

SOCIOLOGY, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-SOCI

Academic Advising

6200 Horizon Hall
Fairfax Campus

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

Students pursuing a Master of Arts in Sociology 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). For information specific to the MA in sociology, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/LA-MA-SOCI/application/>) on the departmental website.

Policies

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

Reduction of Credit

Students who enter the program with a previously conferred graduate degree may be allowed a reduction of up to 6 elective credits, subject to the approval of the graduate director and dean.

Satisfactory Progress

According to university policy, students may be terminated if they fail to achieve satisfactory progress toward their degree. In addition to the graduate policies on academic termination (see AP.6.6.2), students in the program are judged as having failed to achieve satisfactory progress if they have a plagiarism finding by the Office of Academic Integrity.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 33

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>). Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies ([\[schools/humanities-social-sciences/sociology-anthropology/sociology-phd/#admissionspolicies\]\(http://schools/humanities-social-sciences/sociology-anthropology/sociology-phd/#admissionspolicies\)\) tab.](http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-</p>
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Foundation Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Public Sociology		
SOCI 601	Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology	3
Social Theory		
SOCI 711	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 712	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
Required Methodology and Analysis Course		
SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	3
Elective Methodology and Analysis Courses 6		
Select two from the following:		
SOCI 631	Survey Research	
SOCI 632	Evaluation Research for Social Programs	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology	
SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods	
SOCI 636	Statistical Reasoning	
SOCI 638	Feminist Theory	
SOCI 655	Ethnography	
SOCI 660	Historical and Comparative Sociology	
SOCI 730	Analytic Techniques of Social Research	
ANTH 650	Methods in Anthropology	
WMST 610	Feminist Research Methods	
Total Credits		18

Elective Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select three to four electives from advanced courses (500-800 level) in sociology. (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/) ¹		9-12

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Students may take SOCI 616 Practicum in Sociology as 1-6 elective credits. With prior written approval of the MA advisor, up to two courses from outside the sociology program that are not currently listed as approved courses (inclusive of consortium courses) may count toward elective courses.

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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9-3>).

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 799	Thesis	3-6
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 under the guidance of a faculty member who has been admitted to the graduate faculty.

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

Dual Degree Options

Students interested in pursuing a dual master's program linking sociology or interdisciplinary studies (concentration in women and gender studies) with a discipline other than that listed below should discuss their interest with the graduate program directors of both programs and review the university policies in AP6.9.6.

Sociology, MA and Interdisciplinary Studies, MAIS (concentration in women and gender studies) Dual Degree

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Studies Programs offer a dual master's program where a student can earn both a Sociology MA and the Interdisciplinary Studies MAIS (concentration in women and gender studies) in 57 credits rather than 69 credits. This program is governed by university policy AP.6.9.6 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9-6>).

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 this dual master's degree see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://soan.gmu.edu/programs/>).

Requirements

Total credits: 57

Required Sociology Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOCI 601	Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology	3
SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	3
SOCI 711	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 712	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
Elective Methodology and Analysis Course		3
SOCI 631	Survey Research	
SOCI 632	Evaluation Research for Social Programs	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology	
SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods	
SOCI 636	Statistical Reasoning	
SOCI 638	Feminist Theory	

SOCI 655	Ethnography	
SOCI 660	Historical and Comparative Sociology	
SOCI 730	Analytic Techniques of Social Research	
ANTH 650	Methods in Anthropology	
Select three advanced courses (500-800 level) in sociology (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/)		9
Total Credits		24

Required Women and Gender Studies Courses

Code	Title	Credits
WMST 630	Feminist Theories	3
WMST 640	Transnational Issues of Gender and Race	3
MAIS 793	Integrated Learning Experience	3
Select one course in critical race studies from the following:		3
INTS 537	Critical Race Studies	
INTS 538	Representations of Race	
INTS 539	Genealogy of Black Feminist Thought	
WMST 516	Policing Black Bodies	
or INTS 541	Policing Black Bodies	
WMST 550	Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies	
WMST 600	Special Topics	
Select one course in bodies and sexualities from the following:		3
WMST 504	Gender, Sexuality, and Disability	
WMST 550	Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies	
WMST 602	Queer Theory	
Select one course in transnational and global perspectives from the following:		3
WMST 507	Transnational Sexualities	
WMST 608	Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights	
WMST 509	Sexuality, Race, and Immigration	
SOCI 804	Sociology of Globalization	
EDUC 804	Seminar for Supervision in Teacher Education	
EDUC 892	Social Justice and Equity in International Education	
Select three courses from the following that address the study of women and gender and that are not taken as part of the core focus.		9
WMST 504	Gender, Sexuality, and Disability	
WMST 507	Transnational Sexualities	
WMST 509	Sexuality, Race, and Immigration	
WMST 550	Current Topics in Women and Gender Studies	
WMST 600	Special Topics	
WMST 602	Queer Theory	
WMST 608	Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights	
WMST 695	Internship	
Other relevant courses from other disciplines chosen in consultation with concentration head		
Total Credits		27

Required Methods Course

Code	Title	Credits
WMST 610	Feminist Research Methods	3

Capstone, Project, or Thesis

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		3
MAIS 798	Interdisciplinary Studies Project	
MAIS 799	Interdisciplinary Studies Thesis	
SOCI 799	Thesis	
SOCI 797	Master's Capstone Paper	
Total Credits		3

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.25
- Minimum grade of B in each advanced standing course
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing courses (up to 12 credits with a minimum grade of B in each)

500- or 600-level SOCI courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/>) (up to 12 credits)
 SOCI 620 Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry (will count for SOCI 303 Methods and Logic of Inquiry) and SOCI 636 Statistical Reasoning (will count for SOCI 313 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>))

Reserve Graduate Credit courses (up to 6 credits) taken while an undergraduate and will only count for the graduate degree program

500- or 600-level SOCI courses (up to 6 credits) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/>)

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements see AP.6.7 Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.

Accelerated Master's**Bachelor's Degree (any)/Sociology, Accelerated MA****Overview**

Highly qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA/BS in a chosen major and an MA in Sociology in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 141 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) for policies related to this program.

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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

BAM Pathway Admission 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 Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For information specific to this accelerated program, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://soan.gmu.edu/programs/LA-MA-ACEL-soci/>) on the departmental website.

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits with a minimum overall GPA of 3.25, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.50 in sociology courses.

Students who are accepted in the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MA program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

Program Outcomes**Program Outcomes**

- Formulate a research question or problem of social importance.
- Synthesize sociological literature to analyze a research question or problem.
- Demonstrate understanding of current theoretical debates in a given area of sociology.
- Design research studies, including the appropriate data collection instruments.
- Conduct research and analyze qualitative and /or quantitative data; make recommendations based on research findings.
- Effectively communicate research findings with academic and non-academic audiences.
- Explain social behavior, social change, and social conflict; review and critique political narratives, organizational policies, and group behaviors.