

# H. Cal Poly Humboldt Sociology

NEWS AND UPDATES

FALL 2025



## **Blended BA/MA Programs Open Pathways to MA in Public Sociology**

Our first BA undergraduate student began their combined BA/MA term this fall in one of two new pathways approved in Spring 2025 by the CSU Chancellor's Office. BA student applicants to the program are considered for admission along with prospective students with completed bachelor degrees applying to our MA program. The process is competitive.

Katy Lira, BA & MA in Public Sociology expected 2027, wrote: "I'm grateful to be in a cohort composed of people with such diverse perspectives. We all strive to uplift and assist one another in our own individual endeavors. I also want to thank the wonderful department faculty who encouraged me to apply and have supported me every step of the way."

## **Criminology & Justice Studies Students in Pelican Bay State Prison**

Professor Michihiro Sugata is teaching a weekly in-person class on Policing Bodies: A Biopolitical History of Race, Riots, and Surveillance (CRIM 455) in Pelican Bay State Prison. Incarcerated students enrolled in the class are seeking a BA in Communication from Cal Poly Humboldt. This is the first CSU BA program offered in a maximum security California prison.

## **Learning from the Past: Sociology Pilgrimage to Manzanar**

Professors Michihiro Sugata and Paul Michael Atienza (Critical, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) led a group of 15 students to Manzanar, one of many places of incarceration where Japanese Americans were unjustly confined during World War II in the name of necessity and freedom. These pilgrimages serve as acts of remembrance, healing, and as important historical markers for future generations.

## **MA Research Experiences Supported by Alumni Donations**

Every student in the Fall 2025 MA cohort (15) has a paid faculty research assistantship thanks to generous donations from alumni and friends. The faculty voted to allocate \$10,000 - the largest ever earmark in annual Trust budgeting.

Alumni continue to report the professional significance of their MA placements with faculty, alumni, and community members - signature experiences for our program. The 2026 funding cycle promises even greater volatility for student funding. Many thanks to each and every one of you for your ongoing generosity and enthusiasm for meeting, mentoring, and supporting our students in so many ways.

Please [donate now](#) to the Department of Sociology Trust Fund.

## **Where has Life Taken You Since Humboldt?**

Stay connected with Sociology. [Give us an update](#). You can also connect with current students and alumni through the [Cal Poly Humboldt Sociology private LinkedIn group](#). Connect and we'll invite you in!