planning
	HIST 290	Introduction to Historiography
	LING 375	Linguistics Directed Research 1
	LING 523	Introduction Statistics for Linguistic Data
	NS 390	Research Methods in Native Studies
	PSYCO 212	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
	SCI 101	Foundations of Science
	SOC 315	Introduction to Social Methodology
	WGS 302	Feminist Research and Methodologies

**\*6 Advanced methods or statistics courses from:**

<i>Advanced methods including in-depth study and/or application of one methodological approach; Advanced statistics including multivariate analysis (Regression, ANOVA)</i>	ANTHR 301	Introduction to Ethnographic Methods
	ANTHR 424	Visual Anthropology
	ECON 299	Quantitative Methods in Economics
	ECON 399	Introductory Econometrics
	ECON 497	Econometric Methods
	HECOL 465	Research Methods for Material Culture and Design Studies
	HGP 470	Geographical Information Systems and Advanced Cartography for Social Science
	LING 314	Discourse Analysis
	LING 400 OR 500	Psycholinguistics
	LING 455 OR 555	Speech Perception
	LING 512	Acoustic Phonetics
	LING 515	Field Methods
	LING 519	Corpus Linguistics
	LING 520	Computational Linguistics
	NS 490	Community-based Research
	POL S 399	Third-Year Honors Seminar
	PSYCO 325	Applied Research in Developmental Psychology
	PSYCO 356	Research Methods in Cognition
	PSYCO 413	Design and Analysis of Experiments in Psychology
	PSYCO 415	Qualitative Methods in Sociocultural Psychology
	PSYCO 431	Theory and Practice of Psychometrics
	PThER 352	Introductory Statistics for Health Care Professionals
	SOC 402	Topics in Sociology (not all topics apply; only relevant courses can be used – confirm with Certificate Advisor)
SOC 418	Qualitative Methods in Social Research	
SOC 456	Data Analysis and Research	
STAT 252	Introduction to Applied Statistics II	

**ONE OF:****\*3 registration****in:**

SOC 415

Applied Research Internship

**OR****\*3 Capstone social science research course involving either a research internship or research-based project, including honors thesis/individual study (usually with a faculty member in the student's home department or program).***NOTE: Not all of these courses necessarily qualify. To ensure that a course does qualify, get approval from the Certificate Advisor, prior to commencing.*

ANTHR 499	Honors Seminar and Research Project
ECON 400	Honors Essay: Fourth-Year Honors Economics
HECOL 490	Independent Investigation in Human Ecology
HGEO 496	Undergraduate Thesis
HGEO 497	Directed Study in Human Geography or Planning I
HGEO 499	Practical Study in Human Geography and Planning
LING 475	Linguistics Directed Research II
LING 502	Honors Project
NS 498	Honors Paper or Project
NS 499	Research Project
PLAN 495	Planning Studio
PLAN 498	
POL S 499	Honors Essay: Fourth-Year Honors Political Science
PSYCO 309	Honors Seminar I
PSYCO 398	Individual Study I
PSYCO 399	Honors Thesis I: Research Apprenticeship
PSYCO 409	Honors Seminar II
PSYCO 490	Honors Thesis II: Thesis Research
PSYCO 498	Individual Study II
SOC 401	Honors Individual Study
SOC 403	Individual Study
SOC 407	Honors Essay 1
SOC 408	Honors Essay 2
WGS 402	Honors Seminar and Project

**Note: Students may apply for other courses to count toward the Certificate, with the approval of the Certificate Advisor, including one-time topics courses.****Note:** Linguistic majors may use a combination of three 300- or 400-level Linguistics classes to meet the credit requirements of the introductory overview course in social science methodology. Students, however, should consult with the certificate advisor. Linguistics courses used towards meeting the \*3 introductory overview course cannot also be used towards meeting other course requirements for this certificate.**Note:** Course offerings are subject to change.