MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

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- Dain Borges, History
- Elisabeth Clemens, Sociology
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- Judith B. Farquhar, Anthropology
- Raymond D. Fogelson (Emeritus), Anthropology, Comparative Human Development
- Morris Fred (Ex officio), Social Sciences
- Rachel Fulton-Brown, History
- Susan Goldin Meadow, Psychology, Comparative Human Development
- Ramón Gutiérrez, History
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- Martha K. McClintock, Psychology, Comparative Human Development
- Omar McRoberts, Sociology
- Howard Nusbaum, Psychology, Computational Neuroscience
- Nathan Tarcov, Political Science, Social Thought
- Richard P. Taub, Sociology, Comparative Human Development

Faculty Director
- Dain Borges

Managing Director
- Chad Cyrenne

Earl S. Johnson Instructors
- Samantha Fan, Psychology
- Elina Hartikainen, Anthropology

Lecturers/Senior Lecturers
- Morrie Fred, Anthropology
- Darcy Heuring, History

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) is a one year program of graduate studies leading to the A.M. (Masters of Arts) degree. It offers
preeminent training for those aspiring to go on for funded Ph.D. study in the social sciences; each year 55-70 of our graduates do so successfully, including over 100 now in Ph.D. programs at UChicago. MAPSS also offers an exceptional program of career placement, for those who wish to take their social science training directly into a variety of professional fields. Each student works closely with the program directors, our senior academic staff, and an assigned preceptor, designing a customized curriculum, defining an area of scholarly research, and writing the M.A. thesis. A joint BA/MA and several dual degree options - in Booth and Harris - are also available.

The program is well suited for those who wish to explore a problem or area of interest from an interdisciplinary perspective, or to strengthen their training and achievement in a single discipline. Some MAPSS students acquire skills and knowledge for careers that make use of the social sciences; others prepare for further graduate work or professional training. The program also provides students an opportunity to explore social science fields where they have had little prior exposure, before making a major professional or educational commitment.

Graduates of the program also enter or return to a wide range of careers for which the A.M. is increasingly the desired degree. Such careers include consulting, teaching, counseling, publishing, health care, government service, public affairs, nonprofit administration, contract research, community organizing, or arts and museum curation. A national network of MAPSS alumni, in concert with our in-house Director of Career Services, enthusiastically assists our students in identifying career paths and in securing competitive placements.

PRECEPTORS

Students work closely with an assigned preceptor, an advanced doctoral student charged with assuring that each MAPSS student completes the program as efficiently and successfully as possible. Preceptors guide students in choosing courses, in defining their areas of academic specialization, and in the writing of their M.A. theses. Preceptors also assist students in finding lab placements or faculty sponsors for their M.A. research.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE WORK

MAPSS students must complete our core course and eight other graduate classes, satisfy our methods requirement, and earn a minimum B as their cumulative grade. Students must also submit a faculty-approved M.A. thesis to earn the degree.

COURSE WORK

The nine courses must include the core course and meet the methods requirement, as described below. The core course, Perspectives in Social Science Analysis, provides a critical understanding of the major theoretical approaches used by professional social scientists. Because Perspectives is offered only in the Autumn Quarter, students may not begin the MAPSS program at any other time of year.

Students must fulfill a methods requirement. MAPSS offers courses in historical, ethnographic and interpretive methods. Dozens of other methods courses, from
statistics, network analysis, game theory, involved interviewing, comparative case study, rational choice, comparative historical analysis, experimental methods, organizational analysis, and survey research are offered across campus each year. In consultation with the program directors, students may also fulfill their requirement by demonstrating prior methodological training.

Courses are selected with the guidance of a MAPSS preceptor. Students register for three graduate courses per quarter, beginning in September, and complete their course requirements by the following June. Those seeking part-time alternatives should contact the program directors.

THE MASTER’S PAPER

Students write the paper under the supervision of any Chicago faculty member they can interest in their research, and with the assistance of their preceptor. During the winter quarter, the preceptors organize and lead M.A. proposal workshops. Both the faculty sponsor and the preceptor provide a written evaluation and a letter grade once the final draft is submitted. A very large number of Chicago faculty participate year-by-year. In a typical cohort of 170 M.A. students, we often have as many as 120 different faculty sponsors.

Some recent M.A. paper titles will suggest the extraordinary range of research interests that we accommodate:

"Class or Group Identity? Rethinking the 1967-69 Ocean Hill-Brownsville School Strikes for Left Coalitional Politics"
"Poisoned Futures: Pesticide Usage and Agrarian Suicides in Vidarbha, India"
"Performing at Free Street: At-Risk Adolescents’ Experiences in a Dramatic Arts Program"
"Bilateral Activation Tasks and Memory Retrieval: Effects of Aging"
"Deepening Democracy or Diverting Attention? Participatory Democracy and the Community Council Movement in Venezuela"
"Pricing the Atmosphere: Commensuration and the Case of the Chicago Climate Exchange"
"Democratic Leadership in Athens and its Role in Thucydides’ Political Thought"
"The Socialization of Math Anxiety: The Relationship Between Early Math Talk and Later Math Attitudes"
"Capacity and the Duty to Intervene: Considerations on the Agency Problem of Humanitarian Intervention"
"Neural Activity Reflecting Affective Impact of Addressee and Emotional Words in Speech Perception"
"Intimate Segregation: Gentrification and the New Landscape of Race"

ADMISSION

To be eligible for review and admission, MAPSS applicants must meet the formal requirements of the Graduate Social Sciences Division. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is required for all but the joint BA/MA candidates.
Applicants from non-English speaking countries must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) unless they have studied in an English language University and meet the Division’s expectations for an exemption. Contact the SSD Dean of Students Office for more details, including information on the minimum expected TOEFL or IELTS scores.

MAPSS is designed to be completed in three consecutive academic quarters, with some students graduating in June and the majority graduating in August. All financial aid is merit-based, and the MAPSS program offers partial tuition scholarships on a highly competitive basis. Part-time study is possible, but such students are not eligible for financial aid.

HOW TO APPLY

MAPSS applications are administered through the SSD Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines, and department-specific information, is available online at: https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply/.

Questions pertaining to admission and aid should be directed to admissions@ssd.uchicago.edu or (773) 702-8415. If necessary, any application materials that cannot be uploaded can be mailed to:

The University of Chicago
Division of the Social Sciences
Admissions Office, Foster 107
1130 East 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

For additional information about the program, contact E.G. Enbar, our Student Affairs Administrator, at 773-702-8312 or egenbar@uchicago.edu. Please also visit our website: http://mapss.uchicago.edu/