

Summary of Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree Effective Fall 2021

Total credits required: 51 (these include the 30 credits in Sociology required for the Master of Science degree; they also include the credits that students enroll in while a dissertator)

Required courses for all students:

- Soc 700: Introductory Proseminar for Graduate Students
- Soc 361: Statistics for Sociologists II
- Soc 362: Statistics for Sociologists III
- Soc 750: Research Methods in Sociology
- Soc 754: Qualitative 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; working group 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 or the Center for Demography of Health & Aging:

- Soc 674: Demographic Techniques I
- Soc 756: Demographic Techniques II

The four seminars in Sociology or Community & Environmental Sociology required of all doctoral students must include:

- 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/CDHA students also enroll in:

- Soc 995: Research: Methodology Trainees
- Soc 997: Research: Demography & Ecology Trainees

During the summer, CDE/CDHA students with 12-month appointments as Fellows, RAs, or Trainees 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.

- Option C, certificate: completion of a Graduate/Professional certificate in a program outside of Sociology and C&E Sociology. Certificate programs coordinate teaching and research among scholars active in interrelated disciplines, and they typically require 9-12 credits.

Preliminary Examinations: These consist of two written exams and one brief oral exam. Written exams are offered twice each year—in late July or early August, before the start of the Fall semester, and in January, before the start of the Spring semester. Oral exams are scheduled on an *ad hoc* basis by students and their advisors at a mutually convenient time.

Written exam: Some exams take place on campus in the course of a day; they consist 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 granted accommodations from the McBurney Disability Resource Center are allowed additional time.) Others, however, are take-home exams written over a period of three days. (Students with care-giving responsibilities are allowed a fourth day.) Exams in Group II may, with permission from faculty in the subarea, take the form of two papers.

Two options exist for completing the written preliminary examination requirement.

Option 1, two written exams: Students must pass one exam in a Group I subfield and a second exam in a subfield 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 subfield 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 subfields 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

- Agri-Food 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
- Science & Technology

Oral exam: This “exam” is actually a brief, informal conversation that students have with their advisor, focusing on plans for the dissertation. Once the oral exam has taken place, students have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. but the dissertation. They then submit a “Petition to Become a Dissertator” form, after which the Graduate School confers dissertator (or ABD) status.

Prelim time limit: Students must pass both written prelims by the end of the summer after 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. Students defend the proposal at a hearing—a meeting attended by the student, the 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.