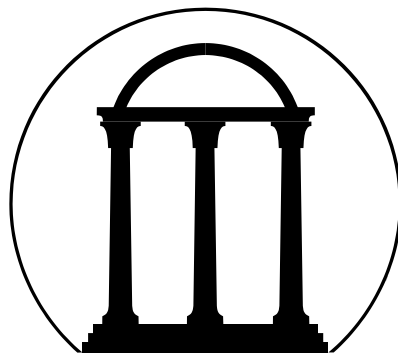


GRADUATE PROGRAM



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Department of Sociology
University of Georgia

2025-2026

Graduate Program

Department of Sociology

University of Georgia

socigrad@uga.edu

This booklet is intended to inform students and faculty about the basic policies and procedures of the Graduate Program in Sociology. Since it does not cover all University regulations governing graduate education at the University of Georgia, it should be treated as a supplement to the *Graduate School Bulletin*, <https://grad.uga.edu/graduate-policies/>, *Theses and Dissertations Guidelines*, <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/theses-dissertations-guidelines/theses-and-dissertations-overview/>, and the *Graduate School's Academic Regulations and Procedures*, <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/>. The Graduate Program in Sociology operates within an administrative structure established by the Graduate School. It is the responsibility of all faculty and graduate students to familiarize themselves with the relevant Graduate School policies.

The University of Georgia is committed to the principle of affirmative action and Equal Opportunity. The department encourages applications from students from backgrounds that historically have been underrepresented in academia.

Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Leslie Gordon Simons
Graduate Administrator: Melissa Leizear

Last updated September 29, 2025

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I. OVERVIEW

The graduate program in sociology at the University of Georgia is directed primarily toward students seeking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Although we offer a Master of Arts Degree, we do not have separate M.A. and Ph.D. curricula. Instead, students receive the M.A. on the way to the Ph.D. All students entering the program will receive strong basic training in sociological theory, research methods and analytic techniques, as well as a grounding in several major substantive areas. More concentrated advanced study may then be pursued within one or more broadly defined specialty areas.

A favorable faculty-to-student ratio permits an emphasis on individualized instruction and student-faculty collaboration in research activities. Students are strongly encouraged to engage in research and scholarship and to share the results of their efforts with other social scientists through presentations at professional meetings and by publishing their work. The doctoral program is based on a rigorous curriculum. Course work during the first year of study concentrates on the fundamentals of sociology, including the required research design and theory courses, two required courses in statistical analysis of sociological data, a professionalization seminar, and elective courses in major substantive areas. The elective courses will normally include one or more of the "foundations" courses that are intended to provide introductions to the theoretical and research literature for the department's specialty areas. All students must also complete the proseminar sequence in the first year. During the second year, most students will complete the required course work for the master's degree and begin to take advanced seminars in one or more substantive areas.

Students continuing work toward the doctoral degree will use the third year to begin a

more advanced program of study. During this phase, the student will focus more intensively on particular substantive problems and research issues. Advanced study involves additional course work, independent reading, and research directed toward the doctoral comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive exams include a written component and an oral examination. Following successful completion of these examinations, course work and residency requirements, the student may be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. During the fourth year, the student's attention will begin to focus more narrowly on the dissertation topic.

Appendix A presents the "normal progress" schedule for students in the Graduate Program. **Note that the structure of our program requires students to begin their studies in the Fall Semester.**

II. PRE-PH.D./MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM

Proseminar

All students entering the graduate program in sociology must take SOCI 6190: Proseminar in Sociology during their first year. The proseminar, which is organized by the Director of Graduate Studies, socializes students into the discipline of sociology. Each week, faculty and advanced graduate students present on a different professional topic. A wide range of topics are included, such as teaching, time management, choosing a thesis topic, and writing for publication. One semester of SOCI 6190 can be substituted with one semester of the sociology version of GRSC 7001.

Master of Arts Degree

Students seeking an M.A. degree must file a *Designation of Major Professor* form with the Department. In addition, the Graduate School requires M.A. Degree candidates to file an *Advisory Committee for Master of Arts Candidates (online)* and a *Master of Arts Program of Study*. Once the M.A. Advisory Committee has been appointed and approved, any requests for changes must be made in writing using the *Request for Change in Advisory Committee* form. Committee changes require the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Major Professor of record and, if necessary, with the Graduate Program Committee. All current and past committee members shall be notified of such changes. A revised *Advisory Committee for Master of Arts Candidates* form must be completed and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies as well.

The Graduate School requires that master's candidates pass an oral examination, covering the program of study and the thesis. The Graduate School requires advance notification of the date of the exam. The oral examination is conducted by the student's Advisory Committee and chaired by the student's Major Professor. The candidate should submit a draft of the master's thesis to each member of the committee who must have **three weeks** to read and evaluate it before a defense is scheduled. **All members of the Advisory Committee must be present for the entire examination.**

The Master of Arts Program of Study

As noted above, the Graduate School requires prospective master's degree students to complete a *Program of Study for Master of Arts Candidates*. The Program of Study includes all relevant graduate course work for the master's and must contain a minimum of 37 hours of course work.

Graduate course offerings will vary from year to year, and students are encouraged to communicate with the Degree Program Assistant and appropriate Specialty Area Committees about scheduling substantive courses in a timely fashion. By developing a preliminary Program of Study, the student will help faculty in the specialty areas identify courses that need to be offered and give the department sufficient time to respond to these needs.

The courses listed below are required of all sociology graduate students and should be completed within the first two years of residence.

The M.A. Program of Study must include:

- 1) SOCI 6190: Proseminar in Sociology (Fall and Spring)-
- 2) SOCI 6220: Development of Sociological Theory or SOCI 6410: Current Trends in Sociological Theory
- 3) SOCI 6620: Analysis and Interpretation of Sociological Data I
- 4) SOCI 6630: Analysis and Interpretation of Sociological Data II
- 5) SOCI 6600: Research Methods and Models
- 6) SOCI 7300: Masters Research (no more than three credit hours)

5 required courses:

SOCI 6190, SOCI 6220/6410, SOCI 6620, SOCI 6630, SOCI 6600	16
--	----

Master's Research (required by the Graduate School): SOCI 7300	3
--	---

6 electives	18
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Total:	37
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*One semester of SOCI 6190 can be substituted with one semester of the sociology version of GRSC 7001.

The program of study may include no more than three credit hours in:

SOCI 8000: Special Topics in Sociology (this course number may only be used for a directed readings course in the student's area of concentration)

The program of study may not include:

SOCI 7000: Master's Research, Directed Study

GRSC 7770: Graduate Seminar for Teaching and Laboratory Assistants

Students seeking a master's degree in sociology may include on their program of study no more than six hours of course work outside the department. Courses taken outside the department and included on the program of study must be part of a coherent program toward a master's degree in sociology. Students may petition the Graduate Program Committee for approval to include on their M.A. program of study additional hours outside the department. **Regardless of course prefix, courses taught by sociology faculty members are not considered courses outside the department.**

Master's Thesis

The M.A. thesis is important to a student's training in two respects. First, it offers many students their first opportunity to experience the kinds of individual research and writing projects that are central to a successful academic career in sociology. Second, it provides graduate faculty members in sociology with an important criterion for assessing students' progress in the graduate program. For students seeking departmental assistantship support, timely completion of the

thesis is also a consideration in funding.

The M.A. thesis is an independent research project carried out under the supervision of faculty members in the department. It is intended to provide practical research experience in an area of substantive interest to the student. No later than spring semester of the first year, the student selects a thesis advisor to assist in identifying a suitable research topic. By early fall semester of the second year, the student selects two additional members of the thesis committee, who are involved in shaping the research topic. The thesis advisor and at least one other member of the committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The candidate should submit a draft of the master's thesis to each member of the committee and the committee members must have **three weeks** to read and evaluate the thesis before a defense is scheduled (Appendix B lists current members of the graduate faculty). See the [*Graduate Bulletin*](#) for details regarding the composition of the thesis committee.

Students with Previous Graduate Study in Sociology

Students entering with a recent (within the past five years) Master of Arts or Science (MA/MS) degree and a master's thesis from an accredited sociology department are admitted directly into the doctoral program (and thus will not complete a Master of Arts degree at UGA). These students will be required to complete a second-year research paper (journal manuscript length). In some cases, this paper might be based on a student's master's thesis from a previous institution, but this must be determined in collaboration with the major professor. The paper must be read and approved by the major professor and one other sociology faculty member with graduate faculty status. The paper can be completed any time in the first two years in the program, but the preliminary plan for the paper and identification of the second reader must be

set by September of the student's second year and the paper must be completed by April of the second year. Students may (but are not required to) take SOCI 9000 (Doctoral Research) in lieu of one of their electives while working on the paper. Departmental forms documenting both steps must be completed.

Students who bypass the thesis requirement will still be required to take the proseminar (SOCI 6190) and the required classes for master's students (SOCI 6190/GRSC 7001, SOCI 6220/6410, SOCI 6620, SOCI 6630, SOCI 6600). In rare circumstances, students may appeal to waive 6620 (QM1) if they took a similar course at their previous institution. These required courses at the M.A. level may not be used by the student on the Ph.D. Program of Study.

Students with Previous Graduate Study in Related Disciplines

Students with master's degrees in closely related fields may appeal to have their thesis considered for acceptance on a case-by-case basis. These students must submit the thesis to the department's Graduate Program Committee for review. The Director of Graduate Studies and two faculty members chosen by the program committee (including the temporary major professor whenever possible) will review the submitted thesis to determine whether it meets departmental standards.

For those prospective students already in possession of an MA/MS degree in a related field, the thesis may be submitted with the application material by December 15 and direct acceptance to the Ph.D. program may be known before April 15. For those students who are expecting to complete an MA/MS degree before enrolling at UGA but prior to applying to the department, the thesis may be submitted by August 1 and acceptance into the Ph.D. program will

be known by September 30. If the committee does not accept the thesis, the applicant will still be admitted into the graduate program but will be expected to complete the master's degree requirements.

If the committee does accept the thesis, and thus allows the student to bypass a UGA master's degree, the student will still be required to take the proseminar (SOCI 6190), and the required classes for master's students (SOCI 6190/GRSC 7001, SOCI 6220/6410, SOCI 6620, SOCI 6630, SOCI 6600) and will complete the second-year paper process described above. In rare circumstances, students may appeal to waive 6620 (QM1) if they took a similar course at their previous institution. These required courses at the M.A. level may not be used by the student on his/her Ph.D. Program of Study.

III. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Advanced doctoral training during the third and fourth years of residence are structured by the student's selection of an area in which to concentrate his or her studies. During the fall semester of the third year, students select a Major Professor and, in consultation with the Major Professor, the remaining members of the Ph.D. Advisory Committee. Students who completed a sociology M.A. degree at UGA may select a different Major Professor for doctoral work, if they choose. A committee may have as few as three and as many as five members. At least **two** members of the Advisory Committee must be listed as members of the Specialty Area in which the student plans to take Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (see Appendix C for list of faculty by specialty area). Three committee members must be members of the Graduate Faculty with an appointment in sociology (see Appendix B for list of Graduate Faculty). Students should review the policies

outlined in the [*Graduate Bulletin*](#) for additional details regarding the composition of the Doctoral committee.

The Ph.D. Advisory Committee is responsible for the following:

- 1) Planning the Doctoral Program of Study with the student
- 2) Preparing and evaluating the Doctoral Written Comprehensive Examination
- 3) Conducting and evaluating the Doctoral Oral Comprehensive Examination
- 4) Conducting and evaluating a hearing on the dissertation prospectus
- 5) Serving on the student's dissertation committee

Designation of the Major Professor and the Doctoral Advisory Committee requires the completion of two forms: *Request for Appointment of Major Professor and Advisory Committee for Doctoral Candidates*. Once the Advisory Committee has been appointed and approved, requests for changes require completion of two forms: *Request for Change in Advisory Committee- Ph.D.* and a revised *Advisory Committee for Doctoral Candidates*. Committee changes must be approved in writing by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Major Professor of record and, if necessary, by the Graduate Program Committee. All current and past committee members shall be notified of such changes. Advisory committee forms (and any changes to the advisory committee) are submitted via GradStatus.

Doctoral Program of Study

The Ph.D. training program focuses primarily on defining and mastering an area of theoretical and research literature that can serve as a foundation for advanced study. The courses included on the Doctoral Program of Study should therefore form a coherent whole. As indicated above, development of the Program of Study rests not just with the student, but also with his or her Major Professor, in consultation with the Ph.D. Advisory Committee. For the Ph.D. program of

study, we require 21 substantive hours (7 electives) plus 9 “dummy hours.” (This is in addition to the MA level coursework described above.)

The Program of Study requires a minimum of 30 consecutive hours of (semester) course work and must include:

1. A graduate-level sociology methods course
2. One course outside of the department
3. 6 credit hours of **SOCI 9000: Doctoral Research**
4. 3 credit hours of **SOCI 9300: Doctoral Dissertation**
5. No more than 6 credit hours outside of the department
6. No more than 3 credit hours of **SOCI 8000**

The methods requirement (#1) will be waived for students who have taken a methods course as an elective while pursuing their M.A. degrees. As was the case for the Master’s Program of Study, courses taken outside the department and included on the Program of Study must be part of a coherent program toward the Doctoral Degree in Sociology. Courses taught by faculty members in sociology, regardless of course prefix, are not considered courses outside the department. **Note that the Graduate School requires a doctoral program of study to consist primarily of 8000- and 9000- level courses.** Please visit *PhD Programs of Study* on the Graduate School website for more information.

Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations

The Graduate School requires that all doctoral students pass a written and oral comprehensive

examination before they are admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree. Students planning to take the Written Comprehensive Examination must meet with their Advisory Committee, as a whole, to discuss the reading list and the examination **at least 4 months** prior to the exam. **No student will be allowed to take the examination without having attended such a meeting.**

The *Meeting Verification with Comps Committee* form will need to be completed in order to document this meeting. Written Comprehensive Examinations take place the third Tuesday and Wednesday of the fall and spring semesters. The examination takes 5 hours per day, consists of 4 typed answers, with a 5-7 page maximum per answer, exclusive of bibliography. Departmental procedures for the examination are detailed in Appendix D.

The final step before Admission to Candidacy is the Oral Comprehensive Examination, administered by the Advisory Committee. It is an inclusive examination within the student's field of study, and it must be held within one month of the grading of the written examination. **The Graduate School requires notification of the Oral Comprehensive Examination at least two weeks before it is to be held. All members of the Advisory Committee must be present for the entire period of this examination.** According to the Graduate School Bulletin, a discussion of the student's dissertation prospectus may precede or follow the Oral Comprehensive Examination, but it may not take the place of the Oral Comprehensive Exam.

Students who enter with an approved M.A. are expected to complete the written and oral comprehensive exams no later than the second semester of their third year. Students who enter without a M.A. are expected to complete the written and oral comprehensive exams no later than the second semester of their fourth year. If a student is unsuccessful, he/she will have one opportunity to re-take the exam in the next semester. Continuation in the program will be

contingent upon successfully completing the exam during this second attempt and upon compliance with the Satisfactory Progress Policy (see Appendices E and F).

Admission to Candidacy

Once the Written and Oral Comprehensive Examination has been passed and all course work and residency requirements met, the student may be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

Admission to candidacy expires in 5 years. If the dissertation is not completed within 5 years, the student must pass another set of Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations and be readmitted to candidacy. The student may request an extension of the 5-year time limit from the Dean of the Graduate School. Such a request requires the endorsement of the student's major professor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Dissertation Prospectus

After completing the Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations, the student prepares a preliminary prospectus for a dissertation. This prospectus will be reviewed by the major professor and revised by the student until it provides a clear picture of the proposed dissertation, including reviews of relevant theoretical, substantive, and methodological issues raised by the proposed research project and an outline of how the proposed research would proceed. The dissertation prospectus is then distributed to members of the Advisory Committee. The candidate should submit a draft of the dissertation prospectus to each member of the committee and the committee members must have three weeks to read and evaluate the completed dissertation prospectus. While there can be no guarantee that a dissertation research effort will develop

exactly along the lines proposed, the dissertation prospectus offers the student and faculty advisors an opportunity to work together to identify important issues and to agree on an approach to address those issues.

The Graduate School requires that the dissertation prospectus be approved in a formal meeting of the Advisory Committee and the student ([Graduate Bulletin](#)). The members of the Advisory Committee must sign the *Dissertation Prospectus Approval form*. That form, along with a copy of the approved prospectus, must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies and retained in the student's file.

The Dissertation Defense

The dissertation project is the culmination of the student's graduate program. The dissertation constitutes an original and independent research project undertaken by the student with the advice of the Major Professor and Advisory Committee. It is expected that the dissertation will advance knowledge in the field by addressing a new issue or by clarifying or successfully reinterpreting an existing sociological problem. All methods of research employed in sociology, including experimental, historical, survey, qualitative, and theoretical methods are considered potentially viable for purposes of the dissertation project.

The final step in the graduate training program in Sociology is the oral defense of the dissertation before the Advisory Committee. **The Graduate School requires a dissertation defense announcement from the Director of Graduate Studies at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense.** To ensure that the student benefits from the knowledge and experience of all members of the Advisory Committee, the candidate should submit a draft of

the dissertation to each member and the committee members must have three weeks to read and evaluate the completed dissertation. The Graduate School requires the *Dissertation and Final Examination Approval form* signed by all members of the Advisory Committee with no more than one dissenting vote. **All members of the Advisory Committee must be present for the entire defense ([Graduate Bulletin](#)).**

IV. ANNUAL REVIEWS

The Graduate Faculty conducts annual reviews of each student through the fifth year in the graduate program. These reviews typically take place in March. Students will be reviewed according to the guidelines established in the *Satisfactory Progress Policy* (Appendix E). Students are responsible for constructing a dossier for faculty review. The dossier should include the following items:

- 1) Statement of Accomplishments - a statement of no more than 3 pages outlining progress in the program and plans for the immediate future
- 2) Curriculum Vitae
- 3) Copies of papers that have been published, accepted for publication, or are under review.
A copy of the M.A. thesis should be included if the thesis has not yet been submitted for publication.
- 4) Letter of support from the major professor (no more than 2 pages)

As a result of this review, the Graduate Faculty will recommend one of the following:

- 1) Continue in the Graduate Program,
- 2) Continue in the Graduate Program with Conditions, or

3) Dismissal from Graduate Program

V. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES

Assistantships

Four types of competitive assistantships are available to graduate students in sociology at the University of Georgia: Graduate School Assistantships, Departmental Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Teaching Assistantships, and Research Assistantships through individual faculty members with external funding. Students with assistantships receive a tuition waiver, but must pay nominal matriculation, health insurance, and activities fee each semester.

Students with assistantships must enroll for a minimum of 15 credit hours each semester the assistantship is in effect (and 9 hours for Summer Semester, if enrolled). Ordinarily, they may not take more than 9 hours of course work per semester (making up the remaining hours by registering for SOCI 7000, 7300, 9000, or 9300). [Unfunded students are allowed to take up to 15 hours of course work per semester]. Under special circumstances the University allows funded students to take an “overload.” Consult the Director of Graduate Studies for further information on course loads.

Graduate School Presidential, Doctoral, and Master’s Fellow Awards

These supplemental awards are awarded to individuals nominated by the department and selected on the basis of a university-wide competition. The criteria used in nomination include all materials submitted with the application to our program. The Department's Graduate Program Committee nominates students for consideration. Final selection is made by a committee selected by the

Graduate School. See [Funding from the Graduate School](#) for more information. Students holding these assistantships may be assigned to TA or RA-ships, depending on departmental priorities.

Departmental Graduate Assistantships

These assistantships are awarded to new and continuing students by the Graduate Program Committee. Students who hold departmental assistantships are required to work 18 hours per week for the nine-month academic year. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the salary for M.A. level students is \$18,850 and \$20,031 for Ph.D. level students. Students awarded departmental assistantships will be assigned to one or more faculty members on a semester basis, to assist them with instructional activities. Typical tasks include leading discussion groups, proctoring and grading exams, giving lectures, or operating audio-visual equipment.

Several important rules apply to Departmental Assistantships:

1. Typically, only students taking courses that lead to a sociology degree objective are eligible for departmental funding.
2. Assistantships are awarded on a yearly basis by the Graduate Program Committee, but may be withdrawn during the year for failure to carry out assigned tasks in a competent, timely and professional manner.
3. While we guarantee funding for five years (pending satisfactory progress), students who receive a departmental assistantship can normally expect to receive funding through the department as long as departmental funds are available and the student is making

satisfactory progress toward the Ph.D. degree. Students with advanced training should also be more competitive for Research Assistantships funded by external grants.

4. Assistantships are awarded annually on the basis of a competitive screening of all applicants. Screening is based on course and assistantship performance and progress towards the degree objective. Departmental Annual Reviews are important in ranking advanced students for access to departmental funding.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate students in their third year of study are eligible to serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), provided that they have also completed the Sociology M.A. Students who hold Graduate Teaching assistantships are required to work 17 hours per week for the nine-month academic year. The salary is based on Franklin College annual base-salaries. A GTA assumes full responsibility for individual sections of an undergraduate course, with an expected load of one course per semester the first semester teaching and two courses per semester thereafter. (In some cases, students may be able to teach one large section in lieu of two smaller ones.) Prior to assuming any teaching responsibilities, students are required to enroll in GRSC 7770: Graduate Internship. This 3-credit hour course is designed to provide graduate teaching assistants with knowledge of pedagogical approaches and available support systems.

Research Assistantships

There are typically a number of research assistantships associated with externally funded research projects. Such research assistantships, which are allocated to students by the faculty member(s) holding the grant, may provide up to 12 months support, at up to a half-time rate. The availability

of such positions and their substantive foci will vary from year to year. Students should contact individual faculty members regarding these positions.

Graduate School Travel Funds

Students who wish to present a paper at a professional meeting within the United States may submit a travel request to the Graduate School. Details regarding eligibility for these funds are available from the Graduate School website: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/financial-information/travel-funding/>.

All travel requests must be approved prior to the date of travel. The Graduate Program Assistant sends applications to the Graduate School as a group, in accordance with the Graduate School deadlines. These deadlines are available from the Graduate School website. **(Students should confirm deadlines with the Graduate School.)**

Departmental Travel Funds

The department provides partial funding for graduate students to present papers at professional conferences or attend the conference in some official capacity. All funding is contingent upon budgetary constraints. Students who are eligible for grad school travel funds must apply for that before the department will consider providing additional funding.

Priority for funding is as follows:

- 1) on the program and presenting a research paper on which you are the first or sole author; or on the job market and registered for the job market class SOCI 9100 within one academic year;

- 2) presenting a paper on which you are a co-author but not first author;
- 3) being on the program in a different capacity such as presiding over a session or receiving an award, etc.

Students are eligible to receive departmental funds as specified above if the student:

- 1) Is in good standing and enrolled in the program.
- 2) Applied for Graduate School funding if eligible.

If the student is denied Graduate School funding the student remains eligible for departmental funding.

The department will pay for the conference registration for students who receive funding from other sources (e.g., faculty grants), but will not provide any additional travel funds for that conference.

In all cases graduate students must correctly complete, and have approved, a Travel Authority form prior to attending conferences. All travel authorities must be filled out regardless of eligibility or allocations of departmental funds. Travel authorities must be submitted **at least two weeks prior to the date of travel.** For those allocated funding, expense statement must be submitted **after returning from travel.**

Physical Facilities

The Department of Sociology is housed in Baldwin Hall. Faculty and student offices, most seminar rooms, many classrooms, LaSSI, and the Computer Laboratory are all located in Baldwin Hall.

The Main Library is across the street.

Graduate teaching assistants are given office space in Baldwin Hall. Students have access to computers and word processing equipment in their offices, as well as in the departments' computer laboratory.

APPENDIX A

Sample Schedule for Graduate Training

First Year

Fall Semester

- Select Temporary Faculty Advisor, in consultation with Director of Graduate Studies
- SOCI 6190: Proseminar in Sociology (**required**)
- SOCI 6220 or 6410: Classic/Contemporary Theory (**required**)
- SOCI 6620: Analysis & Interpretation of Sociological Data I (**required**)
- Elective course
- Research hours

Spring Semester

- Select Thesis topic and Thesis Advisor *dept form required*
- SOCI 6190: Proseminar in Sociology (**required**) *can be substituted with one semester of the sociology version of GRSC 7001*
- SOCI 6630: Analysis & Interpretation of Sociological Data II (**required**)
- SOCI 6600: Research Methods (**required**)
- Elective course
- Research hours

Second Year

Fall Semester

- Select Thesis Committee (*grad school form submitted online*)
- Defense of MA thesis proposal no later than November 1 of fall semester **OR** submit Second Year Paper plan form no later than Sept 1 of fall semester.
- 2-3 Electives
- SOCI 7300 (if completing thesis)
- Research hours

Spring Semester

- M.A. Thesis Defense (grad school form required) or 2nd year paper (departmental form required) completed
- Electives (2-3)
- Research hours
- Students with M.A.: formation of comprehensive exam committee

Third Year

Fall Semester

- Electives
- Students without an MA: Completion of M.A. degree no later than *November 1 of fall semester*
- Preparation of the M.A. thesis, 2nd year paper and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Students without an MA: Formation of comprehensive exam committee
- Students with an approved MA: Successful completion of the written and oral comprehensive examination

Spring Semester

- Electives

APPENDIX B

The Graduate Faculty

CLAY-WARNER, Jody. Emory University, 1997. Professor

Social Psychology; Criminology; Gender.

COONEY, Mark. University of Virginia, 1991. Professor.

Conflict Management, especially Law and Violence.

COVERDILL, James. Northwestern University, 1991. Professor

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods; Inequality; Organizations; Work.

GONLIN, Vanessa. Texas A&M University, 2020. Assistant Professor.

Race, Identity, Social Demography

GRAIZBORD, Diana. Brown, 2016. Assistant Professor

Political Sociology, Globalization, Development and Social Change, Culture;

Sociology of Science.

HERMANOWICZ, Joseph. University of Chicago, 1996. Professor.

Occupations/Professions/Careers; Culture; Life Course Studies; Higher Education;

Science.

HUANG, Peng. University of California-Irvine, 2024. Assistant Professor

Globalization, Inequality, Medical Sociology, and Social Networks

LAPEGNA, Pablo. State University of New York at Stony Brook, 2011. Associate Professor.

Social Movements and Protest; Qualitative Methods; Latin American Studies; Culture;

Development and Social Change; Globalization; Political Sociology.

LEI, Man-Kit. University of Georgia. 2014. Associate Professor.

Crime, Law, and Deviance; Community; Physical and Mental Health; Statistical Methods.

McNULTY, Thomas L. SUNY- Albany, 1996. Associate Professor.

Criminology; Deviance and Social Control; Inequality; Race and Ethnicity

PRIDEMORE, William. University of Albany-State University of New York, 2000. Professor and Department Head

Crime Law and Deviance, Development and Social Change, Economic Sociology, Globalization, Medical Sociology and Physical and Mental Health, Sociology of Science

RICHARDS, Patricia. University of Texas at Austin, 2002. Professor.

Sociology of Gender; Global; Social Movements; Political;

Qualitative Research Methods; Development and Social Change

ROBINSON, Dawn T. Cornell University, 1992. Professor.

Social Psychology, Collective Behavior and Social Movements, Social Networks, Gender.

SHANNON, Sarah. University of Minnesota, 2013. Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator.

Aging and the Life Course; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Inequality

SIMONS, Leslie Gordon. Iowa State University, 1999. Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Family, Aging, and the Life Course; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Gender;

Physical and Mental Health

SLEE, Gillian. Princeton University, 2024. Assistant Professor

Inequality; Poverty Governance; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Organizations; Social Policy

THOMAS, Julia. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2025. Assistant Professor

Crime, Law, and Deviance; Race and Ethnicity; Inequality

TINKLER, Justine E. Stanford University, 2007. Associate Professor.

Crime, Law, and Deviance; Gender; Inequality; Race and Ethnicity; Social Psychology.

Adjunct Graduate Faculty

ALETRARIS, Lydia. University of Georgia, 2010. Assistant Research Scientist, Owens Institute

for Behavioral Research; Assistant Director, Center for Research on Behavioral Health and Human Services Delivery; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology.

Work, Occupations, and Organizations; Mental Health; Research Methods; Inequality.

DERPIC, Jorge. The University of Texas, 2017. Assistant Professor

Sociology of Law, Criminology, Indigenous Studies, Political Sociology, Urban Sociology, Quantitative Methods, Latin America.

HEARN, James. Stanford University, 1978. Professor, Institute of Higher Education, Adjunct

Professor, Sociology.

Education; Organizations; Policy

WICKRAMA, Kandauda (K. A. S). Iowa State University, Sociology. 1992. Professor, Child

and Family Development, Adjunct Professor, Sociology.

Social Distribution and Social Determinants of Mental and Physical Health;

Life Course; Marriage; Family; Methods.

APPENDIX C

Comp Areas and Faculty Readers

Crime, Law, Deviance: Clay-Warner, Cooney, Derpic, Lei, McNulty, Pridemore, Shannon, L. Simons, Slee, Thomas, Tinkler

Culture: Derpic, Graizbord, Lapegna, Richards

Development and Social Change: Derpic, Graizbord, Lapegna, Pridemore, Richards

Economic Sociology: Lapegna, Pridemore

Family, Life Course, and Aging: Hermanowicz, Lei, Shannon, L. Simons

Gender: Clay-Warner, Richards, Robinson, L. Simons, Tinkler

Globalization: Derpic, Graizbord, Huang, Lapegna, Pridemore, Richards

Inequality: Gonlin, Huang, Lei, McNulty, Shannon, Slee, Thomas, Tinkler

Medical Sociology, Physical and Mental Health: Clay-Warner, Coverdill, Huang, Lei, Pridemore

Political Sociology: Derpic, Graizbord, Lapegna, Richards, Slee

Race and Ethnicity: Derpic, Gonlin, McNulty, Thomas, Tinkler

Social Movements: Derpic, Lapegna, Richards

Social Networks: Clay-Warner, Huang, Robinson

Sociology of Education: Hermanowicz

Social Psychology: Clay-Warner, Robinson, Tinkler

Sociology of Science: Graizbord, Hermanowicz, Pridemore

Work, Occupations, and Organizations: Coverdill, Hermanowicz, Slee

*Dr. Jorge Derpic, Assistant Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute, holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and has graduate faculty status. He can, therefore, serve as a fourth member of graduate advisory committees for students whose focus is in one of his areas of specialization.

Dr. Derpic's expertise is primarily in the areas of culture, development and social change, globalization, political sociology, and social movements.

APPENDIX D

Policies for Doctoral Comprehensive Examination

New Comprehensive Exams Policy

- a. Students may take comprehensive exams in any of the substantive areas listed in the Graduate Program Handbook.
- b. Students will take written comps the first Mon, Tues and Wed in August before the start of their 4th year.
- c. Written comps will be administered in-house. Accessing the internet and use of generative AI are not permitted and will result in an automatic fail. The student may also be referred to the Office of Academic Honesty and/or dismissed from the program. With this in mind, department computers will be provided, and network connections will be disconnected from the workstation.
- d. Students will be permitted to bring hard copies and/or a flash drive containing notes, their reading list, and articles and books from their reading list to the exam.
- e. Students may bring drinks and snacks into the exam room and may take breaks as needed, although the clock will not stop during these breaks. Students should leave the exam room only for bathroom breaks. They will be on their honor not to discuss the exam with any other graduate student for the duration of the comprehensive exam period. Students will leave phones and other personal items such as book bags with the graduate program assistant for the duration of the exam each day.
- f. Comps will take place over 3 consecutive days and will last for 4 hours each, beginning at 9:00a.m. Students who require special accommodations (e.g., due to circumstances documented with DRC, non-native English speakers) may request time and a half, which would be 6 hours per day. These requests must be made to the Director of Graduate Studies in advance of the exam period.
- g. The student will answer one question per day (their choice between two questions provided each day). Unchosen questions from previous days will not be recycled. Responses for each question should be 10-12 pages (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font).
- h. As long as the works cited in the text are on the student's pre-approved reading list, a full reference list is not required. Citations not included on the reading listed should be included in a reference list at the end of the answer.
- i. Committee members have up to three weeks to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of the decision to pass or fail, although they will be encouraged to try and do that within two weeks. The dates for the beginning of the semester and timing of ASA, however, may necessitate three weeks.
- j. In order to pass the written comprehensive exam, students must demonstrate a strong grasp of the comprehensive exam area. If the committee determines that the exam **does not** demonstrate a strong grasp of the material, they may fail the student on the exam.
- k. If, according to the faculty members on the committee, the student demonstrates a strong grasp of the material via their responses to the written comps, they will be

able to proceed to the oral portion of the comprehensive exam process.

- l. The oral must be scheduled for 2 hours, per the graduate school requirements and take place within 3 weeks of notification that they passed the written exam. At the discretion of the major professor and other committee members, if the student passes orals, they may be permitted to use the second hour to present their dissertation prospectus.
- m. If the student's committee determines that the student failed the written exams, the student may retake them again, at the end of the fall semester in Year 4. The exam will take place on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the week following commencement, prior to the university's winter break. If the student does not pass the written exams on the second attempt, they will be dismissed from the program.
- n. Students who retake the written comps in December will be notified of their committee's decision no later than the fifth day of the spring semester (approximately three weeks after submission of the written comps). If students pass, they will then need to schedule their oral exams within three weeks of this notification date
- o. If the student does not pass the oral exam the first time, the Graduate School must be notified of this result. Whether the student is permitted a second attempt at orals is at the discretion of the advisory committee members.
- p. All students scheduled to take the comprehensive exams in 2025 will take the exam in-house without access to the internet. Those taking it in 2025 will have the choice of taking the exam using the old format as it is described in the Graduate Program Handbook or this new format. Students need to communicate their intentions regarding the format to their advisor no later than May 1, 2025.

APPENDIX E.1

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

For students admitted before 2022

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to make explicit for students the minimum standards for making satisfactory progress through the graduate program in sociology. Students who do not meet these minimum standards will be at risk of dismissal from the program, per faculty review and vote. Many students will have achieved the goals and meet the standards well before the times stated in this document.

Review Procedures:

The faculty will review each student annually through the fifth year of the program in order to assess whether the following criteria have been met. The review will normally occur in April. There will be a subsequent review for students the semester they defend their MA thesis (See *Master's Review* below). The faculty will assess the student's progress, consider whether the progress is both satisfactory and reasonable, and vote on the student's continued status in the program. Students are expected to have met the criteria for minimum satisfactory progress by the

time of the review.

Annual Review:

Faculty will vote according to the following recommendations for all students through their fifth year:

- Continue in the Program
- Continue in the Program with Conditions
- Dismissal from Program

Students who receive a majority vote of “Continue in the Program with Conditions” are required to discuss those provisions with their major professor, or if a major professor has not been designated, with the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies. The purpose of the discussion will be to make explicit those areas in the student’s performance that require improvement in time for the student’s next annual review.

Master’s Review:

Students who have entered the graduate program without having completed an approved M.A. thesis will be considered for acceptance into the Ph.D. program once the thesis and all M.A. degree requirements have been completed. This decision will normally be made during the semester in which the M.A. requirements have been satisfied but in no case later than December of the student’s third year.

Faculty will vote according to the following recommendations:

- Do Not Accept into the PhD Program
- Continuation to the PhD Program

Minimum Satisfactory Progress for Student Entering without an Approved MA:

Year 1:

- Predominantly A’s in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Identification of Major Professor
- Development of thesis topic

Year 2:

- Predominantly A’s in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Formation of a thesis committee
- Defense of a M.A. thesis proposal by *November 1 of Fall Semester*

Year 3:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Completion of M.A. degree no later than *November 1 of Fall Semester*
- Preparation of the M.A. thesis and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Formation of comprehensive exam committee

Year 4:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examination.
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Consistent progress toward dissertation proposal

Year 5:

- Predominantly A's in coursework (if applicable)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework (if applicable)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of ongoing efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Instructor experience in freestanding courses, unless engaged in research assistantship
- Dissertation proposal defense by April 1.

Minimum Satisfactory Progress for Student Entering directly into the PhD program with an Approved MA:

Year 1:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Identification of Major Professor

Year 2:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Preparation of the M.A. thesis and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Formation of comprehensive exam committee

Year 3:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Successful completion of the written and oral comprehensive examination.

Year 4:

- Predominantly A's in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Dissertation proposal defense by April 1.

Year 5:

- Predominantly A's in coursework (if applicable)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework (if applicable)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Instructor experience in free-standing courses, unless engaged in research assistantship
- Evidence of on-going efforts toward dissertation project

APPENDIX E.2

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

For students admitted after 2022

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to make explicit for students the **minimum** standards for making satisfactory progress through the graduate program in sociology. Students who do not meet these minimum standards will be at risk of dismissal from the program, per faculty review and vote.

Many students will have achieved the goals and met the standards well before the times stated in this document.

Review Procedures:

The faculty will review each student annually through the fifth year of the program in order to assess whether the following criteria have been met. The review will normally occur in April. There will be a subsequent review for students the semester they defend their MA thesis (See *Master's Review* below). The faculty will assess the student's progress, consider whether the progress is both satisfactory and reasonable, and vote on the student's continued status in the program. Students are expected to have met the criteria for minimum satisfactory progress by the time of the review.

Annual Review:

Faculty will vote according to the following recommendations for all students through their fifth year:

- Continue in the Program
- Continue in the Program with Conditions
- Dismissal from Program

Students who receive a majority vote of “Continue in the Program with Conditions” are required to discuss those provisions with their major professor, or if a major professor has not been designated, with the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies. The purpose of the discussion will be to make explicit those areas in the student’s performance that require improvement in time for the student’s next annual review.

Master’s Review:

Students who have entered the graduate program without having completed an approved M.A. thesis will be considered for acceptance into the Ph.D. program once the thesis and all M.A. degree requirements have been completed. This decision will normally be made during the semester in which the M.A. requirements have been satisfied but in no case later than December of the student’s third year.

Faculty will vote according to the following recommendations:

- Do Not Accept into the PhD Program
- Continuation to the PhD Program

Minimum Satisfactory Progress for Student Entering without an Approved MA:

***** These are minimum standards. Many students will move more quickly through the program.*****

Year 1:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Identification of Major Professor
- Development of thesis topic

Year 2:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Formation of a thesis committee

- Defense of a M.A. thesis proposal by *November 1 of Fall Semester*

Year 3:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Completion of M.A. degree no later than *November 1 of Fall Semester*
- Preparation of the M.A. thesis and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Formation of comprehensive exam committee

Year 4:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examination.
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Consistent progress toward dissertation proposal

Year 5:

- Predominantly As in coursework (if applicable)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework (if applicable)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of ongoing efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Instructor experience in freestanding courses, unless engaged in research assistantship
- Dissertation proposal defense by April 1.

Minimum Satisfactory Progress for Student Entering directly into the PhD program with an Approved MA:

Year 1:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Identification of Major Professor

Year 2:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Completion of Second Year Paper (by April)
- Preparation of a research paper for presentation and publication
- Formation of comprehensive exam committee

Year 3:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Successful completion of the written and oral comprehensive examination.

Year 4:

- Predominantly As in coursework
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Dissertation proposal defense by April 1.

Year 5:

- Predominantly As in coursework (if applicable)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework (if applicable)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Instructor experience in free-standing courses, unless engaged in research assistantship
- Evidence of on-going efforts toward dissertation project

Appendix F

Leave of Absence and Significant Life Events Policy

According to the Graduate School Handbook:

<https://grad.uga.edu/graduate-policies/>

“A leave of absence provides a mechanism for students experiencing unusual circumstance to be exempt temporarily from the continuous enrollment policy. A leave of absence requires approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate School. A leave of absence will be granted only for good cause such as serious medical and health-related issues, major financial and employment issues; pregnancy, childbirth, child care, elder care, and other significant family issues; and other major personal circumstances that interfere with the ability to undertake graduate study. An approved leave of absence stands in lieu of registering for the minimum of 3 credits for each semester for which the leave of absence is granted. During a leave of absence, students may not use UGA facilities, resources, or services designed or intended only for enrolled students; receive a graduate assistantship, fellowship, or financial aid from the University; or take any UGA courses related to their program of study. An approved leave of absence does not stop the clock unless the leave is granted for pregnancy, childbirth or adoption (see below): time on leave counts toward any University, Graduate School, or program time limits pertaining to the degree being sought.”

In the Department of Sociology, our guidelines for satisfactory progress follow this graduate school policy with the important exception that an approved leave under this policy will not count against the time limits stated in the department’s Satisfactory Progress document. An approved leave of absence of one semester will allow the student one additional semester to meet all subsequent degree requirements.

In addition, those who have had a significant life event (but did not receive an approved leave of absence from the Graduate School) may petition to the Graduate Program Committee in the Department of Sociology for an extension of their satisfactory progress timeline. Our departmental policy is intended to accommodate students with responsibilities related to elder care, adoption, birth of a child, or another similar event.