

SOCIOLOGY, PHD

Banner Code: LA-PHD-SOCI

Academic Advising

6200 Horizon 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 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-PHD-SOCI/>) on the departmental web site.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>).

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: 72

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>). Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Following completion of all required coursework and passing a comprehensive exam, students are advanced to candidacy by the dean

and complete a dissertation, an original and independent research project.

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 Courses		
SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	3
SOCI 636	Statistical Reasoning for Applied Research	3
Elective Methodology and Analysis Courses		
Select three courses from the following:		9
SOCI 631	Survey Research	
SOCI 632	Community-Based Research Methods and Program Evaluation	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (when topic is Critical Theory, Critical Ethnography, or another course with written approval of the graduate director.)	
SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods	
SOCI 655	Ethnography	
SOCI 660	Historical and Comparative Sociology	
or SOCI 860	Historical and Comparative Sociology	
SOCI 730	Analytic Techniques of Social Research	
SOCI 858	Decolonizing Social Research	
ANTH 650	Ethnographic Research Methods	
WMST 610	Feminist Research Methods	
Total Credits		24

Concentrations

Concentration in Institutions and Inequalities (INI)

Code	Title	Credits
Two Proseminars		
SOCI 803	Institutions and Inequalities	3
SOCI 804	Sociology of Globalization	3
Total Credits		6

Code	Title	Credits
Select three courses from the following:		
SOCI 605	Gender and Social Structure	
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 637	Political Sociology	
		9

SOCI 638	Feminist Theory
SOCI 639	Urban Inequality
SOCI 641	Micro Sociology: Inequality and Everyday Life
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 graduate director)
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of graduate director)

Total Credits 9

Concentration in Sociology of Globalization (SGL)

Code	Title	Credits
Two Proseminars		
SOCI 803	Institutions and Inequalities	3
SOCI 804	Sociology of Globalization	3

Total Credits 6

Code	Title	Credits
Select three courses from the following:		
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 637	Political Sociology	
SOCI 661	Global Social Thought	
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 531	Refugees in the Contemporary World	
SOCI 633	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of graduate director)	
SOCI 833	Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of graduate director)	
Total Credits		9

Elective Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Select seven elective courses from advanced courses (500-800 level) in sociology. ¹		21
Total Credits		21

¹ With prior written approval of the graduate director, up to two courses from outside the sociology program that are not currently listed as approved courses (inclusive of consortium courses) may count toward degree requirements.

Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all coursework required on their approved program of study. Students must also

successfully pass one written comprehensive 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 concentration. It is administered by a faculty committee appointed by the graduate program director. Additionally, students must defend their dissertation proposal. 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 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-10-6>). 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. 12 credits of SOCI 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation combined are required and will be applied 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.

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

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes

1. Demonstrate depth of understanding of core theoretical and methodological debates and arguments shaping an existing literature within the discipline and the ability to accurately apply, analyze, and synthesize them to frame a research question or problem.
2. Formulate a research question or problem of sociological importance that is clearly formulated as a puzzle, paradox, contradiction or other intellectual tension and identify its relationship to an existing sociological literature.
3. Demonstrate understanding of appropriate sociological methods for data collection and apply them to an analysis of a research question or problem.
4. Demonstrate understanding of current theoretical debates related to a given area of study in sociology and situate own work within the context of those debates.
5. Effectively communicate in writing the findings and interpretations of their research.
6. Apply and analyze sociological concepts to understand a social issue/problem of contemporary relevance.