

# POVERTY, INEQUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE MINOR

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY and THE BLUM CENTER ON POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND DEMOCRACY

## STUDENT FAQ (2023-24)

### OVERVIEW OF CORE MINOR COMPONENTS

#### What are the core requirements of this minor?

The Minor in Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice is administered by the Departments of History and Global Studies, and is interdisciplinary in scope. It is also affiliated with the UCSB Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy. Students pursuing this minor must complete:

- *Hist 74 - Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice in Historical and Global Context (lower-division);*
- *3 upper-division electives (from a list of eligible electives);*
- *An internship (and eligible internship course); and a*
- *A capstone seminar*

For more detail on these requirements, please consult the Minor requirement sheet.

#### How does this minor stand out from others available at UCSB?

- Many students have an interest in social justice and inequality but are not sure which courses to take, or how to gain work experience in this field. This Minor enables students to develop an area of focus within their broader academic program through structured coursework, a targeted internship, and a capstone seminar with a signature project.
- As an illustration, let's say you would like to develop an area of expertise in housing insecurity. You could select electives that provide you with research questions and subject matter knowledge about issues related to poverty, inequality, and housing; then intern for an organization focused on houselessness and homelessness; and ultimately focus your capstone project on a specific issue or question related to housing insecurity (one that jumped out in your courses or during your internship) in order to drill deeper and refine your understanding of that issue.
- Overall, this minor provides an opportunity to pursue targeted scholarship, work and research experience in a specific thematic area, which you can further explore in graduate school or the job market.



## What requirements of the minor are time-sensitive and can only be taken at particular points during the year?

There are two time-sensitive components of the Minor in Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice (MPISJ):

- 1) *Hist 74 - Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice in Historical and Global Context*: is the gateway course that students take to begin the minor (Note - students can take HIST 74 and pursue their internship during the same quarter, provided they have secured approval for the internship in advance). *Hist 74 is typically only offered in Fall and Summer quarter.*
- 2) *Hist 174Q - Capstone Seminar*: students take this seminar at the end of their minor to reflect on their coursework and internship, and identify an issue, or set of insights, they would like to pursue in more depth in the course (Note - students must take this seminar after their internship, but can complete electives (if needed) after the seminar). *The capstone seminar will be offered in Winter and Spring 2024).*

For more information on these requirements, please consult the Minor requirement sheet.

For more information on the required courses, please consult the general catalog.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### Can one course count for credit toward multiple minors?

- Students can have eligible lower division courses overlap between minors (only the gateway course (Hist 74) is a lower division course in this minor). However, only 5 units of upper division electives can overlap between two minors. All required electives for this minor are upper division.

### Can I take an upper division elective in my home department and have it count for both my major and the minor?

- The three upper division electives required for this minor must be from outside students' major. For example, if you are a Political Science major and pursuing this minor, then you are cannot take any political science electives to count towards the MPISJ.
- Students can have 5 units of upper division overlap between electives for their major (so long as the elective is outside their major department), and the electives required for the Minor in Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice. Contact the History undergraduate advisor for more information.

### I found an upper-division course not currently listed on the minor requirements sheet that sounds relevant to the themes of the Minor. Can I petition it to count towards the minor?

- Yes! You can consult our *list of pre-approved electives* to see if your proposed course is on the list, and notify the History undergraduate advisor if that is the case.
- If the course is not on the list, you can petition it by completing the online **History Department Course Substitution Petition** form. After reviewing the form, the History Department will be in touch to confirm whether your proposed course is an eligible elective for consideration in the minor.
- Note - Students who have already taken a course on the list of approved electives may be able to have it count (only 1 previously completed course) towards the minor by meeting with the History undergraduate advisor to review your completed courses.



**Can students from any major apply to the Minor?** (\*see last page for application process details)

- Yes! Students from any major, including History majors, can apply to the minor.

**Are the internship course and capstone seminar letter grade courses or pass/no-pass?**

- The capstone seminar will be a letter grade course.
- The internship course (Hist 196SJ/Globl 196SJ) is a letter grade course. Students taking an equivalent internship course (from another department) will need approval from the History Department.

## INTERNSHIP

**How do I find an internship?**

Students can fulfill the minor's internship requirement through one of three pathways:

- *Obtain an internship by drawing on the MPISJ's list of eligible internship providers.*  
-> Declared minors will be informed of the process to follow to obtain access to, and use, this list roughly 6-8 weeks prior to the next quarter (internships typically begin at the start of each quarter). You can find a brief overview of this process on our website: <https://blumcenter.ucsb.edu/academics>. The Minor Internship Coordinator is also available to assist students with any questions they have in finding an internship.
- *Note - students are provided with information on available local internships through this list, and guidance/support from the Internship Coordinator, but they are not guaranteed placements.*
- *Complete an existing UC internship program (e.g. UCDC, UCEAP, UC Sacramento), which include an opportunity to contribute to organizations addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and social justice.*  
-> Approval from the History Department is required prior to starting the internship in order to receive academic credit toward the minor.
- *Obtain an internship through your own efforts/networks.*  
-> Advance approval from the History Department will be required prior to starting the internship in order to receive academic credit toward the minor.

**What types of internships can be pursued/are available with this minor?**

- The MPISJ list of local internships includes organizations ranging from non-profits, local government entities, and on-campus employers working to address poverty, inequality, and social justice in its many forms, e.g. housing insecurity, migrant justice, public health, food justice, and environmental justice/conservation.
- Students who propose their own internships must ensure their job duties fall within (at least) one of these categories: policy analysis, advocacy, direct social provision, community action, and/or organizing, and contribute to efforts to address poverty, inequality, and social justice.



### When can I complete the internship?

- Students can pursue an internship during any quarter (i.e. Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer).
- Students must have applied to, and been accepted, into the Minor before they can complete an internship.
- Students must have completed or be enrolled in HIST 74 before starting your internship.

### How many hours/weeks should internships be?

- Students are required to complete 120 hours in their internships. The internship typically extends over one quarter (or ten weeks). Students are welcome to remain at their internship site for a longer period of time, however they will only receive academic credit for the first quarter.
- During the academic year, the University recommends that students do not exceed working more than 30 hrs/week. During the summer there are no such restrictions (i.e. students can work up to 40 hrs/week).

### Do the internships need to be paid or unpaid?

- Internships can be either paid or unpaid. Students who pursue a paid internship will need work authorization documentation. Students with questions about their work authorization status are encouraged to contact *Maddie Foster with UCSB Career Services (mwfooster@ucsb.edu)* for additional guidance.
- You can receive academic credit, and pursue a paid internship, at the same time.

### Is there any funding available to financially support students who participate in an unpaid internship through this minor?

- We do not currently have financial support for students undertaking unpaid internships. However, we encourage students to consider applying to the Career Services Internship Scholarship Program and available Departmental Internship awards.

### Are international students eligible to participate in internships?

- International students' eligibility to participate in internships associated with academic minors will vary based on visa status and associated requirements. Students must consult the Office of International Students & Scholars prior to securing/starting any internship. Please contact *Erik Williams (erikwilliams@ucsb.edu)* with the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) for guidance. For general reference, please consult these FAQs from OISS.

### Are undocumented students eligible to participate in internships?

- Eligibility to participate in paid vs. unpaid internships will vary based on work authorization status and method of payment. For additional guidance related to employment, please consult with *Maddie Foster with Career Services (mwfooster@ucsb.edu)*.



## NEXT STEPS FOR THE MINOR & THE BLUM CENTER

### How do I apply to the Minor?

All interested students will need to submit an online application to be considered for the minor (which will be released at the start of Winter 2023). Please see below for when your application window will open, and what prerequisites need to be fulfilled before applying. Note- submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance in the minor.

#### -> For continuing students graduating in FOUR years:

- Prior Completion of History 74 and 1 upper division minor elective OR you may be enrolled in the elective at the time you apply
- Application Window: Winter Quarter of your THIRD year

#### -> For continuing students graduating in THREE years:

Prior Completion of History 74 and 1 upper division minor elective OR you may be enrolled in the elective at the time you apply

Application Window: Winter Quarter of your SECOND year

#### -> For Incoming Transfer Students:

Prior Completion of History 74 OR currently enrolled in a future offering of History 74 (Summer or Fall)

- Prior Completion of 1 upper division minor elective OR you may be enrolled in the elective at the time you apply
- Application Window: Application during the summer of your FIRST year at UCSB

*\*\* For Seniors who want to declare right now: Due to the rapidly growing demand for this minor, and in light of the size of our current cohort of rising seniors, we are not able to accept additional fourth year students into the minor. We are already at maximum capacity with our required internship and capstone courses, so we unfortunately cannot accommodate more students who plan to graduate by Spring 2024.*

### I'm not sure I can complete the Minor, but I'm still interested in the Blum Center. What are my options?

For more information about how to get involved with the Blum Center, please visit our website ([www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu](http://www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu)) or contact the Blum Center Assistant Director Dr. Kashia Arnold

## CONTACT US!

Dr. Kashia Arnold  
Assistant Director  
2317 Girvetz Hall  
[karnold@ucsb.edu](mailto:karnold@ucsb.edu)

Kristi Copeland  
MPISJ Peer Advisor  
[kmc188@ucsb.edu](mailto:kmc188@ucsb.edu)

Kiara Actis  
Undergraduate Advisor  
History Department  
[history-undergraduate-advisor@ucsb.edu](mailto:history-undergraduate-advisor@ucsb.edu)

