Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers the Master of Science Degree in Sociology.

Master of Science Degree in Sociology

The Master of Science degree in Sociology is designed to prepare graduates with the skills necessary to enter the professional workforce as sociologists or to pursue further study at the doctoral level. Students have the opportunity to acquire a knowledge base in sociological methods, theory and in areas of growing community concern, including health, aging, religion, socioeconomic development, gender issues, and race and ethnic relations. They will have the necessary research skills to define social issues and problems, select data collection techniques, establish appropriate analysis methods, develop statistical reports, and undertake policy analyses for businesses, governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Program Admission Requirements

Students applying for unconditional admission must satisfy University-wide and College-wide graduate admission requirements, and be recommended for admission by the Graduate Program Committee of the Department of Sociology. Applicants must have completed 18 semester credit hours of undergraduate courses, 12 of which must be at the upper-division level in sociology or related areas, including a course in research methods or statistics. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate and graduate work.

Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be considered for conditional admission. Conditional applicants must submit indicators of preparation for graduate study, such as completion of additional undergraduate coursework to remove deficiencies, completion of 9 or more semester credit hours of graduate courses, and the achievement of a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). An applicant not eligible for either unconditional or conditional admission may be recommended for admission as a special graduate student (or a non-degree-seeking student). This does not guarantee subsequent admission as a degree-seeking graduate student; such students must reapply for degree-seeking status.

Applicants for the Master’s Program in Sociology must submit the following materials to the graduate admissions office:

1. an application form (available online at http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/)
2. an application fee
3. official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended, including community colleges
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE®) scores from a GRE-administered examination. This score will be considered as only one element in the evaluation of applicants. Applicants who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher will not be required to submit GRE scores.
5. a personal statement (approximately 500 words, or two typed pages) indicating your interest and goals in studying sociology
6. three letters of recommendation from references who can speak to your qualifications for the graduate program (at least one of these must be from someone who can speak to your academic qualifications)
7. an academic writing sample (such as a paper written for a class, preferably a sociology class)

Degree Requirements

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove deficiencies, is 36.

Degree candidates must complete the following requirements:

A. 9 semester credit hours of core courses: 9
   SOC 5003 Sociological Theory
   SOC 5063 Research Design
   SOC 5073 Quantitative Research Methods
   or SOC 5033/Qualitative Research Methods

B. 21 semester credit hours of prescribed electives from the following courses: 21
   SOC 5033 Qualitative Research Methods (if not taken under section A above)
   SOC 5043 Evaluation Research
   SOC 5053 Professionalization Seminar
   SOC 5073 Quantitative Research Methods (if not taken under section A above)
   SOC 5083 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods
   SOC 5123 Family Contexts and Social Change
   SOC 5133 Sociology of Health and Health Care
   SOC 5143 Demography and Community Trends
   SOC 5173 Religion, Health and Mortality
   SOC 5203 Social Stratification
   SOC 5213 Race and Ethnic Relations
   SOC 5223 Mexican Americans: Community, Culture, and Class
   SOC 5233 Sociology of Gender
   SOC 5253 Border Studies
   SOC 5263 Cultural Studies
   SOC 5323 Sociology of Childhood
   SOC 5333 Language and Society
   SOC 5343 Education and Reproduction of Inequality
   SOC 5353 Crime and Delinquency
   SOC 5363 Theory Building and Methods
   SOC 5403 Social Movements
   SOC 5423 Social Psychology
   SOC 6043 Immigration and Society
   SOC 6063 Health and Health Disparities
   SOC 6143 Sociology of Religion
   SOC 6903 Topics in Advanced Sociology
   SOC 6973 Special Problems

C. Students who opt to take the Exit Exam (one of the two nonthesis options) in lieu of Thesis or Internship must complete an additional 3 credit hours of sociology electives.

   Exit Exam must be taken in the final semester of the student's program.

D. 6 semester credit hours of Internship or Thesis: 6
Internship option. Students may participate in an internship (one of two nonthesis options) after completion of 18 semester credit hours (which must include the core courses). Internships offer work-oriented experiences in local organizational settings where the principles, theories, concepts, and methods of the discipline can be applied. A research paper under the supervision of assigned faculty is required, including a formal defense of an internship proposal.

Thesis option. Students may select the thesis option after they have completed 24 semester credit hours. A formal defense of both the thesis proposal and the thesis is required.

| Total Credit Hours | 36 |

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