MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY CONCENTRATION

The Medical Sociology concentration is designed for students seeking applied research and policy careers in public and private health, mental health, and social service organizations and agencies, as well as those who plan to apply to Ph.D. programs with a medical sociology concentration. Courses examine the phenomena of health, illness, disability, mental health issues; the social organization of health care delivery; and differential access to medical resources. The Medical Sociology Faculty has identified three broad educational and training goals of the medical sociology concentration program: (1) Students will understand and appreciate the broad range of theoretical and methodological sociological approaches for studying health, illness, and healing. (2) Students will develop a thorough understanding of the organization and function of health care systems and policies both in the United States and around the world. (3) Students will be trained to work in health care settings as applied masters-level sociologists and apply their theoretical and methodological skills to practical problems in health, illness, and healing.

Combined with course work in research methods, theory, and statistics, graduates in this sub-field are prepared to apply what they have learned in jobs as varied as:

- academic teaching and academic research
- government planning, research, and regulatory agencies
- hospital and health institution policy and research
- citizen advocacy in such areas as health and disability

Affiliated Medical and Research Centers

Some of the Sociology faculty members have appointments in the School of Nursing and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where they teach, consult, and conduct and supervise research. They provide bridges to relevant courses, field experiences, internships, and research opportunities in these professional schools, and their associated medical, nursing, and hospital facilities. The partnership of IU, Riley, and Methodist Hospitals (Indiana University Medical Center - IUMC), nationally recognized as a successful collaboration providing outstanding health care for its region, is located on the IUPUI campus and expands opportunities for students and the University’s capacity to conduct cutting-edge research. In addition to the School of Medicine and Nursing, IUPUI has graduate programs in Health Administration and Policy, and Public Health, and students may take elective courses in these programs.
Graduate Seminars

To fulfill the course requirements for the medical sociology concentration, students may choose from among the following graduate course offerings:

- SOC-R 515: Sociology of Health and Illness
- SOC-S 526 Sociology of Human Sexuality
- SOC-S 560 Topics: Gender and Health
- SOC-R 585: Social Aspects of Mental Health and Illness
- SOC-R 594: Internship in Medical Sociology
- SOC-R 610: Sociology of Health & Illness Behavior
- SOC-R 697 Individual Readings in Medical Sociology

Medical Sociology Faculty

The core faculty in the Sociology of Medicine at the present time are: David Bell, Carrie E. Foote, Carol Brooks Gardner, William Gronfein, Betsy Fife (Adjunct with the School of Nursing), Tamara Leech, and Eric Wright (Adjunct with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs).