

Diversity Certification at the Graduate Level

Department of Sociology and Social Work

The Department of Sociology and Social Work offers a Certification in Diversity that prepares students for today's culturally diverse society. Courses required for Diversity Certification focus on the intersection of race/ethnicity, social class, and gender. The graduate certificate is open to students enrolled in any graduate degree program at Texas Woman's University as well as to qualified individuals seeking only Diversity Certification.

The Certification will provide grounding in the history and theory of cultural diversity in the U.S. as well as examination of commonalities and differences among groups, and access to empirical data on diverse groups and inter-group relations. For certification-only students, the program will enhance the ability to work in a culturally diverse environment and to train others to work in such an environment. For students in degree programs, the certification will complement the student's major work and increase opportunities for research, teaching, and practice. Persons interested in the Certification in Diversity include social service and human resource professionals, therapists, counselors, educators, and those working in the criminal justice system.

Admission Requirements

Students already admitted to a graduate program at TWU should consult with the Chair or Graduate Advisor of their program to determine whether the coursework taken for the Diversity Certification will apply toward their degrees. Coursework taken as part of a certification program may not be counted toward a graduate degree at TWU without the approval of both the degree-granting department and the Graduate Dean. Students seeking admission to a masters or doctoral program, in addition to certification, must meet the entrance requirements of their degree program.

Students entering TWU only for the Certification in Diversity must meet the master's-level entrance requirements of the Graduate School except for the submission of GRE scores. For certificate-only students, the Department of Sociology and Social Work requires a Statement of Purpose (500-600 words) describing the reason Diversity Certification is sought and its importance in relation to career goals.

Course Requirements

Diversity Certification requires 18 graduate hours of course work to be completed with an average grade of B or better. Diversity is defined as inclusive of racial/ethnic diversity as well as age, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. Some courses will focus on diversity within the United States and others are global with a cross-cultural focus. The following three courses are required for Diversity Certification and will be offered at least once each year (including summers).

- SOCI 5553 or 6503 Social Stratification
- SOCI 5443 Race and Ethnic Groups in the United States
- SOCI/WS 5463 Women of Color

With approval of the student's Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, the remaining 9 hours may be selected from topics regularly offered under the Seminars on Social Organization and Disorganization (SOCI 6503), Life Cycle (SOCI 6303), and the Metropolitan Community (SOCI 6403), or from outside the Department.

Administration of Program

The Chair of the Department of Sociology and Social Work will have primary responsibility for administering the Diversity Certification program. The Chair may, however, appoint another faculty member or the Graduate Advisor to assist students in the selection of coursework and to track their completion of the certification requirements.