

Sociology of Families Ph.D. Concentration Goals (Fall, 2011)

The Ph.D. concentration, *Sociology of Families*, is concerned with the complexity and dynamics of contemporary families and intimate relationships. More specifically, this concentration focuses on family processes over the life course, historical changes in family life, and social psychological and demographic process that influence families. Our primary objective is to prepare students for careers in teaching, research, and/or practice (e.g., social services, government) in the area of family. Another objective is to assist students for whom sociology of families is a secondary area of study in their efforts to meaningfully address family related issues within their primary fields (e.g. community studies, criminology, social psychology).

Preparation of students for active participation in their profession is accomplished in three main ways:

1. Provision of quality educational experience. Faculty members in the Ph.D. concentration *Sociology of Families* provide students with a solid foundation in family theory, methodology, empirical research findings, and debates within the discipline through coursework. Toward this end, we require students to take the following courses: (1) Current Research in the Family (Soc 585), (2) Current Topics in Family Sociology (Soc 675), and (3) one of the following sociology courses (520, 528, 529, 534, or 582). In addition to coursework, students are encouraged to get involved in research, working closely with faculty and thereby take advantage of faculty expertise in the area. Furthermore, students are encouraged to interact with family scholars in other departments and institutes (e.g., HDFS, ISBR) as well as family scholars visiting ISU from other institutions. Students for whom family sociology is a secondary area of study are encouraged to maintain open communication with both the faculty in their primary area and the faculty in *Sociology of Families* concentration.
2. Professional socialization. Among our goals is to work with students' POS chairs to ensure the professional development of the graduate students in our concentration. Students are encouraged to attend and present research papers at regional and national meetings, and join professional societies within the discipline (the American Sociology Association, National Council on Family Relations, etc.). We will facilitate students' attendance at professional meetings by providing feedback on research ideas, reading drafts of papers prior to submission, recommending venues for presentation, helping to secure funds for travel, providing feedback on "dry runs" of students' presentations, and professional networking at the meetings. Similarly, we encourage students to submit papers for publication during their graduate studies, and will facilitate this by providing feedback on their research ideas, reading drafts of research papers, and providing help in finding the appropriate outlet for their work. We also encourage professional collaboration between faculty and graduate students in the area as well as encourage professional collaboration in inter-area and inter-disciplinary research.
3. Secure employment. Once graduate students have successfully completed their coursework and preliminary exams, we will assist students as they seek employment in the profession of their choice. In doing so, we will assist them as they develop their curriculum vitae and application materials. For those interested in pursuing an academic appointment, we will provide guidance and assistance with the development of a suitable "job talk," highlighting their strengths and training in this area. For those interested in pursuing a non-academic appointment, we will provide guidance and assistance with the development of a resume that highlights their skills and training. It is our desire to work with students for whom family sociology is either a primary or secondary area in the early phases of their graduate careers, so that they will be well prepared to pursue the professional careers of their choice.

Ph.D. Concentration in *Sociology of Families*
Spring 2011

Participating Faculty: Prokos, Schweingruber, Stewart, Tsushima

Program Coordinator: Stewart

Expectations: Students selecting this concentration are expected to master a range of basic concepts and theory relating to sociology of families. Required courses for the concentration are Sociology 585, 675, and one of the following (520, 528, 529, 534, or 582). Any additional course and credit requirements for a concentration in family sociology will be determined by the student's Ph.D. advisory committee (POS) and the sociology of families concentration committee.

If any of the required courses are not offered as scheduled in the student's Program of Study, they may substitute other coursework as approved by the sociology of families concentration committee.

Required Courses:

- 585 Contemporary Research in the Family (Alt. F - offered 2011)
- 675 Current Topics in Family Sociology (Alt. S - offered 2007)

Any one of the following:

- 520 Social Psychology
- 528 Sociology of Gender
- 529 Racial and Ethnic Inequality
- 534 Social Stratification
- 582 Theories of Social Deviance

Declared Minor:

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Gerontology is available for students interested in specializing in the area of aging. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Women's Studies is available for students interested in specializing in the area of women's studies.