SOCILOGY, PHD

Banner Code: LA-PHD-SOCI

Academic Advising
B305 Robinson 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. 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

Required Foundation Course
SOCI 601 Proseminar in Public and Applied Sociology 3

Courses of Theory
SOCI 711 Classical Sociological Theory 3
SOCI 712 Contemporary Sociological Theory 3

Writing
SOCI 602 Writing for the Social Sciences 3

Required Courses of Methodology and Analysis
SOCI 620 Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry 3
SOCI 636 Statistical Reasoning 3

Elective Course of Methodology and Analysis
Select one from the following: 3
SOCI 633 Special Topics in Sociology (when topic is Critical Theory or Feminist Theory, may substitute for this requirement or for one course under the statistics/methods requirement.)
SOCI 730 Analytic Techniques of Social Research
SOCI 634 Qualitative Research Methods

Statistics/Methods
Select two from the following: 6
SOCI 633 Special Topics in Sociology (when topic is Critical Theory or Feminist Theory, may substitute for one course under this requirement or for the elective methodology and analysis course.)
SOCI 631 Survey Research
SOCI 632 Evaluation Research for Social Programs
SOCI 634 Qualitative Research Methods
SOCI 655 Ethnography
SOCI 660 Historical and Comparative Sociology or SOCI 860 Historical and Comparative Sociology
ANTH 650 Methods in Anthropology
WMST 610 Feminist Approaches to Social Research
WMST 611 Feminist Research Practice

Total Credits 27

Two Proseminars

SOCI 803 Institutions and Inequality 3
SOCI 804 Sociology of Globalization 3

Total Credits 6

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
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
Sociology of Globalization Specialization

Students in this specialization must demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language at an advanced level of reading and comprehension.

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 New Media and Social 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 six elective courses

Total Credits 18

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.