

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

Social stratification, Globalization, Environmental sociology, Theory

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

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
Electives		9
Total Hours		38

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 15

Crime Specialization

SOCA 740	Theories of Crime and Deviance
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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		
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	
Disseration Research		9
SOCA 798	Thesis or Dissertation	
Electives		9
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.