

SOCIOLOGY, PH.D.

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	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 15
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Required.
English Proficiency Test	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 (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

The program receives a large number of applications each fall from highly qualified individuals, requiring the admissions committee to be extremely selective. The Departments of Sociology and Community & Environmental Sociology offer graduate study leading to the doctor of philosophy degree in sociology. The departments do not admit students to pursue Master's degrees only; however, students admitted to the doctoral program earn a Master of Science degree en route to the Ph.D. 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, MET, or IELTS—as well. The application deadline is December 15 for the subsequent academic year.