

PhD in Sociology

Admission Requirements

The department accepts only applicants who wish to be candidates for the PhD. Applicants are not admitted as candidates for the MA as a terminal degree. Applicants are considered on an individual basis. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Prior Degrees** Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree to enter the PhD program, but an undergraduate degree in sociology is not required. Prior work in social science and sociology is recommended.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 (B average) for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study, including all of the work taken in the quarter or semester in which the student began the final 60 semester hours of undergraduate study. A 3.50/4.00 cumulative grade point average for work completed beyond the baccalaureate is required.
- **Transcripts** Required from all institutions where the applicant earned the last 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of study toward the baccalaureate degree and from all institutions where postbaccalaureate work has been done.
- **Tests Required** None.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score** (*TOEFL iBT score cannot be more than two years old; UIC's Institutional Code is 1851.*)
 - **TOEFL iBT** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21, **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with 6.0 in each of the four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters from former and/or current teachers able to comment specifically on the applicant's academic achievement and ability are strongly preferred. At least two should be from professors at the university where the master's degree was obtained.
- **Personal Statement** Required.
- **Writing Sample** Required.

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 37, depending on the student's level of preparation.
- **Coursework** Students may petition the director of graduate studies to apply up to 8 hours of comparable coursework taken prior to admission toward the departmental requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
SOC 401	Sociological Statistics	
SOC 402	Intermediate Sociological Statistics	
SOC 500	Sociological Research Methods I	
SOC 501	Sociological Research Methods II	
SOC 542	Sociology of Inequality	
SOC 585	Classical Sociological Theory	
SOC 587	Contemporary Sociological Theory	
SOC 595	ProSeminar	

Select one of the following:

SOC 515	Sociology of Childhood and Youth
SOC 520	Seminar: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender ^a
SOC 524	Gender
SOC 525	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
SOC 540	Seminar: Social Institutions ^a
SOC 547	Social Organization
SOC 549	Global and Transnational Sociology
SOC 565	Seminar: Political Sociology

One 500-level course (approved by the director of graduate studies)

^a SOC 520 and SOC 540 may be repeated for credit if the topic is different for each registration. Students who elect to satisfy the degree requirements by taking these specialty seminars may either take both courses or repeat one of them.

- **Comprehensive Examination** None.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** *Coursework.* Students must earn at least 4 hours in SOC 596.

Doctor of Philosophy

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 24–40 hours of coursework beyond the MA; 19–35 dissertation research hours. The minimum number of hours beyond the baccalaureate is 96.
- **Coursework Required Courses:** MA in Sociology course requirements (37 hours depending on the student's level of preparation). Students with an MA from another institution must satisfy UIC Sociology MA requirements. The graduate director will evaluate student's prior preparation and performance in satisfying these requirements.
- In addition to SOC 509 and SOC 593, students must complete three graduate seminars (4 credit hours each) beyond the two taken to satisfy the requirements of the MA. Students must take two courses from the following: SOC 515, SOC 524, SOC 525, SOC 547, SOC 549, SOC 565; and one additional course, which can either be a specialty seminar (SOC 520, SOC 540) or a course approved by the director of graduate studies. The course content of SOC 520 and SOC 540 varies from term to term.

Code	Title	Hours
Seminar		
SOC 509	Seminar: Sociological Research Methods (may repeat for a maximum of 12 hours) ^a	
SOC 593	Colloquium on College Teaching of Sociology	
Select two courses from the following: ^a		
SOC 515	Sociology of Childhood and Youth	
SOC 524	Gender	
SOC 525	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (may not repeat) ^b	
SOC 547	Social Organization (may not repeat) ^b	
SOC 549	Global and Transnational Sociology	
SOC 565	Seminar: Political Sociology	

Select one of the following:

Specialty Seminar^b

SOC 520 Seminar: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
(minimum of four hours)

SOC 540 Seminar: Social Institutions (minimum
of four hours)

Course approved by the director of graduate studies

a *Students may not repeat any courses from this group (SOC 515, SOC 524, SOC 525, SOC 547, SOC 549, SOC 565) which they took as part of the UIC MA program.*

b *Course content of SOC 520 and SOC 540 varies from term to term. Students will receive credit for specialty seminars taken to meet the PhD requirement only if the topics are different from those previously taken.*

- **Preliminary Examination** Required. The examination is comprised of two parts: written examination in a major specialty area and an original research paper submitted for consideration for publication. Students must register for SOC 596 while completing their research paper.
- **Dissertation Proposal Defense** Required.
- **Dissertation** Required.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)
- [Latin American and Latino Studies](#)
- [Survey Research Methodology](#)
- [Violence Studies](#)
- [Women's Health](#)