

SOCIOLOGY, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-SOCI

Academic Advising

B305 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

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

Students pursuing an master of arts in sociology may choose a specialization in either institutions and inequalities, or the sociology of globalization. Under the larger framework of these specializations, students may pursue studies in a wide range of areas of sociological inquiry. Faculty in the program specialize in culture (including music, art, new media, and consumption); family, youth and aging; gender; globalization; immigration and migration; political economy, development and economic sociology; political sociology and social movements; race/ethnicity; religion; sociological theory; and urban sociology. The program is strongly connected to nonprofit and community groups, providing ample opportunity for research, internships, and employment.

Admissions & Policies

Application Requirements

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 information specific to the MA in sociology, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/LA-MA-SOCI/application>).

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 33

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Core Courses

Social Theory

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 711	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 712	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
Total Credits		6

Research Methods

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	3
Select two from the following:		6

SOCI 631 Survey Research

SOCI 632 Evaluation Research for Social Programs

SOCI 633 Special Topics in Sociology ¹

SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods	
SOCI 636	Statistical Reasoning	
SOCI 655	Ethnography	
SOCI 660/860	Historical and Comparative Sociology	
SOCI 730	Analytic Techniques of Social Research	
ANTH 650	Methods in Anthropology	
WMST 610	Feminist Approaches to Social Research	
WMST 611	Feminist Research Practice	
Total Credits		9

¹ Only when topic is Feminist Methods, Feminist Theory, or Critical Ethnography.

Public Sociology

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 601	Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology	3
Total Credits		3

Elective Courses

Select three to four electives from the full range of offerings in sociology (any SOCI course) or focus their elective credits in one of two specializations:

Code	Title	Credits
Institutions and Inequalities Specialization:		
SOCI 605	Gender and Social Structure	
SOCI 608	Juvenile Delinquency	
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 641	Micro Sociology: Inequality and Everyday Life	
SOCI 670	Social Networks, New Media, and 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 ¹	
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology ¹	
Sociology of Globalization Specialization:		
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	Social Networks, New Media, and 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 ¹	
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology ¹	
Total Credits		9-12

¹ Only with prior written approval of director.

Thesis or MA Capstone Paper

Thesis

A master's thesis demonstrates the student's capacity to carry out independent research. The thesis consists of a substantial sociological research or theoretical project that will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in sociology.

Students must follow the thesis enrollment policy of the university and once enrolled in SOCI 799 Thesis, maintain continuous enrollment as specified in AP.6.9.3 Master's Thesis.

Code	Title	Credits
Three or six credits of		3-6
SOCI 799	Thesis	
Total Credits		3-6

Master's Capstone Paper

As an alternative to the thesis, students can elect to complete an independent, 25-page research paper. Unlike the thesis, the master's capstone paper must be completed in one semester.

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 797	Master's Capstone Paper	3
Total Credits		3

Accelerated Master's

Sociology, BA/Sociology, Accelerated MA Overview

Highly-qualified Mason sociology majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree program. If accepted, students will be able to earn both a BA and an MA in sociology following satisfactory completion of 147 credits, sometimes within five years. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

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 information specific to the accelerated MA in sociology, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/LA-MA-ACEL-SOCI/application>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate SOCI courses at the 500 and 600 level (chosen in consultation with the graduate program director and indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application) with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all coursework. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits of SOCI courses as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.