The Department of Sociology and the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology conduct a combined graduate program in sociology designed to prepare students for scholarly research, teaching, or applied work. The program leads to the Master of Science degree with a major in sociology and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in sociology. It also offers a minor to students earning a doctoral degree in other departments. All major areas of sociological inquiry are represented in the curriculum. The program consistently ranks at or near the top in studies of U.S. doctoral programs.

Distinguished faculty, outstanding students who learn from and support each other, an increasingly multi-ethnic student body, a curriculum covering a broad spectrum of sociological interests, thriving research projects in many areas, and a stimulating campus environment make UW–Madison an excellent choice for students interested in sociology and/or community and environmental sociology.

Members of the departments also participate in a number of interdisciplinary programs. Faculty and students are involved with several research institutes, including the Applied Population Laboratory, the Center for Demography & Ecology, the Center for Demography of Health & Aging, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, the Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, the Institute for Research on Poverty, the Institute on Aging, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, and the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Further information about faculty and areas of study is available on the department websites: Department of Sociology (http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc), and Department of Community and Environmental Sociology (http://dces.wisc.edu).

**DEGREES AND CAREER GOALS**

The sociology graduate program admits students who intend to earn a Ph.D. Students complete a Master of Science degree on the way to the Ph.D. or receive a waiver of the program’s master’s requirements based on their having written a thesis and obtained a master’s degree previously. A few students leave the program after completing the master’s degree and pursue careers in the public and private sectors. Of those who graduate with the Ph.D., a majority obtain university teaching and/or research positions; others take research and/or administrative positions in government organizations, non-profit organizations, or private firms.

**ADMISSIONS**

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements** (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply).

**Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program receives a large number of applications each fall from highly qualified individuals, requiring the admissions committee to be extremely selective. There is a very strong preference for students planning to pursue a Ph.D.; students whose goal is a master’s are rarely accepted. A cohort of approximately 20 students is ideal, in terms of providing mentoring and training to all admitted students as well as making financial support available to them. Total graduate enrollment in the program is roughly 140 students. An undergraduate major in sociology is not a prerequisite. The admissions committee conducts a holistic assessment of each applicant’s qualifications. Faculty members look for academic excellence as indicated by undergraduate GPA and Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, a writing sample, and references, along with interest in and motivation for graduate study in sociology as indicated by the statement of purpose. (Note that a weakness in one indicator can be balanced by evidence of strong abilities in others.) In particular, committee members look for students with the ability or potential to define a research question succinctly and to use empirical evidence to address significant sociological issues. They also make an effort to identify individuals who demonstrate the potential for a creative approach to investigating empirical and conceptual social science issues.

To apply, please submit an online application, all transcripts, a statement of reasons for graduate study, writing sample, recommendations, and tests scores. GRE scores (general test only) are required of all applicants; international applicants are required to submit English Proficiency test scores—either TOEFL, MELAB, or IELTS—as well. The application deadline is December 15 for the subsequent academic year.

**FUNDING**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.
PROGRAM RESOURCES

The departments guarantee five continuous years of funding to all incoming students. Sources of funding include teaching assistantships, project assistantships, research assistantships, traineeships, and fellowships. In addition, some admitted students arrive with outside fellowships such as National Science Foundation or Fulbright awards. International applicants admitted to the program must complete a financial statement that provides evidence of sufficient funds to support themselves for their first year and the intent for support to continue throughout the duration of study. Even though departmental funding is guaranteed, international students often must submit additional financial support documentation, demonstrating that they can cover the gap between the amount the departments provide and the amount the U.S. State Department requires. Additional information about international student expenses can be found here (http://grad.wisc.edu/international).

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Graduate GPA Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessments and Examinations

Ph.D. students must pass two written preliminary exams in two different sociology subfields as well as an oral prelim. They then write a dissertation under the supervision of their major professor. After completing the dissertation, students take a final oral exam covering the dissertation and the general field of the major and minor studies.

Language Requirements

No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 361</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 362</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 700</td>
<td>Introductory Proseminar for Graduate Students</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 750</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 773</td>
<td>Intermediate Classical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select four seminars in Sociology or Community & Environmental Sociology

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.
**MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program’s policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.

**PRIOR COURSEWORK**

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students may count up to 19 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions toward the minimum 51-credit Ph.D. degree requirement and the minimum 50% graduate coursework requirement. Coursework completed ten or more years prior to admission to the doctoral program may not be used to satisfy either of these requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

With program approval, students may count up to 7 credits earned in an undergraduate degree program at UW–Madison toward the Ph.D. degree requirements. If the courses are numbered 300–699, the credits may count toward the minimum 51-credit degree requirement. If the courses are numbered 700–999, the credits may also count toward the minimum 50% graduate coursework requirement. Coursework completed ten or more years prior to admission to the doctoral program may not be used to satisfy either of these requirements.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students may count up to 15 credits taken as a Special Student toward the Ph.D. degree requirements. If the courses are numbered 300–699, the credits may count toward the minimum 51-credit degree requirement. If the courses are numbered 700–999, the credits may also count toward the minimum 50% graduate coursework requirement. Coursework completed ten or more years prior to admission to the doctoral program may not be used to satisfy either of these requirements.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Doctoral students must complete the Ph.D. within five years of passing the oral preliminary examination and attaining dissertator status.

**OTHER**

The department guarantees five continuous years of funding to all admitted students. Our graduate students receive support toward their studies through project assistantships, research assistantships, teaching assistantships, lectureships, traineeships, and fellowships (fellowship awards may come from either the university or external agencies). All types of funding provide a full tuition remission, a stipend, and health insurance.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

The Sociology graduate program offers students an array of professional development opportunities.

All new graduate students are required to take SOC 700 Introductory Proseminar for Graduate Students during their first semester in the program. This course provides an overview of the discipline and the graduate program and addresses such professional development issues as teaching strategies and grant proposal writing. The proseminar also explores topics like productive advisor-advisee relationships, working effectively as part of a research team, co-authoring, and other matters important to graduate school success. Those students affiliated with the multi-disciplinary Center for Demography of Health & Aging and Center for Demography of Health & Aging and Center for Demography of Health & Aging and Center for Demography of Health & Aging are required to enroll in SOC/C&E SOC 995 Research: Methodology Trainees, as well. This course provides training in writing grant applications, conducting research responsibly, making presentations, writing papers for publication, applying for academic and research jobs, and other essential professional skills. In addition, all students who are teaching for the first time are required to participate in a weekly teaching workshop, which focuses on issues typically of concern to new TAs—e.g., developing lesson plans, engaging students, facilitating discussions, and evaluating
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate a broad understanding of major theories, methodologies, and research findings in the sociological literature. Develop critical thinking skills that empower them to analyze strengths and weaknesses in the existing literature, identify knowledge gaps, evaluate evidence, synthesize information, and form conclusions. Attain the skills necessary to teach and conduct research with intellectual and ethical rigor, care, and creativity.

2. Create individualized programs to suit their specific interests and goals. Formulate ideas and develop research questions, design feasible research projects, use appropriate methodologies, analyze and interpret the resulting data, and identify avenues for further exploration. Their original research will expand the current boundaries of knowledge in the field.

3. Write seminar papers and conduct dissertation research, prepare and submit manuscripts resulting from their research for publication in respected journals, and submit papers for presentation at professional conferences. Their independent research will contribute substantively to scholarship in the field.

4. Demonstrate breadth within their learning experience by taking at least four seminars, completing a minor area of study, and passing written preliminary exams in two different subfields. In addition, because our program emphasizes collective responsibility for training, students will be supervised and mentored by several faculty members with a range of expertise. They will also learn to mentor others.

5. Advance the contributions of sociological study to society by conducting research that explores complex ideas, analyzes quantitative and qualitative data, and disseminates new knowledge. Contribute to the vast body of scholarship and applied work that leads to the improvement of society. Share theory, methodology, and the results of research with the undergraduate students whom they teach and thereby foster an understanding of how social life works, what causes social change, and why humans behave in the ways they do.

6. Communicate complex ideas in a clear, organized, engaging manner to diverse audiences. Craft effective grant proposals; gather, manage, and analyze data; write papers that are thought-provoking, concise, and persuasive; present research informatively; listen with care and patience; and give and receive feedback orally and in writing.

7. Foster ethical and professional conduct by demonstrating respect for and having positive interactions with faculty members and staff, graduate student colleagues, and undergraduate students. Foster such conduct by the scientific rigor and honesty with which they design research, collect and analyze data, and interpret and report results.

8. (Career Preparation) Prepare for a range of sustainable careers in academia as well as government, private industry, and the nonprofit sector. Develop flexibility, leadership, and broadly applicable skills in critical thinking, problem solving, project management, collaboration, and communication.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Raymo (chair, Sociology), Green (chair, Community & Environmental Sociology), Bell, Borman (affiliated), Carlson, Collins, Curtis, Elwert, Emirbayer, Ermakoff, Fletcher, Freeland, Friedland (affiliated), Fujimura, Gerber, Goldberg, Grodsky, Lim, Logan, Massey, Maynard, Montgomery, Morales (affiliated), Nobles, Nordheim (affiliated), Rogers (director, COWS), Schaeffer (director, UWSC), Schwartz, Seidman, Stoecker, Thornton (affiliated), Tigges, Wright; Associate Professors Alatout, Christens (affiliated), Conti, Eason, Engelman, Feinstein, Grant (director, Graduate Studies), Higgins (affiliated), Light, Shoemaker (affiliated); Assistant Professors Addo (affiliated), Conwell, Garoon, Goffman, Halpern-Meekin (affiliated), Leachman (affiliated), O’Brien (affiliated), Rios, Simmons (affiliated), White, Xiong (affiliated)