



Master's Degree in Social Science (With a concentration)

Social science studies society and social interaction. It is an umbrella area of study that traditionally includes disciplines such as: political science, sociology, economics, education, history, geography, international development, international relations, social work, gender studies, cultural studies, community development, environmental studies and social policy. Galen University's Master's in Social Science program is designed to respond to a student's interest, allowing the student to work with Galen faculty to define their area of concentration. The program is best suited for highly motivated individuals interested in developing a critical and interdisciplinary understanding of their field of interest and the context of their practice, developing solid research skills and considering the links of their areas of study to the challenge of sustainability. It introduces students to the major perspectives in social theory, develops their understanding of Belizean society and development in the regional and global context, and deepens their knowledge and skills in their area through course work and a Master's thesis. Graduates in the program will be prepared for careers in the applied social science fields or continuing study at the Ph.D. level.

With a Master's in Social Science from Galen, graduates will find themselves equipped with the depth and breadth of outlook required to meet the need for resourcefulness, versatility and adaptability in modern society.

Students admitted to the Social Science Graduate Program are required to complete at least thirty six (36) graduate credit hours (500 series), including:

- MSSC -501 and 502** – Social Science Theory I and II (3 credits each)
- MSSC -530** – Introduction to Sustainable Development (3 credits)
- MSSC -531** – Applied Development and Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean (3 credits)
- MSSC -590 and 591** – Research Design I and II (3 credits each)
- MSSC -599** – Thesis (6 credits)

Four additional courses can be selected from:

- MSSC -540** – Indigenous Cultures of the Americas
- MSSC -570** – Cultural processes
- MSSC -580** – Directed Readings in area of concentration (may be taken more than once with different topic)
- MSSC -590** – Advanced Readings in area of concentration (may be taken more than once with different topic)
- MSSC -595** – Special topics (may be taken more than once with different topic)

Note: **MSSC -599** (Thesis, 6 credit hours) involves conducting research and writing a thesis in an area of interest to be identified and approved in consultation with the student's supervisory committee. The student is expected to pass an oral examination in defense of the thesis. The text of the thesis is *not to exceed 150 pages*. Students will present their thesis research at first and second year graduate colloquia.



Applying to the Graduate Program

The general regulations and requirements of Galen University for graduate studies apply to the Graduate Program. To be eligible for admission, the applicant must possess a B.Sc. or B.A. degree or equivalent in the field of study or a related field, with an average of at least a GPA of 3.0 in the work of the last four semesters or the last two undergraduate years (full time equivalent).

Applicants to the program are expected to have a foundation in their field and appropriate research methodology. Applicants who do not have this background can qualify for the program by taking undergraduate courses deemed necessary to their program of graduate study.

How to Apply

1. Review the different faculty associated with the program. The graduate faculty at Galen can be accessed on the Galen University website: www.galen.edu.bz
2. Read an article or recent publication authored by the professor you are interested in working with; this will give you an idea of their current research and interests and whether you would fit well with their area of expertise. An exact match is not needed, but at least find a professor with a solid foundation in your proposed area.
3. Contact the professor, usually via email, about your interest in working with her/him as a graduate student. Have an idea of how you see yourself fitting in at the university and with the professor and express this in your contact email. It is your job to conceptualize your working relationship and on what you will research. (Refer to Step #1). However, professors are happy to work with you to refine your ideas once you have identified your own interests.
4. Engage in a dialogue with the professor you wish to work with. This dialogue will help you to determine whether the professor is the right fit for you.
5. Put together necessary documents and written components for the 'supplemental' or 'additional' documentation portion of your application. These documents are: Transcripts, Letters of Reference, Statement of Purpose, Plan of Study, and Proof of citizenship. Allow ample time to complete this step. Transcripts often take several weeks to be received. You do not want to rush writing your 'plan of study' or editing your Statement of Purpose – these are the documents which will represent 'you' and your work to the Admissions Committee.
6. Apply to Galen! This is a 2-step process requiring an application and fee payment, then the submission of your additional documentation to the university. At Galen, you can find instructions here: www.galen.edu.bz, or email admissions@galen.edu.bz. Follow the institutional guidelines for how to successfully complete this process. Be sure you have noted the deadlines and submit your application in time.
7. Financing your education is an important part of deciding to attend graduate school. Please identify in your application if you are interested in scholarships, a student loan, or an installment payment plan. Be sure to note the deadlines for application for different types of financial aid.