

Certificate in Institutions and Organizations

The [Division of Applied Social Sciences](#) offers a **Graduate Certificate in the Economics and Sociology of Institutions and Organizations**. The certificate can be part of a graduate degree program at the University of Missouri or a stand-alone program for someone who has previously earned or is pursuing a graduate degree elsewhere. A University of Missouri certificate is a set of courses as well as participation in a workshop that demonstrates proficiency in a particular subject matter.

The Graduate Certificate in the Economics and Sociology of Institutions and Organizations features rigorous, multidisciplinary, research-oriented training in the analysis of formal and informal rules, private and public organizations, and other forms of social, cultural, political, and commercial institutions. Certificate faculty are active contributors to the theoretical and research literature in New Institutional Economics and New Institutional Sociology and maintain close ties to scholars such as Nobel Laureates Ronald Coase, Douglass North, Oliver Williamson, and Elinor Ostrom. The Certificate complements the research, teaching, and outreach activities of the Division of Applied Social Sciences and research centers such as the [Contracting and Organizations Research Institute](#), [Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership](#), and [McQuinn Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership](#).

The Certificate Program focuses on the structures and processes of Institutions and Organizations in changing environments. Institutions are the “rules of the game” that shape human interaction and consist of both formal rules (e.g., legal-contractual) and informal structures (norms, values, and beliefs). Organizations are the concrete, humanly devised entities in which people interact and pursue goals, ranging from families to private and nonprofit firms and public agencies. Both sociologists and economists study institutions and organizations but with different theories, methods, assumptions, and constructs. While these are usually viewed as competing perspectives, the Certificate Program emphasizes the common foundations of institutional analysis across academic disciplines including economics, sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, geography, and law, as well as the ways that multidisciplinary perspectives can inform each other.

Program Structure

The Certificate Program involves two required courses, RS 7335, "Social Change and Trends," and AE 8050, "Economics of Institutions and Organizations," both of which are offered in the Fall Semester. Students in the Program also take any three of the following:

- RS 7446: Community Social Structure
- AE 7972: Agri-food Business and Cooperative Management
- AE 8430: International Agricultural Development Policy
- RS 8447: Sociology of Consumption and Consumerism
- AE 8520: Economics of Transactions and Contracting
- AE/RS 8610: Collective Action from Sociological and Economic Perspectives
- RS 9480: Community Survey Research
- AE 9510: Theory of the Agribusiness Firm

Workshop on Institutions and Organizations

The Workshop on Institutions and Organizations is an integral part of the certificate program and will provide opportunities for students and faculty to learn more about the latest inter-disciplinary institutional and organizational research findings, methodologies and theories from invited speakers and as well as provide a forum within which faculty and students can share their on-going research. The workshop environment is designed to encourage an open but critical inter-disciplinary dialogue on substantive issues pertaining to institutional design and organizational structure and processes. An orientation for students who plan to pursue the Certificate will be held early in the Fall Semester.

- The workshop will be held during the fall and spring semesters.
- The fall semester workshop will convene as speakers become available.
- The spring semester workshop will meet regularly for two hours every other week.
- Students pursuing the certificate are expected to participate in all workshop functions.
- Students are required to sign up for one hour of course credit of readings for the spring semester workshop.
- A substantial portion of the spring semester workshop will be devoted to facilitating student research projects.
- All students are required to make a presentation on their research during the spring semester workshop.

Program Faculty

- [Fabio Chaddad](#) (contracting, organization and governance of the agrifood industry)
- [Michael Cook](#) (agricultural cooperatives, collective entrepreneurship case study methods)
- [Jere Gilles](#) (institutional and organizational issues in transition economies)
- [Mary Grigsby](#) (institutional issues of consumption and rural lifestyles, qualitative methodology)
- [Harvey James](#) (social capital, organizational economics, business ethics)
- [Peter Klein](#) (organizational economics, entrepreneurship, strategic management)
- [Laura McCann](#) (transaction cost measurement, environmental and natural resource economics)
- [David O'Brien](#) (survey research, social bases of transition economies)
- [Michael Sykuta](#) (new institutional economics, contracting and organization, political economy)
- [Randall Westgren](#) (entrepreneurship, research methodology)

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