Sociology

Degrees Offered

- Master of Arts
- Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology. All students entering the program will be enrolled as doctoral students. Students entering the program with a BA/BS will be dually enrolled in the M.A. and Ph.D. programs until they complete the M.A. requirements.

The Ph.D. program is designed for students who are interested in working as professional sociologists in teaching and research. The curriculum emphasizes foundational coursework in sociology, including theory, methods and statistics, as well as courses and independent research in an area related to the department’s specializations in crime, community, and culture.

The department is strongly committed to teaching, mentoring, and collaborative research with students. Members of the faculty have received major research grants, won national teaching and research awards, published several books and numerous academic articles, and served as the editor or editorial board members of prestigious journals. In many cases, students have worked as research collaborators with faculty and co-authored publications.

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
- 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
- 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
    Social stratification, Globalization, Environmental sociology, Theory

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
  • Katie E. Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Washington) Sociology
    Theory, Organizations, Culture, Criminology, Religion, Social networks
  • 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
  • Cheryl Dennis - J.D. (West Virginia University)
    Law and society, Inequalities, Political sociology
  • Susanna Donaldson - Ph.D. (University of Iowa) Anthropology
    Anthropology of work, Identity, Appalachian cultures

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 GRE should be taken within two years of the application submission.

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.

Degree Requirements

Credit Hours: Students must complete 38 hours of coursework. This includes 23 hours of required coursework in SOCA, 6 hours of thesis, and 9 hours of electives in SOCA or related disciplines as approved by the student's graduate advisor.

Grade Point Average: Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in all SOCA courses.
**Graduation Requirements:** In addition to completing required coursework, students must complete a thesis following the journal article model. This is a research report intended for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal and presentation at a professional sociology conference.

**Benchmarks:** In addition to maintaining GPA requirements, students must receive acceptance of their thesis proposal no later than November 20 of the third semester of the M.A. program (see Sociology Graduate Handbook for details).

**Master’s Required Coursework**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>or SOCA 721</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 725</td>
<td>Introduction to Evaluation Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Ethnographic Investigation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Demographic Research Methods</td>
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<td>or</td>
<td>Content Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Experimental Design and Analysis for Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Geographic Information Science</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 601</td>
<td>Professional Research/Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 698</td>
<td>Thesis or Dissertation</td>
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**Electives**

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**Total Hours:** 38

**Degree Requirements**

**Credit Hours:** Students must complete 57-66 credit hours. Those who complete their M.A. at WVU and move on to the doctoral program are required to take an additional 28 hours in SOCA courses. These include 4 hours in required courses, 15 hours in one of the three areas of specialization, and 9 hours of dissertation. Students who enter WVU with an M.A. from another institution must take the M.A. required coursework at WVU but may petition for a waiver of up to 9 hours of electives based on previously-completed coursework (see the Sociology Graduate Handbook for details).

**Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in all SOCA courses.

**Graduation Requirements:** In addition to completing required coursework, students must pass written and oral comprehensive examinations and successfully defend a dissertation. Students can choose from two dissertation models. They can follow the traditional model, which takes the form and substance of a scholarly monograph, or the manuscript model, which consists of three interrelated papers on a single topic.

**Areas of Emphasis:** Students choose an area of specialization in crime, community, or culture. Each includes one required course plus 12 hours of area electives.

**Benchmarks:** Comprehensive exams should take place in the last semester of coursework or the first semester following the completion of coursework. Students might complete comprehensive exams and a dissertation proposal defense in the same semester, provided they complete the comprehensive exam process by mid-semester (see the Sociology Graduate Handbook for details).

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**Doctoral Required Coursework**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 700</td>
<td>Navigating the Job Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 730</td>
<td>Sociological Explanation</td>
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**Areas of Specialization**

15

**Crime Specialization**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 740</td>
<td>Theories of Crime and Deviance</td>
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**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**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 760</td>
<td>Space, Place, and Community</td>
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**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**

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<tr>
<td>SOCA 780</td>
<td>Individual and Society</td>
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**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
Major Learning Outcomes

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.