

SOCIOLOGY, PHD

Banner Code: LA-PHD-SOCI

Academic Advising

B305 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: soan.gmu.edu/programs/la-phd-soci

The sociology doctoral degree provides rigorous training in public and applied social research, including skills in research design, data analysis, and substantive areas that are pertinent to various sectors in the Washington, D.C. area. Graduates have the theoretical, analytical, and professional skills that prepare them for academic positions in teaching or research. They are also well-qualified for nonacademic positions in the many settings that rely on the expertise of sociologists including human service agencies, marketing research firms, educational systems, nonprofit foundations, and law enforcement agencies.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-PHD-SOCI>) on the departmental web site.

Policies

Reduction of Credit

Students who enter the program with a master's degree may be allowed a reduction of credit up to 30 credits subject to the approval of the graduate director and the dean.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Following completion of all required course work and passing a candidacy exam, students are advanced to candidacy by the dean and complete a dissertation, an original and independent research project.

Foundation Courses

Required Foundation Course

SOCI 601	Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology	3
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Courses of Theory

SOCI 711	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 712	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3

Writing

SOCI 602	Writing for the Social Sciences	3
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Required Courses of Methodology and Analysis

SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	3
SOCI 636	Statistical Reasoning	3

Elective Course of Methodology and Analysis

Select one from the following: 3

SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (when topic is Critical Theory or Feminist Theory, may substitute for this requirement or for one course under the statistics/methods requirement.)
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SOCI 730	Analytic Techniques of Social Research
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SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods
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Statistics/Methods

Select two from the following: 6

SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (when topic is Critical Theory or Feminist Theory, may substitute for one course under this requirement or for the elective methodology and analysis course.)
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SOCI 631	Survey Research
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SOCI 632	Evaluation Research for Social Programs
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SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods
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SOCI 655	Ethnography
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SOCI 660	Historical and Comparative Sociology
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or SOCI 860	Historical and Comparative Sociology
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ANTH 650	Methods in Anthropology
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WMST 610	Feminist Approaches to Social Research
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WMST 611	Feminist Research Practice
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Total Credits 27

Two Proseminars

SOCI 803	Institutions and Inequality	3
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SOCI 804	Sociology of Globalization	3
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Total Credits 6

Three Courses in a Specialization

Students specialize in either institutions and inequalities or sociology of globalization. Depending on the topic, special topics courses SOCI 633 Special Topics in Sociology and SOCI 833 Special Topics in Sociology (or others) may be applied to the specialization with prior written approval of the director. Up to two courses may be from outside sociology, chosen in consultation with (and with approval of) the student's advisor or the graduate director.

Institutions and Inequalities Specialization

Select 3 courses toward the degree from the following: 9

SOCI 605	Gender and Social Structure
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SOCI 608	Juvenile Delinquency
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SOCI 614	Sociology of Culture
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SOCI 623	Racial and Ethnic Relations: American and Selected Global Perspectives
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SOCI 624	International Migration in the Age of Globalization
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SOCI 635	Environment and Society	
SOCI 641	Micro Sociology: Inequality and Everyday Life	
SOCI 670	New Media and Social Inequality	
SOCI 840	Work Organizations and Social Inequality	
SOCI 844	Youth, Schooling, and Popular Culture	
SOCI 845	Society and Education	
SOCI 853	Cities in a Global Society	
SOCI 857	Sociology of Human Rights	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)	
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)	
Total Credits		9

Sociology of Globalization Specialization

Students in this specialization must demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language at an advanced level of reading and comprehension.

Select 3 courses toward the degree from the following:		9
SOCI 614	Sociology of Culture	
SOCI 623	Racial and Ethnic Relations: American and Selected Global Perspectives	
SOCI 624	International Migration in the Age of Globalization	
SOCI 635	Environment and Society	
SOCI 670	New Media and Social Inequality	
SOCI 850	Sociology of Development	
SOCI 851	Globalization and Social Movements	
SOCI 853	Cities in a Global Society	
SOCI 857	Sociology of Human Rights	
ANTH 631	Refugees in the Contemporary World	
ANTH 632	International Migration in Comparative Perspective	
ANTH 655	Nationalism, Transnationalism, and States: Local and Global Perspectives	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)	
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)	
Total Credits		9

Elective Courses

Select six elective courses	18
Total Credits	18

Electives may include up to two courses from outside sociology, chosen in consultation with and approval of the graduate director.

Research Proficiency

Students must demonstrate proficiency in a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods prior to taking the qualifying exams for candidacy. Proficiency is determined by satisfactory course work or an exam.

Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all course work required on their approved program of study. Students must also successfully pass one written qualifying examination. The comprehensive exam tests students' mastery of the foundations of sociological inquiry, linking research methods and sociological theory to public concerns, as well as material in the student's area of specialization. It is administered by a faculty committee appointed by the graduate program director. Additionally, students must have an approved dissertation committee. Evidence of completed requirements must be on file in the Dean's Office before a student can advance to candidacy.

Dissertation

Once enrolled in SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation, students must maintain continuous registration each semester (excluding summers) until the dissertation is submitted to and accepted by the University Libraries. Once enrolled in SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation, students must follow the university's continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Research. Students who defend in the summer must be registered for at least 1 credit of SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation.

Students complete a minimum of 3 credits of SOCI 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and 3 credits of SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation. They may apply a maximum of 12 dissertation credits (SOCI 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation combined) to the degree. Because of the continuous registration policy, students may be required to register for additional credits of SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation. Because students cannot register for credits of SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation until they have advanced to PhD candidacy, they may choose (but are not required) to register for additional credits of SOCI 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal.

Select 12 credits from the following:		12
SOCI 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	
SOCI 999	Doctoral Dissertation	
Total Credits		12