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** The GRE is required.

- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
  - **TOEFL** The TOEFL score cannot be more than two years old. UIC’s Institutional Code is 1851; The minimum TOEFL score accepted for admission is 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), OR.
  - **IELTS** 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all 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.

- **Course Work** Students may petition the director of graduate studies to apply up to 8 hours of comparable course work taken prior to admission toward the departmental requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 401</td>
<td>Sociological Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 402</td>
<td>Intermediate Sociological Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 500</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 501</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 542</td>
<td>Sociology of Inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 585</td>
<td>Classical Sociological Theory</td>
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- **Thesis, Project, or Course-Work-Only Options** Course Work. Students must earn at least 4 hours in SOC 596.

Doctor of Philosophy

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 24–40 hours of course work beyond the MA; 19–35 dissertation research hours. The minimum number of hours beyond the baccalaureate is 96.

- **Course Work 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 509</td>
<td>Seminar: Sociological Research Methods (may repeat for a maximum of 12 hours) a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 593</td>
<td>Colloquium on College Teaching of Sociology</td>
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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**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 520</td>
<td>Seminar: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(minimum of four hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 540</td>
<td>Seminar: Social Institutions</td>
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<td>(minimum of four hours)</td>
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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