

Master of Arts in Sociology

The Department of Sociology at Wichita State University offers courses of study leading to the Master of Arts (MA) degree with options for thesis and nonthesis programs.

The master's degree program offers a strong foundation in sociological theory, research methods, and statistics as well as specialty area courses. Research methods courses provide exposure to quantitative and qualitative approaches as well as advanced statistics. Computer applications are also available. The program is designed so that the MA can be used for employment or to pursue the PhD degree.

Students have the opportunity to personalize their program through close, professional contact with the faculty. Course offerings are flexible enough to allow students to achieve their own employment and educational goals.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships are available on a competitive basis and provide students the opportunity to learn teaching skills and to practice these in a class room context. Some advanced students are given the opportunity to independently teach an introductory sociology class.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School requirements for admission, the Department of Sociology requires:

- 1) A grade point average of at least 3.0 based on the last 60 hours of coursework;
- 2) One college algebra course and at least 15 hours in sociology including an introductory sociology course, one descriptive and inferential statistics course, two research methods courses, and one theory course (similar courses in other fields of study may be substituted at the discretion of the graduate coordinator);
- 3) Three letters of reference from professors who are familiar with the student's undergraduate course work; and

- 4) A typed, double-spaced statement of purpose (approximately 500 words) articulating the student's area of research interests and academic/career goals.

Students apply for admission by sending the application form and application fee directly to the Graduate School. Official transcripts should be sent to the Graduate School from each institution attended. Letters of recommendation and statement of purpose should be sent directly to the Department of Sociology. The application deadline for Fall consideration is March 1.

Financial Aid Opportunities

Graduate Teaching Assistantships are awarded competitively each semester. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) work with a faculty member assisting in the research and teaching process. Tuition reduction is based on the number of hours worked per week.

Students who wish to apply for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship should request an application packet from the Department of Sociology and return the materials directly to the department.

Loans are typically available if you qualify through either the National Direct Student Loan or Guaranteed Student Loan programs. The University also participates in the federally supported college work-study programs. Check with the Office of Financial Aid, (316) 978-3430 or (316) 978-3878, for more information.

Employment opportunities are available on campus and in the Wichita community, both on a part-time and full-time basis.

Some graduate students who desire to build relevant experience and job-related skills enroll in Cooperative Education in Sociology and receive pay for this part-time work while earning credit toward the MA degree.

Degree Requirements

Students pursuing the MA degree in sociology may follow either a thesis or a nonthesis program.

Thesis Program. Students in the thesis program must take a total of 32 hours, including SOC 860, Proseminar – Teaching Sociology; SOC 801, Application of Advanced Statistical Techniques; SOC 812, Advanced Research Methods; SOC 845, Seminar in Sociology Theory; and two 800-level graduate seminars; 3 hours of SOC 875, Thesis; and 3 hours of SOC 876, Thesis. A maximum of 6 thesis hours can be counted toward program requirements. Sixty percent of the 32 hours must be 700 level or above.

Nonthesis Program. Students in the nonthesis program must take a total of 36 hours, including SOC 860, Proseminar-Teaching Sociology; SOC 812, Advanced Research Methods; SOC 845, Seminar in Sociological Theory; and two 800-level graduate seminars as well as two semesters of SOC 851, Directed Project. Sixty percent of the 34 hours must be at the 700 level or above.

Examinations

Students electing the thesis program in sociology must pass an oral defense of the thesis. The maximum number of attempts is two. If a student does not pass the oral defense on the first attempt, he or she may choose to switch to the non-thesis program or to make a second attempt at the oral defense. A student who does not pass the second attempt will be terminated from the program without a degree.

Faculty

Jodie Hertzog (PhD, Purdue University).
Department Chair. Family, sexuality, gender, intimate violence, work-family interface

Twyla J. Hill (PhD, University of California-Irvine). Graduate Coordinator. Sociology of aging, sociology of families, sociology of law, research methods

Makiko Hori (PhD, Louisiana State University).
Social inequality, health, quantitative methods, social demography

Charles S. Koeber (PhD, State University of New York-Binghamton). Job loss, work, labor process, labor markets, stratification/inequality, consumption

Ron Matson (PhD, University of Colorado).
Gender, American male, intimacy, parenting

Jennifer Pearson (PhD, University of Texas at Austin). Gender, sexuality, education, adolescence

Kathleen O'Flaherty Perez (PhD, Purdue University). Undergraduate Program Coordinator. Research Methods, family, urban, demography

Lisa Thrane (PhD, Iowa State University).
Deviance, mental health, social inequality, digital citizenship, research methods

David W. Wright (PhD, Purdue University).
Stratification and class analysis, Marxism, industrial sociology, gender analysis, theory, statistics

For More Information

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Apply On-Line

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=apply&p=/OnlineApplicationGateway>