



Departments of Sociology and Community & Environmental Sociology

Master of Science Degree Requirements

The MS degree requires a minimum of 30 credits of graduate work in Sociology and/or Community & Environmental Sociology.

- These 30 credits must include the four required courses listed below plus at least 9 credits from courses and seminars restricted to graduate students (typically these courses are numbered 700-984), and
- The 30 credits may include no more than 9 credits numbered 985 and above (i.e., brown bags, independent reading courses, and thesis credits).

Required courses for all students:

- Soc 700: Introductory Proseminar for Graduate Students
- Soc 361: Statistics for Sociologists II (also required for the Ph.D.)
- One graduate-level methods course from the following list:
 - Soc 735: Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis
 - Soc 750: Research Methods in Sociology (also required for the Ph.D.)
 - Soc 751: Survey Methods for Social Research
 - Soc 753: Comparative and Historical Methods in Sociology
 - Soc 754: Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology
 - Soc 756: Advanced Demographic Methods
- Soc 773: Intermediate Classical Theory (also required for the Ph.D.)

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 Soc 997 for two credits.

Thesis: This document is generally comparable in size and scope to a journal article (i.e., it's usually between 35 and 75 pages long, and its content and style are similar to those of articles published in sociological journals). A solid Master's thesis poses a problem or question, locates it within past empirical and theoretical scholarship, provides data or evidence relevant to the problem or question, and discusses the significance of the data for the research question and the larger literature within which it is embedded.

Comprehensive oral examination: The oral exam typically lasts for approximately two hours. Questions may cover general sociology, graduate work to date, and the thesis.

Time limit: Students have six semesters plus a summer to complete requirements for the Master's degree.