

# Sociology

To obtain specific admissions requirements on how to apply to Graduate School, prospective students should visit this page:

<http://www.uab.edu/cas/sociology/graduate-programs>

Degree Offered:	M.A. in Sociology, Ph.D. in Medical Sociology
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## Sociology M.A. Program

Prospective students should use website below to obtain specific admissions requirements on how to apply to Graduate School:

<http://www.uab.edu/cas/sociology/graduate-programs/online-professional-ma/online-ma-admissions>

The Department of Sociology offers two plans (Plan I and Plan II) for the M.A. Degree

## Master of Arts in Sociology

The online Applied Sociology M.A. degree (Plan II) provides strong disciplinary training, along with professional and research experience, to prepare students for careers in business, non-profits, government agencies and the continued professional development of teaching careers. It also offers courses that enable students to apply a sociological perspective to data analytics. To be admitted in good standing, candidates must meet all Graduate School admission requirements.

The Plan II degree is not a step toward obtaining a PhD in Medical Sociology. Students deciding to move into the Medical Sociology Ph.D. Program will need to meet the core requirements from Plan I (refer to Medical Sociology PhD requirements.)

Requirements	Hours
SOC 613 Intro to Applied Sociology Research Methods	3
SOC 623 Applied Sociological Theory	3
SOC 626 Applied Sociology	3
SOC 627 Applied Social Psychology	3
SOC 676 Capstone Project	6
<b>Electives (12 hours):</b>	<b>12</b>
SOC 620 Public Sociology	
SOC 628 Teaching Sociology	
SOC 629 Sociology of the South	
SOC 637 Practicum in Innovation, Creativity, and Applied Sociology	
SOC 645 Sociological Practice	
SOC 698 MR Level Non-Thesis Research.	
SOC 714 Survey Research Methods	
SOC 715 Program Evaluation	

SOC 716	Social Stratification
SOC 718	Social Capital and Social Networks
SOC 729	Consumer Culture
SOC 730	Sociology of Education
SOC 740	Deviant Behavior
SOC 760	Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 783	Health Care Delivery Systems
SOC 786	Health Disparities
SOC 792	Seminar in Substantive Sociological Areas
SOC 794	Special Topics

**Total Hours**

**30**

## Medical Sociology Ph.D. Program

Prospective students should use website below to obtain specific admissions requirements on how to apply to Graduate School:

<http://www.uab.edu/cas/sociology/graduate-programs>

## Medical Sociology Ph.D. Program

This program is designed to provide students with the coursework and research experiences to become leading researchers, professors, and practitioners in medical sociology. Doctoral training in medical sociology exposes students to the central issues of the field through a variety of methodological techniques encompassing both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Graduate students study the social and cultural bases of health beliefs and behaviors, organizational structures of health care delivery, and health disparities, to name a few examples. Students acquire expertise in theory formulation and data analysis.

There are abundant opportunities for graduate students to work with faculty on research projects in medical and health science settings across the campus.

## Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Medical Sociology requires the approval of the Sociology Graduate Committee and the Graduate School. This administrative body is responsible for recruiting the most qualified graduate students and for balancing the interests of the Medical Sociology program with the available financial resources. The committee reviews and makes recommendations for admission.

Minimum admission requirements are as follows:

- A bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited institution in sociology or a related field with a minimum of 18 hours of social science coursework, preferably including social theory, statistics, and research methodology;
- An overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0, based on a 4.0 system, or a 3.2 GPA for the last 60 semester hours in a BA/BS program;
- A 3.0 GPA in all previous graduate coursework;
- For international students, a minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or other exam aligning with UAB Graduate School minimum admission requirements. The Graduate School exempts students from some countries where education is in English (see Graduate School website for current list of countries)

Furthermore, the following criteria are also required in the admissions process:

- Evidence of Scholarship (e.g., Writing Sample);
- Evidence of Quantitative Preparation or Ability (e.g., statistics or math coursework; GRE test results)
- Statement of Purpose, with emphasis on Research and Scholarship;
- Three Letters of Recommendation;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Exceptional students who fail to meet the above requirements will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### Program Tracks

Students admitted to the Medical Sociology PhD Program will follow one of three tracks:

- Track 1 Students who enter with a BA (90 credit hours needed for PhD)
- Track 2 Students who enter with a MA (or equivalent) and their prior thesis is accepted by our program (75 credit hours needed for PhD)
- Track 3 Students who enter with a MA (or equivalent) and a thesis is required to be completed in the program (81 credit hours needed for PhD)

For students entering with a Master's Degree or equivalent, the Graduate Program will review the student's application packet, evaluate course transfers (previous courses can only be used if the class was never used for a degree), and designate the student to a track. Students entering the program with a master's degree are granted waivers for a maximum of 16 semester hours of graduate work, upon approval of the Graduate Program Director. Only electives can be waived; required courses, including two medical sociology core courses, must be taken in the program. Students transferring from another graduate program without having received a graduate degree may be granted waivers for a maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate work, upon approval of the Graduate Program Director and the professors in charge of the respective coursework in question. The latter hours are considered transfer credits, and their allowance is governed by the Graduate School.

If the student completed a master's thesis in another program, they must also submit a copy to the Graduate Program Director for evaluation before the final track designation. Students who have a Master's Degree or equivalent but have not written a thesis will be required to write a Master's Thesis (Track 3) before they proceed to the dissertation. Students who enter the program with a master's degree are not required to make an oral defense of their thesis approved by another accredited institution; however, the program reserves the right to not accept their previous thesis and place the student on Track 3. Students in Track 3 have an option of applying for the M.A. in Sociology degree if they desire.

Students who enter with a master's degree and have taken comprehensive exams at their prior institution can petition the Graduate Committee to possibly waive the exam at UAB. Otherwise, all students entering, whether they have a master's degree or not, must take comprehensive exams at UAB.

## Advising

The Graduate Director and/or the student's faculty advisor/mentor will provide continuous advisement on academic progress during the

student's graduate study, including assistance with course selection and recommendations for research experiences that are consistent with the student's developing interests and abilities. In addition, each year the student will be formally evaluated by the Graduate Committee and will be provided with performance feedback.

Research supervision is provided by faculty whom students select to chair the master's thesis and doctoral dissertation committees. Typically, the student will select persons with whom a close, supportive relationship develops. Entering graduate students are assigned a temporary faculty advisor that is randomly chosen and are expected to secure a research mentor by Fall of the second year in the program.

## Financial Aid and Assistantships

Support is available for students through fellowships and graduate teaching and research assistantships (per Graduate School definitions). Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA) are typically the main form of graduate student support. Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA) may be available if individual faculty have research funding with allocation for GRA positions, with approval by individual faculty member. In addition, GRA positions are sometimes available through partnerships with other UAB departments. The placement of Ph.D. students in research sites within the Department and/or in areas across campus is an important part of the Medical Sociology Program. Such placements usually involve assisting faculty on funded research projects. Such experiences provide students with invaluable real-life exposure to medical sociology "in action."

The department will make every effort to pay for tuition when possible. Graduate assistants who do not already have insurance on their own may also receive health insurance coverage (*check with the Department and the Graduate School for up-to-date details*).

Assistantships are awarded based on student merit, departmental need, and available funding. Students are evaluated by the Graduate Program Committee with recommendations submitted to faculty members for funding on an annual basis. A student may usually receive departmental funding up to and no longer than four years entering with a BA degree, or up to three years entering the program with a master's degree.

## Additional Information

Deadline for Entry Term(s):	Fall, Spring. Note: New students typically start in the Fall Semester. Spring admission must be approved by the Graduate Director.
Deadline for All Application Materials to be in the Graduate School Office:	Fall: August 1 (regular), January 15 (for funding consideration and international students); Spring: December 1 (regular), June 15 (for international students)
Number of Evaluation/recommendation	Three

Entrance Tests:	GRE is optional, (TOEFL, IELTS, PTEA or another accepted English proficiency test is required for international applicants whose native language is not English - see the Graduate School website), <a href="https://www.uab.edu/gradadmissions/apply/international-applicants">https://www.uab.edu/gradadmissions/apply/international-applicants</a>
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Ph.D. Program in Medical Sociology <http://www.uab.edu/sociology/>

For detailed information, contact Dr. Magdalena Szaflarski, UAB Department of Sociology, HHB 460Q, 1401 University Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1152.

Telephone 205-934-0825

E-mail [szaflam@uab.edu](mailto:szaflam@uab.edu)

Web <http://www.uab.edu/sociology/>

## Curriculum

The components of the Ph.D. program are as follows:

Requirements	Hours
<b>Medical Sociology Core</b>	<b>9</b>
SOC 780 Medical Sociology	
<b>Core Medical Sociology Electives (Select two)</b>	<b>6</b>
SOC 724 Body and Health	
SOC 734 Global Health	
SOC 755 Race/Ethnicity and Health	
SOC 756 Gender and Health	
SOC 775 Place and Health	
SOC 781 Sociology of Health and Illness	
SOC 783 Health Care Delivery Systems	
SOC 785 Family and Health	
SOC 787 Sociology of Mental Health	
<b>Theory Coursework</b>	<b>6</b>
SOC 720 Sociological Thought	
SOC 722 Contemporary Sociological Theory	
<b>Statistics Core and Research</b>	<b>15</b>
SOC 601 Data Management and Analysis	
SOC 703 Regression Analysis	
SOC 704 Categorical Data Analysis	
SOC 705 Advanced Research Methods	
SOC 711 Qualitative Methods	
<b>Sociology/Health/Methods Electives</b> <sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>	<b>9-24</b>
<b>Research Hours</b>	
GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity <sup>1</sup>	3
SOC 699 Thesis Research <sup>2</sup>	6
SOC 799 Dissertation Research <sup>3</sup>	12
SOC 798 Non-Dissertation Research <sup>3</sup>	12
or SOC 799 Dissertation Research	
<b>Graduate Proseminar</b>	<b>3</b>
SOC 702 Proseminar: The Profession of Sociology <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>81-96</b>

## Sociology/Health/Methods Electives or Transfer Credit

- Entering with a Bachelor's degree (Track 1) requires 24 hours of Sociology/Health Methods Electives
- Entering with a Master's Degree (Track 2) 15 hours of Sociology/Health/Methods Electives required
- Entering with a Master's degree, thesis required (Track 3): 9 hours Sociology/Health/Methods electives required if not seeking a Master's in Sociology degree; 15 hours Sociology/Health/Methods if seeking a Master's in Sociology degree on the way to PhD
- Sociology/Health/Methods electives: SOC 706, SOC 707, SOC 714, SOC 715, SOC 716, , SOC 718, SOC 724:SOC 778, SOC 781: SOC 794, GRD 776, PY 704, PY 716 (incl. PY 716L), PY 718, PY 719 (incl. PY 719L), PY 727, PY 729, PY 731, PY 737, PY 746, HB 701, HB 703, HB 707, HB 712, HB 715, HB 716, HB 724, HB 730, HB 733, HB 736, HB 737, HB 741, HB 742, HPO 703, HPO 704, HPO 717, HPO 728, HPO 777, HPO 787, HPO 792, PUH 703 (seek approval of other elective courses)  
\*Students may take up to 3 SOC 790-792 independent study courses for credit as electives per agreement with the instructor and approval of the Graduate Program Director.  
\*Students may take up to two online courses towards their degree. Additional Sociology online course may be approved if they are research methods courses.  
\*Students may take up to 2 approved external (non-sociology) electives towards their degree.

## Research Hours

- GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity is required by the UAB Graduate School.
- Master's Thesis Research Hours: 6 hours (may be waived if no master's degree is desired, but two approved courses must be taken instead)
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Hours: 24 hours (12 hours must be SOC 799 and remaining 12 hours hours can be SOC 799, SOC 798, or approved research methods courses)

## Proseminars

The graduate proseminar series (SOC 702) is required of all entering doctoral graduate students for their initial three terms in the graduate program. These classes familiarize new students with departmental policies and procedures, faculty's research, as well as various facets of the profession of sociology. This series should not only help students become situated within the graduate program, but also give them an opportunity to become better acquainted with the faculty and graduate student body and current research in the department. Students should also gain experience with basic professional skills such as identifying appropriate journals, creating a curriculum vitae, identifying one's own research interests, developing basic classroom skills, and addressing ethical issues associated with the profession of sociology.

- Proseminar, SOC 702 - 1 hour, Fall: Research  
 Proseminar, SOC 702 - 1 hour, Spring: Professionalization  
 Proseminar, SOC 702 - 1 hour, Summer: Teaching

## The Master's Thesis

Students pursuing the doctoral degree must follow Plan I (Thesis Plan) of the existing graduate degree program by producing a research-based thesis.

Students pursuing the Medical Sociology doctoral degree in Track 1 or Track 3 must produce a research-based thesis before proceeding to comprehensive exams and dissertation.

This thesis is in the standard form of an American Sociological Association (ASA) journal article with appended materials. Specifically, this journal article thesis will consist of:

1. a journal article manuscript with approximately 10,000 words, including references, in line with ASA journal requirements, plus tables and figures;
2. additional appendices which include necessary research documentation such as human subject review approval forms from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), survey instruments, supplementary tables and figures, and extended methodologies.

The master's thesis process involves:

1. securing a thesis chair (see *Thesis/Dissertation Chair* section) and completing the Thesis/Dissertation Chair Checklist (see Graduate Forms on the Department website);
2. forming the thesis committee;
3. writing a thesis research proposal under the mentorship of the thesis chair and committee;
4. receiving approval from the IRB (see Graduate School requirements);
5. defending the thesis proposal in a closed oral defense;
6. submitting paperwork with the Graduate School;
7. completing research for the thesis and writing the complete thesis under the mentorship of the thesis chair and committee;
8. completing Graduate School paperwork scheduling the defense and following Graduate School protocol to advertise the defense (see Graduate School website);
9. defending the thesis through a public oral defense; and
10. submitting the completed manuscript to the Graduate School following Graduate School guidelines. Current AI policies regarding theses and dissertations from the UAB Graduate School and the Department of Sociology will apply (see Graduate School website and Department website).

In addition to meeting general M.A. degree requirements, before being admitted to candidacy for the M.A. degree, a student in the Ph.D. program in Medical Sociology must have completed the master's level core course in theory (SOC 722) and the core methods courses (including SOC 601 or SOC 703 and SOC 704 and SOC 705 or SOC 711), completed two courses in the medical sociology core, and made a successful oral defense of the thesis proposal.

## Thesis Committee

The thesis committee consists of a minimum of three full-time graduate faculty members, including the thesis chair and one member from outside the Department of Sociology. The Thesis Chair must approve all members of the committee, and committee members must agree to serve on the student's committee. Committee members must have UAB Graduate School faculty status. UAB faculty members external to the Department of Sociology must seek UAB Graduate School faculty status

through their home department. The Thesis Chair must approve all committee members, and committee members must agree to serve.

## Thesis Proposal

Students are strongly encouraged to choose a thesis topic and data in their first year of the program. A document with suggested thesis data is included in the Graduate Forms on the Department website (see Thesis Recommendations). The thesis proposal must include:

1. a clear statement of the research aims and hypotheses;
2. a discussion of the primary theories and previous research informing the study design and hypotheses;
3. a discussion of the significance and innovation of the project;
4. a detailed description of the proposed data, measures, and methods;
5. expected limitations of the study; and
6. projected timeline for each component of the study.

The oral proposal defense includes only the student and the thesis committee members. The student will present for 10-15 minutes, covering each of the major components of other proposal discussed above, then will answer questions from the committee regarding the proposal. After the student leaves the room, the committee will determine whether the student can proceed with the thesis as proposed, whether they need to make changes, or whether they need to repeat the proposal defense with a different proposal because of fundamental concerns regarding the project. The thesis chair will oversee the changes throughout the remainder of the thesis period, with the student also meeting with the additional committee members throughout the process.

## Announcing the Thesis Defense

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their thesis defense's date, time and location is sufficiently advertised to the public. Per Graduate School rules, at least two weeks prior to a defense, a student must submit a form requesting approval of the scheduled date and time.

When the approval form request is received, the time and location of the defense is added to the Graduate School Calendar of Events. Students are responsible for checking the Graduate School's online calendar to ensure that information has been entered. The student must also announce the date and time of a thesis or dissertation defense to the department (faculty and graduate students) via e-mail at least one week prior to the date of the defense.

## Final Thesis

As discussed above, the final thesis is expected to conform to the standard form of an ASA journal article, as well as be formatted according to Graduate School requirements. The thesis is an independent project, but students will work with their thesis chair and committee members to receive guidance as they conduct their thesis research and draft their final thesis. In addition to the thesis proposal components discussed above, the thesis also includes a detailed results section, a discussion, and a conclusion, as well as any appendices with additional study information. Students also must update their introduction, methods, and limitations from what was presented in their proposal. The final thesis defense is a public defense that must be advertised according to Graduate School guidelines. Students will present for 15-20 minutes, covering each of the major components of the thesis discussed above, then will first answer questions from the committee and next answer questions from additional audience members. After the student and non-committee members leave the room, the committee will determine whether the student has passed the thesis defense and what—if any



—edits are required. The student must then follow Graduate School procedures for final formatting and submission of the thesis.

## **Comprehensive Examination Policy**

The comprehensive exam is an in-person written exam that requires the student to answer four out of six questions related to major theoretical, methodological and substantive issues in medical sociology.

## **Timeline for Comprehensive Examination**

All students are required to take a comprehensive examination no later than the 3rd week of the 4th fall semester after being admitted to the Ph.D. program. The exam is expected to be taken near the completion of all substantive coursework. The exam will be offered two times a year.

The third week of the fall and the third week of the spring semesters. Students are expected to notify the Comprehensive Exam Committee of their intent to take the exam at least six months prior to the exam date they select at which time the Comprehensive Exam Committee Chair will confirm the student has the current reading list.

### **1. Fall Exam**

- a. Notify the committee six months in advance (spring term).
- b. Study for the exam in summer.
- c. Take the exam 3rd week of fall term.

### **2. Spring Exam**

- a. Notify the committee six months in advance (summer term).
- b. Study for the exam in fall.
- c. Take the exam 3rd week of spring term.

## **Reading List**

The reading list is based on the major theoretical, methodological, and substantive issues in medical sociology. The comprehensive exam committee will update the reading list on an annual basis and finalize the reading list for the following two administrations by the fourth week of the Spring Semester.

## **Exam Preparation**

Preparation is absolutely critical to passing the exam. All students are expected to take initiative and use the resources provided by the department to prepare for the exam.

## **Scheduling the Exam**

The student is required to schedule the exact date, time, and location of the exam with the Comprehensive Exam Committee four weeks *prior* to the exam. Students must select two four-hour time slots during the exam week, as made available by the Comprehensive Exam Committee.

## **Taking the Exam**

The student will answer four of six questions as an in-person written exam during two four-hour time slots. The student will receive three unique questions in each time slot and is required to answer two of those three questions in each time slot. While taking the exam, students may access any notes and materials (e.g., PDFs of articles, previously written practice questions, reading notes) they bring with them as printed or offline digital files. Access to the internet will be strictly prohibited. While taking the exam, students may not discuss exam content with anyone other than the Comprehensive Exam Committee or Department of Sociology Administrative Staff, or their designates. Current AI policies from the UAB Graduate School and the Department of Sociology will apply (see Graduate School website and Department website).

## **Comprehensive Exam Committee**

The Comprehensive Exam Committee will consist of three faculty members selected by the Department Chair. One faculty member will head the committee (serving as Comprehensive Exam Committee Chair) and ensure questions are distributed and answers are received. The Comprehensive Exam Committee Chair will also notify the Graduate Program Director of the exam outcome. The Graduate Program Director is not a member of the Comprehensive Exam Committee.

## **Exam Grades**

Members of the Comprehensive Exam Committee will assign the exam a grade of:

1. Pass with Honors: The exam received the department's highest distinction. The exam is well-written *and* provides exceptional responses to *all* questions.
2. Pass: The exam received a passing grade. The exam is written clearly and provides adequate responses to questions.
3. Pass with Revision: The exam has some limitations in writing and/or response to the questions. If a student receives a grade of "pass with revision," they have 30 days to *both* meet with the exam committee and address the committee's concerns. If revisions are approved, the exam will receive a grade of Pass. If revisions are rejected, the student will have one and only one opportunity to retake the exam at its next administration. If the student is required to revise more than two individual exam questions, the exam will be graded as a fail.
4. Fail: The exam is inadequate in terms of writing and/or response to the questions. This can occur when the committee determines that more than two individual exam questions require revision. Students who fail the examination but wish to continue in the program must re-take the exam at its next administration. Students who fail the comprehensive exam a second time will be dismissed from the Medical Sociology Graduate Program.

## **The Doctoral Dissertation**

The dissertation process is as follows:

1. securing a dissertation chair (see prior section) and completing the Thesis/Dissertation Chair Checklist (see Graduate Forms on the Department website);
2. forming the dissertation committee;
3. developing a dissertation aims page;
4. having a dissertation committee meeting with all members from within the Department to discuss dissertation aims page;
5. writing a dissertation proposal under the mentorship of the dissertation chair and committee;
6. receiving approval from the IRB (see Graduate School requirements);
7. defending the dissertation proposal in a closed oral defense;
8. submitting paperwork for entering candidacy with the Graduate School;
9. completing research for the dissertation and writing the complete dissertation under the mentorship of the thesis chair and committee;
10. determining a preliminary dissertation defense date and following the Defense Timeline (see below);
11. completing Graduate School paperwork for scheduling the defense and following Graduate School protocol to advertise the defense (see Graduate School website);
12. defending the dissertation through a public oral defense; and

13. submitting the completed manuscript to the Graduate School following Graduate School guidelines. Current AI policies regarding theses and dissertations from the UAB Graduate School and the Department of Sociology will apply (see Graduate School website and Department website).

More on the dissertation committee, dissertation aims page, the dissertation proposal, candidacy, the Defense Timeline, announcing the dissertation defense, and the final dissertation defense is below.

## Dissertation Committee

In consultation with faculty, and near the completion of all substantive coursework, a student forms a dissertation committee consisting of at least five members holding UAB Graduate Faculty Status. The committee includes a minimum of three faculty members (including the Dissertation Chair) in the Department of Sociology and at least one member from a UAB department external to the Department of Sociology. The fifth committee member can be a faculty member from Sociology or another UAB department. All committee members must have UAB Graduate School Faculty Status. UAB faculty members external to the Department of Sociology must seek UAB Graduate School faculty status through their home department. The Dissertation Chair must approve all committee members, and committee members must agree to serve.

## Dissertation Aims Page and Committee Meeting

Prior to writing the dissertation proposal, the student, in consultation with their Dissertation Chair, will develop a two-to-three-page summary of their proposed dissertation aims, major theory and literature informing their proposed dissertation, the significance and innovation of their proposed dissertation, proposed data and methods, and projected timeline. The student will then distribute the aims page to all committee members from the Department of Sociology and schedule a committee meeting with this same group to discuss. Comments from this meeting will then inform the student's development of their full dissertation proposal.

## The Dissertation Proposal

The dissertation proposal must include:

1. a clear statement of the research aims and hypotheses;
2. a discussion of the primary theories and previous research informing the study design and hypotheses;
3. a discussion of the significance and innovation of the project;
4. a detailed description of the proposed data and methods;
5. expected limitations of the study; and
6. projected timeline for each component of the study.

The oral proposal defense includes only the student and the dissertation committee members. The student will present for 10-15 minutes, covering each of the major components of the proposal discussed above, then will answer questions from the committee regarding the proposal. After the student leaves the room, the committee will determine whether the student can proceed with the dissertation as proposed, whether they need to make changes, or whether they need to repeat the proposal defense with a different proposal because of fundamental concerns regarding the project. The dissertation chair will oversee the changes throughout the remainder of the dissertation period, with the student also meeting with the additional committee members throughout the process.

## Candidacy

A student is admitted to candidacy by the UAB Graduate School after successful completion of coursework, passing of comprehensive exams,

and oral defense of the dissertation proposal. Candidacy is granted no earlier than the term in which the required substantive coursework is completed.

## The Defense Timeline

***(Dissertation Defense Timeline Checklist required; see Dept Website)***

Students are expected to be aware of dissertation defense and submission deadlines published by the Graduate School. Keeping these dates in mind,

1. During the semester prior to the semester in which the student plans to defend their dissertation, the student is expected to meet with their dissertation chair to discuss their proposed defense date, as well as an updated timeline for completion of their dissertation. If the dissertation chair approves the preliminary date, the student then consults with the full dissertation committee regarding their availability and secures a preliminary defense date on the calendar. At this time, the student must fill in specific dates on the Dissertation Defense Timeline Checklist (see Department website) and distribute to all committee members and the Graduate Program Director.
2. A minimum of 9 weeks *before* the date of the student's planned dissertation defense, the student is required to submit a complete draft of their dissertation to their dissertation chair for review and feedback. The dissertation chair will review the draft, return any revision or edit instructions, and direct the student whether they must have those revisions or edits approved before continuing to the next step. When the dissertation chair approves the draft as presented, students may continue to step 3.
3. A minimum of 5 weeks *before* the date of the student's planned dissertation defense, the student is required to submit a complete draft of their dissertation to their entire dissertation committee for review and feedback. Members of the dissertation committee will review the draft, return any revision or edits instructions, and inform the student whether they must have those revisions or edits approved before continuing to the next step.
4. After receiving approval for moving forward to the defense stage from all members of the dissertation committee, the student will finalize their scheduled dissertation defense date and alert the Graduate School as required.
5. A minimum of 2 weeks *before* the date of the student's scheduled dissertation defense, the student is required to submit their complete dissertation to their entire dissertation committee.

## Announcing the Dissertation Defense

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their dissertation defense's date, time and location is sufficiently advertised to the public. Per Graduate School rules, at least two weeks prior to a defense, the student must submit a form requesting approval of the scheduled date and time. When the approval form request is received, the time and location of the defense is added to the Graduate School Calendar of Events. Students are responsible for checking the Graduate School's online calendar to ensure that information has been entered. The student must also announce the date and time of a thesis or dissertation defense to the department (faculty and graduate students) via e-mail at least one week prior to the date of the defense.

## The Final Dissertation Defense

The final dissertation defense is a public defense that must be advertised according to Graduate School guidelines. Students will present about

their dissertation project for 15-20 minutes, covering each of the major components of the dissertation, then will first answer questions from the committee and next answer questions from the additional audience members. After the student and non-committee members leave the room, the committee will determine whether the student has passed the dissertation defense and what—if any—edits are required. The student must then follow Graduate School procedures for final formatting and submission of the dissertation.

## Graduate Certificate in Social & Behavioral Statistics

The Graduate Certificate in Social & Behavioral Statistics is available to students currently enrolled in a Graduate Program who have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Requirements	Hours
SOC 707 Statistical Programming for Social Sciences	3
<b>Advanced Statistics Courses <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12</b>
PY 719 Multivariate Statistical Methods or PY 719Lab for Multivariate Statistical Methods	
PY 727 Longitudinal Data Analysis Laboratory or SOC 7(Advanced Longitudinal Data Analysis	
PY 746 Structural Equation Modeling	
SOC 704 Categorical Data Analysis	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other advanced statistics electives may be approved by the Program Director

## Contact

Program Director	Sylvie Mrug, Ph.D.
E-mail	<a href="mailto:smrug@uab.edu">smrug@uab.edu</a>

## Courses

### SOC 503. Regression Analysis. 3 Hours.

Multivariate Statistical Analysis.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 410 [Min Grade: A]

### SOC 601. Data Management and Analysis. 3 Hours.

An introduction to statistical theory and univariate and bivariate statistics.

### SOC 613. Intro to Applied Sociology Research Methods. 3 Hours.

Overview of methodologies used in applied social science research; major emphasis includes components of the research process, problem conceptualization, research design, measurement, sampling, questionnaire development, modes of data collection, and ethical issues in both quantitative and qualitative research.

### SOC 620. Public Sociology. 3 Hours.

Explores the role and potential of sociologists and social research as instruments of social change and policy; examines techniques for communicating with the public about concepts and advances in sociology as well as the importance of doing so.

### SOC 623. Applied Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.

Overview of classical and selected contemporary social theorists with an emphasis on the relevance of their work to applied sociology.

### SOC 626. Applied Sociology. 3 Hours.

An overview of the field of applied sociology with special attention to current trends and issues in the application of social science in both for-profit- and not-for-profit sectors.

### SOC 627. Applied Social Psychology. 3 Hours.

Examination of how social psychological theory and evidence are applied to understanding and addressing social and practical problems on such topics as health, education, criminal justice, community, environment, and diversity.

### SOC 628. Teaching Sociology. 3 Hours.

Development of practical strategies and skills to improve classroom techniques for teaching sociology in a way that awakens the sociological imagination of students.

### SOC 629. Sociology of the South. 3 Hours.

The contemporary American South is a region of fascinating contrasts. This course examines different facets of the Southern experience from a sociological perspective, exploring the social forces that have shaped the region. This course makes extensive use of digital resources and experiential learning as well as conventional texts and reading assignments.

### SOC 637. Practicum in Innovation, Creativity, and Applied Sociology. 3 Hours.

Directed activities that emphasize research is a creative endeavor and allow students to develop innovative ways to apply social sciences to challenges faced by society, business, and government. Prerequisites: SOC 613 [Min Grade: C] or SOC 714 [Min Grade: C] or permission of instructor.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 613 [Min Grade: C] or SOC 713 [Min Grade: C] or SOC 714 [Min Grade: C]

### SOC 645. Sociological Practice. 3 Hours.

Advancing sociologically-informed research and practice, to further public discussion of sociological issues and promote the use of sociology to inform public policy.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 623 [Min Grade: C] or SOC 626 [Min Grade: C]

### SOC 676. Capstone Project. 6 Hours.

A faculty-directed research project, undertaken at the conclusion of the online M.A. in Applied Sociology program that provides an opportunity to synthesize all previous course materials.

### SOC 698. MR Level Non-Thesis Research. 1-12 Hour.

Integration of theory and research methods: synthesis of data into well-written report derived from research activities.

**Prerequisites:** GAC M

### SOC 699. Thesis Research. 1-12 Hour.

Thesis Research.

**Prerequisites:** GAC M

### SOC 702. Proseminar: The Profession of Sociology. 1 Hour.

The culture and organization of sociology; norms and values of the graduate student culture and the profession; the sociological imagination; sociological careers; the practice of sociology; thesis development. Designed to orient the student to the perspective and practice of sociology. Required of all beginning graduate students.

### SOC 703. Regression Analysis. 3 Hours.

Bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis.

**SOC 704. Categorical Data Analysis. 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the most fundamental regression models for binary, ordinal, nominal, and count outcomes with an emphasis on post-estimation strategies.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 703 [Min Grade: C]

**SOC 705. Advanced Research Methods. 3 Hours.**

The logic of social inquiry and overview of different types of quantitative research designs, with emphasis on issues in observational designs. Crafting research proposals.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 703 [Min Grade: C]

**SOC 706. Advanced Longitudinal Data Analysis. 3 Hours.**

Applied approaches to the study of longitudinal change and events using panel data. Topics include fixed effects models, growth curve/mixed models, and event history analysis. Techniques for handling missing data. Proficiency in Stata required.

**Prerequisites:** (SOC 703 [Min Grade: C] or PY 719 [Min Grade: C]) and SOC 704 [Min Grade: C]

**SOC 707. Statistical Programming for Social Sciences. 3 Hours.**

Introduction to statistical programming for quantitative researchers interested in developing a workflow that ensures reproducible results.

**SOC 711. Qualitative Methods. 3 Hours.**

Benefits of a qualitative research approach. Designing a qualitative research project. Ethical issues in qualitative research. Strategies for in-depth interview and ethnographic studies, content analysis, and visual methods. Coding and analyzing qualitative data. Writing and publishing qualitative research.

**SOC 714. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.**

Survey design, sampling, instrumentation, data collection and analysis, and report writing.

**Prerequisites:** SOC 613 [Min Grade: C] or SOC 713 [Min Grade: C]

**SOC 715. Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.**

Topics associated with the use of social sciences to evaluate programs, including appropriate measures of quality; selection of evaluation methodology; accuracy, reliability, and validity of measures.

**SOC 716. Social Stratification. 3 Hours.**

Theories of inequality; race and ethnic inequality, gender inequality, and international inequality.

**SOC 718. Social Capital and Social Networks. 3 Hours.**

Interrelationship between social capital and social networks; how social structure arises from interdependence of actors and then affects individual actors; important research findings; research methods used to study social networks and social capital; and critiques of social capital theory.

**SOC 720. Sociological Thought. 3 Hours.**

An examination of sociological theory from its philosophical roots to post-modern theories of self and society.

**SOC 722. Contemporary Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.**

Review of late 20th century and 21st century sociological theories and issues.

**SOC 724. Body and Health. 3 Hours.**

Seminar focused on examining how the body is socially constructed and understood within medical sociology.

**SOC 729. Consumer Culture. 3 Hours.**

An exploration of theoretical understandings of consumer culture from Georg Simmel to Jean Baudrillard and their application to consumer research.

**SOC 730. Sociology of Education. 3 Hours.**

Survey of sociological insights into - and influences upon - education, including topics such as social historical development of education; theories on how education reproduces or changes one's social status; evidence of inequality in educational outcomes; debates on contemporary education policy; and effects of education over the life course.

**SOC 731. Health Disparities among Children and Adolescents. 3 Hours.**

Seminar focusing on socioeconomic and race/ethnic differentials in the health and well-being of infants, children, and adolescents, as well as the policies and programs aimed at improving children's health and reducing disparities. This class will draw on the scholarly literature in the interrelated fields of demography, public health, health policy, and sociology.

**SOC 734. Global Health. 3 Hours.**

Sociological perspectives on global health issues; global health disparities.

**SOC 740. Deviant Behavior. 3 Hours.**

Contemporary sociopsychological theories of deviant behavior; recent empirical findings.

**SOC 743. Religion and Health. 3 Hours.**

The effects of religion, faith, spirituality and religious life on mental and physical health.

**SOC 755. Race/Ethnicity and Health. 3 Hours.**

Seminar focusing on social and behavioral aspects of physical and mental health that center on the intersection of race-ethnicity and other social determinants of health in the United States.

**SOC 756. Gender and Health. 3 Hours.**

Review of changes in gender research over time. Theories of gender from earlier work on essentialism and gender stratification, to the social construction of genders, gender identity and queer theory. Research on gender and health.

**SOC 759. Aging and the Life Course. 3 Hours.**

The study of aging and older adulthood, life expectancy and health, inequalities in aging, caregiving, and how early life experiences affect later life outcomes.

**SOC 760. Sociology of Death and Dying. 3 Hours.**

Sociological, social psychological and existential perspectives on death and dying; recent trends in definition, distribution, and practices surrounding death and dying.

**SOC 761. Sociology and Neuroscience. 3 Hours.**

Sociological perspectives on neurosciences; neuroscience as culture; social neuroscience: brain, mind, and society.

**SOC 770. Techniques of Population Analysis. 3 Hours.**

Composition of population; constructing life tables; population estimation and projection; migration.

**SOC 772. Medical Demography. 3 Hours.**

Quantitative assessment of health status of populations in clinical, epidemiological, and sociological studies; interrelationships of health with population structure and dynamics. Modeling preventive health strategies.

**SOC 775. Place and Health. 3 Hours.**

Spatial patterns of health across urban and rural places and their effects on behavior and social structure.



**SOC 777. Demography of Health and Aging. 3 Hours.**

Focus on demographic processes, such as mortality, morbidity, migration, and fertility; how each influences number and proportion of older adults; how such processes shape age/sex structure; other demographic characteristics of older people.

**SOC 778. Demography. 3 Hours.**

Effect of population processes such as birth, death, migration, and marriage on growth, decline, composition, and distribution of population.

**SOC 780. Medical Sociology. 3 Hours.**

Contemporary research in medical sociology; systematic overview of relevant literature.

**SOC 781. Sociology of Health and Illness. 3 Hours.**

Focuses on theories, research methods, and empirical examples in the sociological study of health and illness.

**SOC 783. Health Care Delivery Systems. 3 Hours.**

Sociological study of the ways that healthcare is organized and delivered in the U.S. and around the world.

**SOC 785. Family and Health. 3 Hours.**

How families and family processes affect health outcomes. Family theories are introduced and applied to current family and health research. Examination of families and inequality.

**SOC 786. Health Disparities. 3 Hours.**

Prevalence, causes, and consequences of health and mental health problems for special populations, such as homeless, poor, African-Americans, and others; service delivery systems.

**SOC 787. Sociology of Mental Health. 3 Hours.**

Foundational review of the theoretical, methodological, and substantive issues that shape research in the sociology of mental health. Biomedical, psychological, and sociological perspectives on mental health are examined from a critical lens.

**SOC 788. Sociology in Medicine. 3 Hours.**

Application of sociological theory and methods in medicine and other health fields. Critical review of current medical and public health research that engages sociological perspectives and methods.

**SOC 789. Patient Care Relations/Ethics. 3 Hours.**

Issues shaping content and quality of patient care; special significance of practitioner-patient-family triad; broad sociocultural and political economic forces affecting medical practice, and creating moral dilemmas.

**SOC 791. Seminar in Substantive Sociological Areas. 1-3 Hour.****SOC 792. Seminar in Substantive Sociological Areas. 1-3 Hour.****SOC 793. Seminar in Substantive Sociological Areas. 1-3 Hour.****SOC 794. Special Topics. 3 Hours.**

Special Topics.

**SOC 798. Non-Dissertation Research. 1-12 Hour.****SOC 799. Dissertation Research. 1-12 Hour.**

Research for Graduate Student.

**Prerequisites:** GAC Z