



UW-MADISON DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

PH.D DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total credits required: 51 (these include the 30 credits required for the Master's degree; they also include the credits a student enrolls in while a dissertator)

Required courses for all students:

- Soc 361: Statistics for Sociologists II
- Soc 362: Statistics for Sociologists III
- Soc 750: Research Methods in Sociology
- Soc 773: Intermediate Classical Theory
- Four seminars in Sociology taught by Sociology or Community & Environmental Soc faculty (These courses may or may not be labeled "Seminar," but they're typically numbered between 900 and 979; training research courses—i.e., those numbered between 980 and 995—don't count toward the seminar requirement. Seminar courses in which a student earns an S [satisfactory] rather than a letter grade count toward the 51 required credits but do not fulfill the seminar requirement.)

Additional courses required for students affiliated with the Center for Demography & Ecology:

- Soc 674: Elementary Demographic Techniques
- Soc 756: Advanced Demographic Techniques
- Soc 971: Seminar in Population & Society I (offered in Fall)
- Soc 971: Seminar in Population & Society II (offered in Spring)

Each semester, throughout the graduate program, CDE students also enroll in:

- Soc 995: Demography Training Seminar
- Soc 997: Demography Research Seminar

During the summer, CDE students with 12-month appointments as RAs or Trainees must enroll in either Soc 997 for two credits (if they're not yet dissertators) or Soc 990 for one credit and Soc 997 for two credits (if they have dissertator status).

Minor requirement:

- Option A, external: a minimum of nine graduate credits in one department or program (either single disciplinary or multi-disciplinary) outside of both Sociology and C&E Sociology.
- Option B, distributed: a minimum of nine graduate credits in two or more departments outside of both Sociology and C&E Sociology. The courses must be thematically unified and thus form a coherent topic. The nine credits for the Option B Minor may include one (but

no more than one) course cross-listed with Sociology or C&E Sociology, but no courses may be taught by either Sociology or C&E Sociology professors.

Preliminary Examinations: These consist of two written exams and one brief oral exam. Written exams are offered twice each year—in August, before the start of the Fall semester, and in January, before the start of the Spring semester. The oral exam takes place after a student has passed both written exams, at any time that the student and his/her advisor agree upon.

Written exam: Typically, each written exam consists of a three-hour session in the morning and another three-hour session in the afternoon. (Students whose native language is not English and students with a documented learning disability may have additional time, however.) Some exceptions exist, however: prelims in AgroFood Systems, Demography & Ecology, Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Gender, and Sociology of Organizations & Occupations are take-home exams; the prelim in Sociology of Culture consists of a paper, a field statement, and a one-hour oral.

Two options exist for completing the written preliminary examination requirement.

Option 1, two written exams: Students must pass one exam in a Group I area and a second exam in a field from either Group I or Group II.

Option 2, one written exam and one paper-option exam: Students must pass one written exam in a Group I area and write two papers (usually one paper demonstrating breadth—e.g., a literature review—and one demonstrating depth—e.g., an analysis of an issue) focusing on one of the areas in Group II.

Group I Exams

- Comparative-Historical Sociology
- Demography & Ecology
- Economic Change & Development
- Economic Sociology
- Gender
- Organizational & Occupational Analysis
- Political Sociology
- Race & Ethnic Studies
- Social Psychology & Micro-Sociology
- Social Stratification

Group II Exams

- AgroFood Systems
- Class Analysis & Historical Change
- Communities & Urban Sociology
- Crime, Deviance, & Social Control
- Culture
- Education
- Environmental Sociology
- Ethnography
- Ethnomethodology & Conversation Analysis
- Family
- General Social Theory
- Law & Society
- Medical Sociology
- Methods & Statistics

- Religion
- Science & Technology

Oral exam: This “exam” is actually a brief, informal conversation the student has with his/her advisor, focusing on plans for the dissertation. Once the oral exam has taken place, the student has completed all requirements for the Ph.D. but the dissertation. He/she then submits a “Petition to Become a Dissertator” form, after which the Graduate School confers dissertator (or ABD) status.

Prelim time limit: Students must pass prelims before the end of their eighth semester in residence at the University.

Dissertation Proposal: A proposal for original research specifying the nature of a problem, topic, or hypothesis to be investigated; the type and sources of information to be gathered; the methods for gathering it; and the significance of the proposed research. The student defends the proposal at a hearing—a meeting attended by the student, his or her advisor, and two other Sociology and/or Community & Environmental Sociology faculty members who have agreed to serve as a dissertation advisory committee.

Dissertation: an independent investigation that results in a book-length document involving original research and creative scholarship.

Final Oral Examination: This exam involves a defense of the dissertation and may also cover the general field of both the major and minor studies.

Dissertation time limit: Students must complete the dissertation, pass the final oral exam, and deposit the dissertation within five years of becoming a dissertator.