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. For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://soan.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-PHD-SOCI) on the departmental web site.

Policies

Reduction of Credit

Students who enter the program with a master’s degree may be allowed a reduction of credit up to 30 credits subject to the approval of the graduate director and the dean.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Following completion of all required course work and passing a candidacy exam, students are advanced to candidacy by the dean and complete a dissertation, an original and independent research project.

Foundation Courses

<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>

Courses of 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>

Elective Courses of Methodology and Analysis

Select three from the following: 9

<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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 636</td>
<td>Statistical Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three Courses in a Specialization

Students specialize in either institutions and inequalities or sociology of globalization. Depending on the topic, special topics courses SOCI 633 Special Topics in Sociology and SOCI 833 Special Topics in Sociology (or others) may be applied to the specialization with prior written approval of the director. Up to two courses may be from outside sociology, chosen in consultation with (and with approval of) the student’s advisor or the graduate director.

Institutions and Inequalities Specialization

Select 3 courses toward the degree from the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 605</td>
<td>Gender and Social Structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 608</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 614</td>
<td>Sociology of Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 623</td>
<td>Racial and Ethnic Relations: American and Selected Global Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 624</td>
<td>International Migration in the Age of Globalization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 635</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 641</td>
<td>Micro Sociology: Inequality and Everyday Life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 670</td>
<td>Social Networks, New Media, and Inequality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 840</td>
<td>Work Organizations and Social Inequality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 844</td>
<td>Youth, Schooling, and Popular Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 director)
SOCI 833 Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)

Total Credits 9

Sociology of Globalization Specialization

Select 3 courses toward the degree 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 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 (with prior written approval of director)
SOCI 833 Special Topics in Sociology (with prior written approval of director)

Total Credits 9

Elective Courses

Select seven elective courses

Total Credits 21

Electives may include up to two courses from outside sociology, chosen in consultation with and approval of the graduate director.

Research Proficiency

Students must demonstrate proficiency in a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods prior to taking the qualifying exams for candidacy. Proficiency is determined by satisfactory course work or an exam.

Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all course work required on their approved program of study. Students must also successfully pass one written qualifying 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 specialization. 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 AP6.10.6 Dissertation Research. 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. They may apply a maximum of 12 dissertation credits (SOCI 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and SOCI 999 Doctoral Dissertation combined) 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.

Select 12 credits from the following:

Total Credits 12