

Our Department

Chair

Bambi Chapin: Associate Professor, ANTH

Associate Chair

Aubrey Jackson Soller: Associate Professor, SOCY

Undergraduate Program Directors

Katie Birger: Senior Lecturer, PBHL

Brian Soller: Associate Professor, SOCY

Nicholas Welcome: Lecturer, ANTH

Graduate Program Director

Dena Smith: Associate Professor, SOCY

Faculty

Katie Birger: Senior Lecturer, PBHL

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Jun Chu: Assistant Professor, PBHL

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Aubrey Jackson Soller: Associate Professor, SOCY

Andrea Kalfoglou: Associate Professor, PBHL

Arielle Kuperberg: Associate Professor, SOCY

Camee Maddox-Wingfield: Assistant Professor, ANTH

Christine Mair: Associate Professor, SOCY

Sameera Nayak: Assistant Professor, PBHL

John Schumacher: Professor, SOCY & GERO

Dena Smith: Associate Professor, SOCY

Brian Soller: Associate Professor, SOCY

Nicholas Welcome: Lecturer, ANTH

Takashi Yamashita: Professor, SOCY & GERO

Staff

Melissa Cox: Program Management Specialist

Sarah Glorioso: Academic Program Specialist

Kate Hemmis: Graduate Program Coordinator

Cathryn McDonnell: Department Manager

Jessica (Liping) Ren: Business Service Specialist

Debbie Sanford: Coordinator of advising

Welcome!

The UMBC Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health (SAPH) is a diverse, interdisciplinary social science department that offers undergraduate majors and minors in sociology, anthropology, and public health, a Masters in Applied Sociology, and graduate certificates in applied social science research, the social dimensions of health, and nonprofit organization.

Our department prepares students to use the theories and methods of the social sciences to investigate the many important issues facing our society. Across our programs, we emphasize three core areas of study: social science research methods; health & aging; and gender, inequality, & diversity in a global context.



Our faculty are nationally recognized for their quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research. All of the department faculty have active research portfolios, with projects focused on life in Baltimore and the surrounding region; policy, health and aging; and social change and well-being across the globe. Please reach out to saph@umbc.edu if you would like to learn more. We would love to hear from you!



Department of Sociology,
Anthropology, and
Public Health (SAPH)



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Our Programs

Sociology

Sociology is the study of social relationships among people and the institutions they use to organize these relationships. With SOCY, students are equipped with the ability to apply sociological theories to evaluate, understand, and address social problems in our society. Training in SOCY is suited for careers in academic research, public service, health, non-profit work, education, and many more.

Anthropology

Anthropology is the worldwide comparative study of humankind, present and past. ANTH at UMBC focuses on cultural anthropology, which examines cultural diversity, human meaning, and the social, political, and economic forces that shape our contemporary world. With an emphasis on ethnographic methods, anthropology students learn to gather and analyze complex material, communicate across difference, and recognize how cultural perspectives influence events, interactions, and lived experience. ANTH majors are prepared for careers in a wide range of fields, and many continue in graduate and professional training.

Public Health

Public Health is the study of the overall health of the population and how to improve it. The PBHL program at UMBC is designed for students who are seeking careers in health research, policy development, public service, clinical medicine, and non-profit organization. In PBHL, students will learn about health care issues and how to address them through training in research methods, applied social science, data analysis, and administrative skills. As part of the program, students are required to complete a public health internship with a professional organization, many of these internships lead to full-time employment for graduates.

Graduate Programs

Applied Sociology

Our Masters in Applied Sociology emphasizes the "practical side" of sociology. We seek to develop our students' expertise in analytic skills to prepare them for employment in careers related to social research, policy, and program development. Graduates of our program have obtained employment in both federal and state government, medical research centers, non-profit organizations, and university research centers.

Programs of Study Undergraduate Programs

Degrees:

Sociology, Bachelor of Arts

Cultural Anthropology, Bachelor of Arts

Public Health, Bachelor of Arts

Minors:

Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health

Certificates:

Social Dimensions of Health

Graduate Programs

Degrees:

Applied Sociology, Master of Arts

Certificates:

Non-Profit Sector

Social Dimensions of Health

Applied Social Research Methods

Research

Center for Health Equity and Aging (CHEA)

The Center for Health Equity and Aging (CHEA) is UMBC's hub for research on the social dimensions of health, equity, and aging. CHEA's mission is to promote productivity and pedagogy in social science research for SAPH. Students and faculty that work with CHEA are committed to furthering a comprehensive approach to the study of health, equity, and aging through qualitative and quantitative approaches. Since its establishment in 2001, the Center has housed more than 20 multi-year studies that received over \$20 million dollars in external funding. CHEA faculty and students also have the opportunity to conduct global research. This summer, CHEA faculty and students traveled to Japan to study cultural and policy differences in the aging experience in Japan versus the United States.

Research on Social Conditions and Health Equity (ROSCHE) Lab

The Research on Social Conditions and Health Equity (ROSCHE) Lab is a public health research lab led by Dr. Sameera Nayak. The ROSCHE lab uses social epidemiologic and qualitative methods to better understand the health and experiences of oppressed and marginalized people within and outside of the U.S. Current areas of focus include (im)migrant health and improving mental health systems and service delivery. The lab actively supports student engagement in research and provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain valuable research experience!