General Information

The MA Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) is an intense, intellectually transformative one-year program. Students concentrate in Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Some pursue interdisciplinary work in Comparative Human Development, Social Thought, or Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science. Others may specialize in Quantitative Methods for Social Analysis, Education and Society, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Geographic Information Science.

All MAPSS students take nine graduate courses, selected from all University of Chicago departments and professional schools. Each student works closely with the program directors, our senior academic staff, and an assigned preceptor, designing a customized curriculum and defining an area of scholarly research. They work directly with University of Chicago faculty on the MA thesis.

Students must take MAPS 30000 (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=MAPS%2030000) Perspectives in Social Science Analysis, our core course, in the Autumn Quarter. In addition, students must satisfy a methods requirement by selecting among dozens of graduate alternatives in ethnography, historical methods, involved interviewing, network analysis, survey analysis, content analysis, game theory, rational choice, causal inference, statistics, interpretive methods, comparative case study, and others.

MAPSS offers preeminent training for those aspiring to go on to funded PhD study in the social sciences. Each year 70 to 90 of MAPSS graduates do so successfully, at a 90 percent placement rate. More than 100 MAPSS graduates are pursuing the PhD at the University of Chicago alone.

MAPSS also offers an exceptional program of career placement, working directly with our director of career services, with weekly workshops, on-campus recruitment, and visits by leading alumni who provide mentorship in a variety of fields.

Joint BA/MA Program

Qualified students in the College who wish to pursue a joint BA/MA degree in the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences should consult with their College adviser, the assistant dean of students in the social sciences (Lindsey Weglarz, lweglarz@uchicago.edu), and Chad Cyrenne (c-cyrenne@uchicago.edu), managing director of MAPSS, as early as possible in their third year, during the Autumn Quarter.

Please see BA/MA Degree Requirements (https://mapss.uchicago.edu/bama-degree-requirements-current-uchicago-college-students/) to review the eligibility requirements for the joint degree.

Application Requirements

Applicants are expected to have a GPA of 3.55 or higher.

Applications are due by February 1.

The application is submitted online to the dean of students of the Division of the Social Sciences (apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply (https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply/)). See How to Apply.

More information on the application process can be found at socialsciences.uchicago.edu/admissions (https://socialsciences.uchicago.edu/admissions/).

BA/MA applicants should not pay the application fee. Email ssd-admissions@uchicago.edu to ask how to receive the fee waiver.

Space in the MAPSS BA/MA program is limited, and admission is very competitive. The application is evaluated by the MAPSS Admissions Committee on the basis of the student’s academic record, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of intellectual and academic goals. Admission to the MA program is also subject to approval by the College. Prospective BA/MA students are expected to complete all but three of their BA requirements before entering joint residence status for the three quarters preceding the anticipated quarter of graduation. Up to three graduate courses can be used as electives in the undergraduate program or they can be applied to the undergraduate major by petition to the director of undergraduate studies. Students in joint residence status are charged tuition at graduate rates.

Program Requirements

Students selected to participate in the joint degree program must meet all normal BA requirements for their particular field of study, as well as all general education requirements. In addition, joint degree students in MAPSS must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Completion of nine MAPSS-approved graduate-level courses for quality grades, including MAPS 30000 Perspectives in Social Science Analysis in the Autumn Quarter and a course that satisfies the graduate methods requirement.
2. Completion of 48 total credits for the joint degree. Up to three courses taken at the graduate level in the fourth year may be double-counted toward both the BA and the MA degree, with permission from the College.

3. Completion of an MA paper that is approved by the faculty adviser.

4. Completion of both the BA and MA degrees, the second awarded no later than the August convocation following a September matriculation.

PRECEPTORS/GRADUATE ADVISORS

Please contact E. G. Enbar (egenbar@uchicago.edu) to be put in touch with a preceptor who shares your disciplinary or research interests.

HOW TO APPLY

The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions and deadlines, is available online at apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply (https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply/).