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 MA in sociology may choose a specialization in either institutions and inequality, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 711</td>
<td>Classical Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 712</td>
<td>Contemporary Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 6

Research Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 620</td>
<td>Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select two from the following:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 631</td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 632</td>
<td>Evaluation Research for Social Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 633</td>
<td>Special Topics in Sociology 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Courses

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

1. 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 833 Special Topics in Sociology 1
   - SOCI 835 Environment and Society

2. 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

Total Credits 9

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

Public Sociology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 601</td>
<td>Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 602</td>
<td>Writing for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3
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 6-9
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 799</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3-6

**MA Capstone Paper**
As an alternative to the thesis, students can elect to complete an independent, 25-page research paper. Unlike the thesis, the MA capstone paper must be completed in one semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 797</td>
<td>Master’s Capstone Paper</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

**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 3.00 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.

---

**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.