Sociology (PhD)

The Department of Sociology offers graduate work leading to a doctor of philosophy (PhD) and is intended for students seeking a professional career in research and teaching in both academic and nonacademic settings. The department does not offer a terminal master's degree, although students enrolled in the PhD program will also receive a master's degree as part of their training.

Students receive training in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, sociological theory, and major substantive fields within sociology such as gender, sexuality, environment, race and ethnicity, culture, social networks, labor, immigration, and political economy. The department places a strong emphasis on research, and many students will find opportunities to participate in projects conducted by faculty members.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of core sociological knowledge and knowledge of several sub-fields within sociology.
- Become proficient in research design, primary or secondary data collection, and empirical data analysis.
- Demonstrate independent scientific thinking and advance knowledge within the discipline of sociology.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills reflective of presenting, publishing, and writing standards in sociology and the broader social sciences.
- Understand career practices, including, for example, ethical issues with regard to human subjects research, teaching, and related professional standards and responsibilities.

Sociology Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Introduction		**5**
SOC 607	Seminar: [Topic]	
Methods		**23**
SOC 512	Sociological Research Methods	
SOC 513	Sociological Research Methods	
SOC 612	Overview of Sociological Methods	
SOC 613	Advanced Sociological Methods: [Topic] (taken twice for 5 credits each)	
Theory		**15**
SOC 615	Advanced Sociological Theory: [Topic]	
SOC 617	Sociological Theory I	
SOC 618	Sociological Theory II	
Substantive Seminars		**15**
Students must take at least three substantive graduate seminars. Any of the seminars may be taken more than once, so long as the class content differs substantially each time. Examples include:		
SOC 616	Environment and Resource Issues: [Topic]	
SOC 644	Race and Ethnicity Issues: [Topic]	
SOC 656	Issues in Sociology of Gender: [Topic]	
SOC 664	Political and Economic Sociology Issues: [Topic]	
Master's Paper Project [1]		**5**
SOC 608	Workshop: [Topic]	
Electives		**15**
Students must complete three additional courses. These courses can include:		
Additional advanced theory (SOC 615), advanced methods (SOC 613), or substantive seminars within the department beyond the basic requirements listed above.		
500-level sociology courses or an independent study course (SOC 601 Research or SOC 605 Reading) with a faculty advisor. This requires the student and their supervising faculty member to agree to a specific reading list, regular meeting times, and a paper is required at the end of the term. Only one 500-level and one independent study course can each be used to meet elective requirements.		
SOC 621 Teaching in the Social Sciences		
SOC 610	Experimental Course: [Topic] [2]	
Dissertation		**18**
SOC 603	Dissertation	
Total Credits		**96**

1 Students who have earned a master's degree from another program must still complete the master's paper requirement from the department as one of the steps toward earning the PhD.

2 Depending on the topic, 610 may be eligible to fulfill other program requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 601	Research: [Topic]	1-16
SOC 603	Dissertation	1-16
SOC 605	Reading and Conference: [Topic] [1]	1-16
SOC 606	Field Studies: [Topic]	1-12
SOC 608	Workshop: [Topic]	1-16

1 In some cases, Reading and Conference: [Topic] (SOC 605) must be taken for a grade. Consult with the graduate coordinator.

Master's-Level Requirements

Students typically complete 55 credits of master's-level requirements in the first six terms of full-time work. Students are awarded a master's degree if they have completed their required courses, achieved a mid-B or better average in their graded courses, and passed the master's paper requirement. Students who enter with a master's degree in sociology may request substitution of as many as five courses from their previous institutions to meet programmatic requirements.

Doctoral-Level Requirements

After earning the master's degree, students take an additional 20 credits of doctoral-level course work and prepare for a comprehensive examination in a sociological subfield chosen jointly by the student and the advisor.

Upon passing the comprehensive examination, the student is advanced to PhD candidacy and begins work on the doctoral dissertation. The final

product is a book-length manuscript presenting empirical research that demonstrates originality and the scholar's ability to conduct independent investigation.