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 (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges/humanities-social-sciences/sociology-anthropology/sociology-phd/#admissionspolicies) tab.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 601</td>
<td>Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 620</td>
<td>Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 631</td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 632</td>
<td>Evaluation Research for Social Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 633</td>
<td>Special Topics in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 634</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 636</td>
<td>Statistical Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 638</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 655</td>
<td>Ethnography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 660</td>
<td>Historical and Comparative Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 730</td>
<td>Analytic Techniques of Social Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 650</td>
<td>Methods in Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 610</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST 611</td>
<td>Feminist Research Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Credits 18

Elective Courses
Select three to four electives from advanced courses (500-800 level) in sociology. (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/)

1 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).
### 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.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 797</td>
<td>Master's Capstone Paper</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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### 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 AP6.7 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 AP6 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:

- 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 AP6.7 Bachelor’s Accelerated Master’s Degree (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) policies.