Graduate Certificate Program
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Abstract
The Certificate Program in Population Studies provides interdisciplinary training in demographic methods, theory, and research for graduate students in departments affiliated with the Maryland Population Research Center (MPRC), culminating in a Certificate in Population Studies for graduate students who complete the required coursework. Historically, the Population Sciences were born out of the discipline of Demography, a field that boomed during the 1950s around fears of a world-wide population explosion and its consequences. Demography was taught largely within departments of Sociology. Today the field has changed a great deal and researchers worry about issues of low fertility and underpopulation as much as overpopulation. What demographers of the 1950s missed in their dire predictions were unprecedented behavioral changes of families to changing economic circumstances, changing social pressures, and changing ideas of what constituted a family. Today, the core of the population sciences is not forecasting population growth and its components (mortality, fertility and immigration) but instead understanding what economic, social, and ideational factors affect these components and how changing mortality, fertility, and immigration may affect other family choices. With the growing emphasis on choice and on the consequences of population change, and with the shift from being a field focusing on forecasting to one focusing on understanding causal relationships, training across several fields of study has become necessary.

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Admissions
The Certificate Program is offered to students enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of Maryland College Park. Please contact your department for more information.