

Sociology (M.A.)

About The Program:

The graduate program in Sociology is devoted to the training of research scholars and educators in the discipline. Students have a variety of career goals, ranging from academic research and teaching to research and administration in private or public agencies. The master's program provides advanced training in sociological theory, statistics, and research methods. The program's main areas of graduate teaching and research are Gender and Sexuality, Immigration and Globalization, Medical Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, and Urban Sociology.

Career Options: Graduates of the M.A. program are typically employed as applied researchers and administrators in private and public agencies.

Affiliation(s): The program is affiliated with the American Sociological Association (ASA).

Areas of Specialization: The main areas of graduate teaching and research are:

- Gender and Sexuality
- Immigration and Globalization
- Medical Sociology
- Race and Ethnicity
- Urban Sociology

Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 30
- **Culminating Events:** This program has no culminating events beyond successful completion of coursework. The master's degree in Sociology is awarded to any candidate who earns a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the master's degree curriculum. Apply for graduation in Self Service Banner by accessing TUportal. Note the deadline for submitting the graduation application on the Graduate School's calendar, found at <http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/academic-calendar/>.

Social Theory Course

Select one course:

Classical Social Theory – This course reviews the main lines of sociological and other "social" thought of the modern times (roughly from the 1660s to our time), paying attention to four basic directions in theorizing: (1) The liberal and "classical economic" theories of John Locke and Adam Smith and the rise

of neo-classical (neo-liberal) thinking [rational choice theory and its variations]. (2) The liberal-idealist theory of German philosophy (since Kant) and the "interpretative" and "subjectivist" paradigm of Max Weber [and various neo- and nearly-Weberians. (3) The "social-structural" ("dialectical" in the old language) theory of Karl Marx and its many offshoots [neo-Marxisms, half-Marxisms (such as "Critical Theory," etc.), post-Marxisms]. (4) The "collectivist" (sociologistic) theory of Emile Durkheim and its contemporary versions ["structuralist" (Blau), "culturalist" and "functionalist" (Parsons), "systems" (Luhmann), or "neo-functionalism" (Faia, Alexander)].

Contemporary Sociological Theory – This course surveys a broad range of theoretical perspectives from the 20th and 21st centuries. The course compares these theories in terms of how they contribute to on-going sociological research around a number of social problems.

Methods of Inquiry Courses

Logic of Inquiry – This course is an introduction to the logic and methods of social research. We will examine the issues that arise in doing and evaluating both quantitative and qualitative research by reading the sociological literature. We will spend some time on the simple tools, e.g. tables and graphs, needed to summarize research results. However the focus will be on larger issues, namely, how researchers draw conclusions from empirical data, and how we can assess the validity of the conclusions they reach.

Inferential and Multivariate Statistics – This course starts with a review of bivariate statistics and moves quickly into multivariate statistics focusing on multiple regression. The emphasis of this course is on conceptual understanding, interpretation, and application. All major computations are performed using the SPSS computing program. Students are also expected to learn the basic skills for working with large social science data sets, such as the GSS. This course serves as a prerequisite for SOC 9211, which involves the application of the statistical procedures taught in this class to the study of real social issues through secondary data analysis.

Qualitative Methods – This course introduces the assumptions, theories and practices of qualitative research methods. The course is designed to provide opportunities for developing specific qualitative research skills while gaining familiarity with theories, issues, and problems in qualitative research.

Graduate Data Analysis – In this course, you will do original sociological research using secondary data analysis. In this course, in addition to looking for meaningful relationships between variables in the data, we apply quantitative research methods to examine explanations for why relationships between variables may exist. To do this, we explore whether and how a relationship between two variables changes when we add a third (or fourth or fifth...) variable. The research process consists of several steps: (1) construct a research question, (2) formulate one or more theories related to your research question based on a literature review, (3) turn those theories into testable hypotheses, and (4) test those hypotheses using secondary data. Your research will be presented in a final paper organized according to the standards of the discipline and then summarized in an oral presentation.

Qualitative Data Analysis – The central goal of this course is to have students complete a qualitative research project. It focuses on how to collect data, how to organize data for analysis, and how to use the data to answer a research question and/or develop concepts that might inform future research. Toward

this end, the course begins with readings about the qualitative research process. The readings detail the agenda(s), logic, and epistemological foundation of qualitative research.

Electives (12 credits)

Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Statistical Methods in Sociology
- Socialization
- Sexuality and Gender
- Urban Sociology
- Political Sociology
- Sociology of the Environment
- Social Movements & Social Conflict
- Health and Disease in American Society
- Class in Modern Society
- Selected Topics in Sociology
- Logic of Inquiry
- Classical Social Theory
- Inferential and Multivariate Statistics
- Qualitative Methods
- Demography & Immigration
- The Ethics of Social Research
- Sociology of Education
- Political Sociology
- Race and Ethnicity
- Sociology of Kinship
- Complex Organizations
- Urban Sociology
- Sociology of Culture
- Social Inequality
- Medical Sociology
- Sexuality and Gender
- Gender and Body
- Urban Health
- Globalization and Development
- Special Departmental Seminar
- Departmental Seminar
- Symposium in Sociology
- Teaching of Sociology
- Introduction to Computing
- Contemporary Sociological Theory
- Advanced Sociological Theory
- Theories of Identity
- Theories of Globalization
- Graduate Data Analysis
- Theory and Practice of Statistical Sampling
- Methodology of Social Surveys
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Departmental Seminar in Research Methods
- Immigration and Inequality
- Theories of Race and Racism
- Independent Study Progm
- Internship in Social Research