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

SERVICE 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
• Lindsay L. Kahle - Ph.D. (Virginia Tech) Sociology
  Youth inequality, School violence, Sexual orientation and criminology
• Kirsten Younghee Song - Ph.D. (Rutgers University) Sociology
  Culture, Transnationalism, Young adulthood, Inequality

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

Admissions
The program in Sociology only admits directly to the PhD. Admission to the Doctoral program requires a 3.0 overall GPA in the prior degree. Students who enter the program with a Bachelor’s degree or a non-thesis Master’s degree are required to complete the MA degree (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/eurbycollegeofartsandsciences/sociologyandanthropology/#masterstext) as part of their progress toward the PhD. 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.
Master of Arts

Degree Requirements

• **Credit Hours:** Students must complete 32 hours of coursework. This includes 17 hours of required coursework in SOCA, 6 hours of thesis, and 9 hours of electives in SOCA.

• **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in all courses applied to the graduate program.

• **Graduation Requirement:** 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).

Curriculum Requirements

**Required Core Coursework**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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 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 630</td>
<td>Classical Social Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCA 698</td>
<td>Thesis or Dissertation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Electives**

*Includes SOCA courses at the 600 or 700 level. Excludes the following: 695, 697, 698, 699, 795, 797, 798, 799.

Total Hours: 32

Doctor of Philosophy

Degree Requirements

• **Credit Hours:** Students must complete 50-59 credit hours in the doctoral program. In addition to the requirements shown below, students who enter the PhD program with a BA or non-thesis MA must complete 6 thesis hours. Further, all students on funded graduate teaching assistantships must complete SOCA 710, Teaching Sociology.

• **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75, and a GPA of 3.00 in all courses applied to the graduate program.

• **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.

• **Comprehensive Examination:** The Comprehensive Exam has two parts, the written and an oral. The Written Examination is intended to assess students’ broad competencies in a specialized area of sociology with specific focus on understanding sociological theory and methods as they relate to the student’s chosen specialization. The exams also test students’ writing skills and their ability to think creatively and carry out independent research. In most cases, the student will be asked to give a brief summary of their written comprehensive exam work for the Oral Exam, but the primarily emphasis is on a question and answer session.

• **Dissertation:** The dissertation requirement ensures that students have the ability to carry out a major independent research project. 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. The quality and contribution of each paper should reach the level of articles published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. The manuscript model must also include an introductory chapter that clarifies the dissertation theme and situates the work as a whole in the sociological literature, as well as a concluding chapter that synthesizes and integrates the three papers.

• **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).

Curriculum Requirements

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Degree Progress

**MASTERS**

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

**DOCTORAL**

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.

### Major Learning Outcomes

**SOCIOLOGY**

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

1. Effectively communicate, orally and in writing, the current state of knowledge, research, and needs in the field of sociology
2. Conduct independent and original research of publishable quality
3. Develop a research program to evaluate social issues using sociological theories and methodological skills
4. Critically analyze the canonical literature in one of the three specialty areas (crime, community, or culture)
5. Explain professional practice and ethics as they relate to sociology