Social Justice and Human Rights, MA

ASJHRMA

In communities here and around the world, oppressed people respond in novel and creative ways, both to contest and to transform injustice, whenever it may occur. You can gain deeper knowledge to better understand these troubles in order to work toward solutions. This program provides opportunity for hands-on experience with scholars and advocates.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Social Justice and Human Rights

From labor and migration to education and the environment, the MA program in social justice and human rights allows students to explore key topics and the legal, political, historical and cultural frameworks that contextualize them.

Students may focus on specific issues in international or domestic contexts, including refugee resettlement, immigration and citizenship, human trafficking, racialized violence, and international human rights law and organizations. In theoretically and methodologically rigorous courses taught by experienced faculty from various disciplines, students develop understanding of how social justice and human rights issues are defined by multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and social identity, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality and nationality. The program is well-suited to those aiming to channel their interests and passions towards ethical responses to social injustice and human rights abuses.

Many students complete internships domestically or internationally, with interns typically working alongside other researchers and advocates for social justice to grasp the complexities of the issues and to hone their abilities to work effectively in both research and advocacy contexts. Internships may also inform the basis of the culminating experience: a traditional Master of Arts thesis, an applied project or a capstone course.

Students in this program gain deeper insight into the theory and practice of social justice, human rights and humanitarian efforts, and they develop practical skills in research and grant writing.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West or Online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- American Studies, BA
- Applied Science, BAS
- Biology, BA
- Communication, BA
- Communication, BS
- English, BA
- Environmental Science, BA
- Ethnicity, Race and First Nations Studies, BA
- Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, BS
- History, BA
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance, BA
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, BA
- Latin American Studies, BA
- Philosophy, Religion and Society, BA
- Political Science, BA
- Political Science, BS
- Psychology, BA
- Psychology, BS
- Social Justice and Human Rights, BA
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, BA
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, BS
Social and Cultural Analysis (American Studies), BA
Social and Cultural Analysis (Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Studies), BA
Social and Cultural Analysis (Latin American Studies), BA
Social and Cultural Analysis (Peace Studies), BA
Social and Cultural Analysis (Queer and Sexuality Studies), BA
Social and Cultural Analysis (Women and Gender Studies), BA
Sociology, BA
Sociology, BS
Women and Gender Studies, BA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

33 credit hours and a thesis, or
33 credit hours including the required applied project course (JHR 593), or
33 credit hours including the required capstone course (JHR 549)

**Required Core (12 credit hours)**
JHR 501 Proseminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
JHR 506 Grant Writing for Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
JHR 510 Problem-Based Seminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)
JHR 525 Action Research in Social Justice and Human Rights (3)

**Electives (3-6 credit hours)**

**Research (3 credit hours)**
JHR 500 Research Methods (3)

**Other Requirements (9 credit hours)**
JHR 584 Internship (3) and
track coursework (6)
or
JHR 503 Gender Based Violence and Sex-Trafficking (3)
JHR 504 International Law and Organizations (3)
JHR 505 Migration, Asylum and Refugees (3)

**Culminating Experience (3-6 credit hours)**
JHR 549 Capstone in Social Justice and Human Rights (3) or
JHR 593 Applied Project (3) or
JHR 599 Thesis (6)
Additional Curriculum Information
The MA in Social Justice and Human Rights is delivered in-person and online. Students in each modality complete the same required core and research coursework; however, the other requirements and culminating experience options vary.

**In-person** --- Students attending in-person have the following options for other requirements and culminating experience selections:

- complete one of three tracks in social justice and human rights research, social justice and human rights advocacy, or critical trauma studies and social work in addition to a required internship
- complete JHR 593 Applied Project or JHR 599 Thesis for the culminating experience*
- select track and elective coursework in collaboration with faculty

*Students attending in-person who complete an applied project must complete six credit hours of electives; those who complete a thesis must complete only three credit hours.

**Online** --- Students in the online delivery option fulfill other requirements by completing JHR 503, JHR 504, and JHR 505. For the culminating experience, they complete the capstone course, JHR 549. Students in the online option must complete six credit hours of electives.

When approved by the academic unit, other requirements courses may be substituted.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. two letters of recommendation
5. an academic writing sample (preferred) or professional writing sample
6. resume or curriculum vitae
7. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The statement of purpose should describe the educational background, scholarly interests and academic and professional goals of the applicant.

It is preferred that letters of recommendation be from faculty members who know the applicant's work well; if these are not available, letters of recommendation from individuals in supervisory or professional roles will be accepted. If letters of recommendation from two faculty members are not available, then it is strongly preferred that at least one letter be from a faculty member.

A writing sample is recommended but not required for students applying to the digital immersion program. If the applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirements, the application may still be considered.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning seven continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses with ASU professors during the summer or during academic breaks offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. More information is available on the Global Education website.
https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/graduate-students

Career Opportunities

Graduates with a master's degree in social justice and human rights can begin or advance their careers in advocacy work in nonprofit or government agencies, humanitarian work, international law and advocacy, as well as in careers that enable them to address forced migration, trafficking, and gender-based or racialized violence. Graduates from this program are well poised to pursue additional graduate education, such as law school or PhD programs.
Career examples include:

- advocate or lobbyist
- community organizer
- grant writer
- humanitarian aid worker
- policy analyst or researcher
- program officer
- public defender
- social justice specialist or consultant
- social service worker

Contact Information

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N100
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Admission Deadlines