Sociology

Degrees Offered

• Master of Arts
• Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers a Ph.D. in Sociology with an area of specialization in Crime, Community, or Culture. The program trains students in the core areas of sociology, including research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data analysis, theory, and sociological writing. It also teaches a range of professional skills designed to help graduates enter the academic or non-academic job markets. Emphasis is placed on writing and presentation skills, knowledge of statistical software, teaching ability, and the ability to communicate and apply sociological theory. In addition to coursework, students will have an opportunity to work with faculty who are actively engaged in research.

The M.A. program serves as a foundation for students who wish to pursue doctoral studies or move on to a research-oriented career in government, universities, or private industry. Students who are accepted into the Ph.D. program in Sociology will receive the M.A. degree upon completion of 38 credit hours of core requirements and a thesis manuscript.

FACULTY

CHAIR

• Jeralynn S. Cossman - Ph.D. (Florida State University) Sociology
  Demography, Health, Inequalities

PROFESSORS

• Walter S. DeKeseredy - Ph.D. (York University) Sociology
  Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences. Violence against women, Critical criminology, Masculinities and crime, Criminology theory
• R. Gregory Dunaway - Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati) Sociology
  Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
• S. Melissa Latimer - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky) Sociology
  Gender/race/ethnicity, Inequality/labor markets/welfare systems
• Lawrence T. Nichols - Ph.D. (Boston College) Sociology
  Criminology, Theory, Business
• James Nolan, III - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology
  Criminal justice, Group and social processes
• Rachael A. Woldoff - Ph.D. (Ohio State University) Sociology
  Community, Crime, Inequality/race/class

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

• Corey Colyer - Ph.D. (Syracuse University) Sociology
  People processing systems, Agencies of social control
• Amy Hirshman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Anthropology
  Mesoamerican archaeology, Social complexity, Ceramics
• Daniel Renfrew - Ph.D. (Binghamton University) Anthropology
  Environmental and political anthropology, Social movements, Latin American cultures
• Rachel Stein - Ph.D. (University of Akron) Sociology
  Criminology, Victimization, Media and crime
• Karen Weiss - Ph.D. (SUNY-Stony Brook) Sociology
  Criminology, Victimization, Gender/sexuality/culture
• Joshua Woods - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
  Social psychology, Media, Complex organizations, Sociology of risk

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

• Jennifer Steele - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Rural Sociology
  Natural resource sociology, Rural and community development

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

• Adam Dasari - Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University) Sociology
Sociology

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Katie E. Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Washington) Sociology
  Theory, Organizations, Culture, Criminology, Religion, Social networks

• Lisa M. Dilks - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina) Sociology
  Social psychology, Group processes, Law and society, Quantitative methods

• Jason Manning - Ph.D. (University of Virginia) Sociology
  Conflict and social control, Violence, Sociology of knowledge

• Christopher P. Scheitle - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Sociology
  Religion, Science in society, Crime, Organizations

• Heather M. Washington - Ph.D. (Ohio State University) Sociology
  Community, Crime, Family, Inequality

• Jesse Wozniak - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
  Policing, Criminology, Deviance, State power

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Susanna Donaldson - Ph.D. (University of Iowa) Anthropology
  Anthropology of work, Identity, Appalachian cultures

• Amanda Hall-Sanchez - Ph.D. (University of Hawaii at Manoa) Sociology
  Violences against women, Incarcerated individuals, Victimology, Deviance, Feminist theory & methodologies

• Cheryl Johnson-Lyons - J.D. (West Virginia University)
  Law and society, Inequalities, Political sociology

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

• Ronald C. Althouse - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
  Theory, Work, Occupational safety and health

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI

• Ann L. Paterson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
• Patricia C. Rice - M.A. (Ohio State University) Anthropology
• Joseph J. Simoni - Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) Sociology
• William I. Torry - Ph.D. (Columbia University) Anthropology

Admission

Applications must include official transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended, references from at least three people familiar with the student's academic record and potential for graduate study, a writing sample, a personal statement, a non-refundable application fee, and an official statement of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

The application process is online. Please see the Graduate Admissions website (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu) for more information and the University Graduate Application.

International students for whom English is not a native language are required by the University to submit the Test of English As a Foreign Language (TOEFL). WVU accepts either the TOEFL or the IELTS for this purpose. Please see English Language Proficiency Requirements (https://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/international-students/#anchor-intlelp) for more information.

Application Deadline

The application deadline is February 1 for fall admission. Students are not admitted in the spring semester.

Students who are accepted to the Ph.D. program will receive the M.A. degree upon completing 23 credit hours of Master's required coursework, 9 hours of electives, and 6 credit hours of thesis as shown below, as well as a completed thesis manuscript. The thesis may follow either a journal article or applied report model. Students will be dually enrolled in the M.A. and Ph.D. programs until they complete the M.A. requirements.

Master's Required Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 610</td>
<td>Advanced General Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 615</td>
<td>Sociological Data Analysis and Interpretation 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 616</td>
<td>Sociological Data Analysis and Interpretation 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 620</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 720</td>
<td>Sociological Survey Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 620</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 720</td>
<td>Sociological Survey Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCA 721</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 725</td>
<td>Introduction to Evaluation Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOCA 726</td>
<td>Ethnographic Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOCA 727</td>
<td>Demographic Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOCA 728</td>
<td>Content Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOCA 729</td>
<td>Experimental Design and Analysis for Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or GEOG 550</td>
<td>Geographic Information Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 630</td>
<td>Classical Social Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 600</td>
<td>Becoming a Sociologist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 601</td>
<td>Professional Research/Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 698</td>
<td>Thesis or Dissertation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

| Total Hours | 9 |

Students are accepted into the Ph.D. program upon their entry into the department and are formally admitted to doctoral candidacy upon completion of the M.A. requirements. Students who move on to the doctoral program are required to take two additional core courses, five additional courses in one of the three areas of specialization, and nine hours of dissertation credits, as shown below. Doctoral students must pass comprehensive examinations and successfully defend a dissertation.

**Master's Required Coursework**

- SOCA 610: Advanced General Sociology (3)
- SOCA 615: Sociological Data Analysis and Interpretation 1 (3)
- SOCA 616: Sociological Data Analysis and Interpretation 2 (3)
- SOCA 620: Sociological Research Methods (3)
- SOCA 720: Sociological Survey Methods (3)
  - or SOCA 721: Qualitative Methods
- SOCA 725: Introduction to Evaluation Research Methods (3)
  - or SOCA 726: Ethnographic Investigation
  - or SOCA 727: Demographic Research Methods
  - or SOCA 728: Content Analysis
  - or SOCA 729: Experimental Design and Analysis for Sociology
  - or GEOG 550: Geographic Information Science
- SOCA 630: Classical Social Thought (3)
- SOCA 600: Becoming a Sociologist (1)
- SOCA 601: Professional Research/Writing (1)
- SOCA 698: Thesis or Dissertation (6)

**Doctoral Required Coursework**

- SOCA 700: Navigating the Job Market (1)
- SOCA 730: Sociological Explanation (3)

**Areas of Specialization**

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**Crime Specialization**

- SOCA 740: Theories of Crime and Deviance

**Crime Specialization Elective Courses**

Select four of the following:

- SOCA 741: Theories of Violence
- SOCA 742: Sociology of Violence
- SOCA 743: Victimology
- SOCA 744: Violence Against Women
- SOCA 745: Gender and Crime
- SOCA 746: Police and Culture Socialization
- SOCA 747: Rural Criminology
- SOCA 748: Community, Crime, and Disorder
- SOCA 749: Race, Crime, and Community
SOCA 750  Cultural Criminology  
SOCA 761  The Sociology of Conflict  

**Community Specialization**  
SOCA 760  Space, Place, and Community  

**Community Specialization Elective Courses**  
Select four of the following:  
SOCA 747  Rural Criminology  
SOCA 748  Community, Crime, and Disorder  
SOCA 749  Race, Crime, and Community  
SOCA 761  The Sociology of Conflict  
SOCA 762  Community Development  
SOCA 763  Global Communities  
SOCA 764  Health in Society  
SOCA 765  Environmental Sociology  
SOCA 766  Urban Sociology  
SOCA 767  Rural Sociology  
SOCA 768  Environmental Justice  
SOCA 781  Group Processes  

**Culture Specialization**  
SOCA 780  Individual and Society  

**Culture Specialization Elective Courses**  
Select four of the following:  
SOCA 746  Police Culture and Socialization  
SOCA 750  Cultural Criminology  
SOCA 768  Environmental Justice  
SOCA 781  Group Processes  
SOCA 782  Sociology of Culture  
SOCA 783  Social Psychology  
SOCA 784  Symbolic Interactionism  
SOCA 785  Situational Social Psychology  
SOCA 786  Media and Society  

**Dissertation Research**  
SOCA 798  Thesis or Dissertation  

**Electives**  

**Total Hours** 66  

**Major Learning Goals**  

**SOCIOLOGY**  

Students graduating with a Ph.D. in Sociology will be able to:  

1. Apply sociological theories and methodological skills to evaluate social issues and develop a research program.  
2. Critically analyze the canonical literature in one of the three specialty areas (crime, community, or culture).  
3. Explain professional practice and ethics as they relate to sociology.  
4. Describe the current state of knowledge, research, and needs of sociology as a discipline.