



Graduate Handbook  
 Sociology MA Program  
 2019-2020

## Sociology Master's Program

The Master of Arts degree in Sociology prepares students for advanced graduate studies in the social sciences and for professional careers in a variety of settings including federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, community service groups, market research firms, and social service organizations.

Coursework incorporates classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives, analysis of cutting-edge empirical research, and training in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Students can take coursework and specialize in the following areas: community development, social inequality, social psychology, health, housing, environment, comparative sociology, sociology of family, sociology of religion, and social movements.

### Program Requirements

The core courses for the Master's program consist of nine hours in theory, research methodology, and statistics. To satisfy the theory requirement, students must take SOCI 6305 or another 6000-level theory course approved by the department's director of graduate studies. To satisfy the research methodology requirement, students must take SOCI 6013. To satisfy the statistics requirement, students must take SOCI 6003 or another graduate level statistics course approved by the department's director of graduate studies. Students who have not taken an undergraduate theory course in sociology must enroll in SOCI 5053 prior to enrolling in SOCI 6003

Students accepted into the program may choose either Plan I (Thesis) or Plan II (Applied Track). Under both plans, students must complete 21 hours of elective course work beyond the core requirements.

- Under Plan I students must also take three hours of Thesis Preparation (SOCI 6882), and three hours of thesis work (SOCI 6999). A thesis is required under Plan I.
- Under Plan II students must register for 3 credit hours of additional research methods coursework and 3 credit hours of Internship (SOCI 6286). Courses that will satisfy the methods requirement include: SOCI 6660, SOCI 6613, and SOCI 6275. Graduate research methods courses in other departments can be taken to fulfill this requirement with approval from the graduate advisor. Students opting for the Applied Track must constitute a three-member committee to approve and oversee the completion of a major initiative associated with their internship.

Under either plan, students must complete a minimum of 36 hours, one-half of which must be at the 6000-level. A total of six hours may be selected from courses outside the Master's program in Sociology.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Plan I</b>	<b>Plan II</b>
Core Courses	9 hours	9 hours
Elective Courses	21 hours	21 hours
Thesis Preparation	3 hours	N/A
Thesis	3 hours	N/A
Internship	N/A	3 hours
Additional Research Methods	N/A	3 hours
Total Hours	36 hours	36 hours
Final Project	Thesis	Internship Project

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this degree program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a master of communicating in writing how sociology contributes to an understanding of social reality/
- Demonstrate a mastery of sociological theories.
- Demonstrate a mastery of methodological approaches within sociology.
- Demonstrate a master of the diversity in society.

## Sociology Graduate Courses and Descriptions

**SOCI 6003 – Advanced Statistics for Sociology:** Prerequisite: SOCI 4003 or SOCI 5003 Pre-Requisite: either SOCI 4003, SOCI 5003, or an equivalent undergraduate statistics course. Graduate-level statistics course, covering hypothesis testing, measures of association, and linear and logistic regression.

**SOCI 6013 – Social Research:** Social research examines the process of sociological research, with a specific focus upon designing and conducting quantitative research and writing empirical research reports. Students will learn how to evaluate quantitative research published in academic journals, and spend some time discussing the procedural stages for completing a thesis or a position paper.

**SOCI 6015 – Managing Data:** This course teaches students to build and manage databases using SPSS. An emphasis is placed on working with large national data sets that are available through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research database. Advanced data analysis techniques will also be examined.

**SOCI 6182 – Special Seminars:** Title and description of the instruction to be offered will be specified on a variable credit form. The variable credit form must be completed before a student will be allowed to register for this course. Transcript entries carry different

nomenclature to correspond with material taught. May be repeated on different content at least two times for credit.

**SOCI 6201 – Group Dynamics:** This course will combine the theories of group dynamics with interactive classroom exercises to build skills in group leadership and participation. Students will assess their own personal interaction style, examine how their individual styles manifest in a group situation to produce predictable patterns of interaction, learn more effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills, learn more effective problem-solving and conflict management techniques, learn basic group leadership skills, and learn ways to create and maintain effective work groups.

**SOCI 6222 – Conflict Resolution:** This course covers a broad range of activities aimed at resolving differences in effective, but non-violent ways. This class will include coverage of negotiation, mediation, and arbitration as ways of developing peaceful agreements. Special emphasis will be given to conflict resolution issues of the criminal justice system such as hostage negotiations.

**SOCI 6255 – Delinquency, Family, and the Community:** This course will examine juvenile crime within a larger social context, exploring the positive and negative contributions of the individual, the family, peer, schools, and the larger community. Intervention strategies will be assessed, and a model will be presented for a community action that can reduce/prevent juvenile crime.

**SOCI 6266 – Perspectives on Violence:** This course looks at the problem of violence from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is designed to allow the student to become familiar with the social, psychological, biological, and public policy issues that surround this social problem. Particular attention will be paid to issues of domestic violence, gangs, and suicide.

**SOCI 6275 – Planning and Evaluation:** This course provides the application of social research methods to determine program/policy effectiveness. Students will learn skills in process and outcome evaluation, and how to utilize evaluation findings for future planning.

**SOCI 6280 – Seminar in Social Justice:** This course offers an opportunity to explore a number of areas, which may be defined within the broad heading of justice. It takes a realistic and critical look at the legal, social, psychological, and political effects the 'justice system' on people and their cities. Students will be asked to analyze these effects from the perspective of what is 'just' or 'unjust' - and what we can do about it.

**SOCI 6286 – Internship:** Students will be placed in an agency compatible with their area of concentration to gain applied experience prior to graduation.

**SOCI 6305 – Advanced Sociological Theory:** Highlights theory as applied practice. Selected aspects of postmodernist, Frankfurt School critical theory, critical and conflict sociology, and feminist theories are used to analyze and critique selected contemporary issues (e.g., identity,

body, media, ethics, aging, law, gender, art, etc) as well as selected issues within the discipline of sociology itself.

**SOCI 6363 – Sociology of the Family:** This course will concentrate upon the theories and critically analyze the research that is of interest to scholars in the area of family studies. Contemporary issues facing the American family will be explored.

**SOCI 6400 – Body and Society:** Analyzes the emerging centrality of the body and embodied experience in contemporary sociology. Focuses on the practices which produce the varying social significances of the body, the processes of control and regulation, and the ways these are embodied, reproduced, and resisted. Possible topics include emotion, health, childhood, aging, diet, punishment, gender and sexuality, desire and eroticism, consumption, media, art, cultural politics, race and ethnicity, class, education, leisure, technology, ethics and law, and others.

**SOCI 6613 – Qualitative Research:** An in-depth exploration of the logic, approaches, techniques, and issues in qualitative sociological research. Qualitative program evaluation and activist research are considered along with basic research.

**SOCI 6623 – Inequality in Society:** An examination of inequality within the American society. A focus will be placed upon classical and contemporary social theories and the various dimensions and consequences of stratification.

**SOCI 6660 – Institutional Ethnography:** Examination of institutional ethnography, a way of exploring the particular and generalized social relations that shape people's everyday experiences.

**SOCI 6700 – Social Movements, Protest, and Change:** The history of social change from the classical perspective to contemporary theories. Collective behavior and social movement theory will be explored. Attention will be given to who participates in movements, movement strategies and tactics, and movement outcomes. Several movements from American History will be explored including the civil rights movement, the women's movement, the worker's movement, the gay and lesbian movement, and the environmental movement.

**SOCI 6803 – Seminar in Social Psychology:** To explore the sociological relevance of selected areas within social psychology such as group dynamics, leadership, collective behavior and symbolic interaction.

**SOCI 6882 – Thesis Preparation:** Directed individual guidance in the steps leading to the completion of a thesis research proposal and the beginning of thesis research. Areas covered may include selection of a topic, literature review, formation of research questions, selecting research methods, protection of human subjects.

**SOCI 6999 – Thesis:** Thesis. May be repeated for credit.

## Taking Courses outside the Sociology Department

Students can take up to 2 courses (6 credit hours) outside the Sociology Department; all courses taken outside the department need to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. When thinking about taking courses outside the department, you should consider program requirements (such as taking an additional methods course), skills you are interested in developing, and your career goals.

## Advising

Graduate students in the Sociology MA program will be advised by the Director of Graduate Studies on issues related to course selection, course registration, progress through the degree, and graduation. Graduate students in Sociology do not use the Advising Center.

## Grades

In the majority of graduate courses in Sociology, students earn grades of A, B, C, or F. Certain courses are graded S/U where S indicates Satisfactory and U indicates Unsatisfactory.

Students will be dismissed from the MA in Sociology program if they earn two Cs or one F in any coursework.

## Applying for Graduation

Students are responsible for applying for graduation in the semester before they plan to graduate:

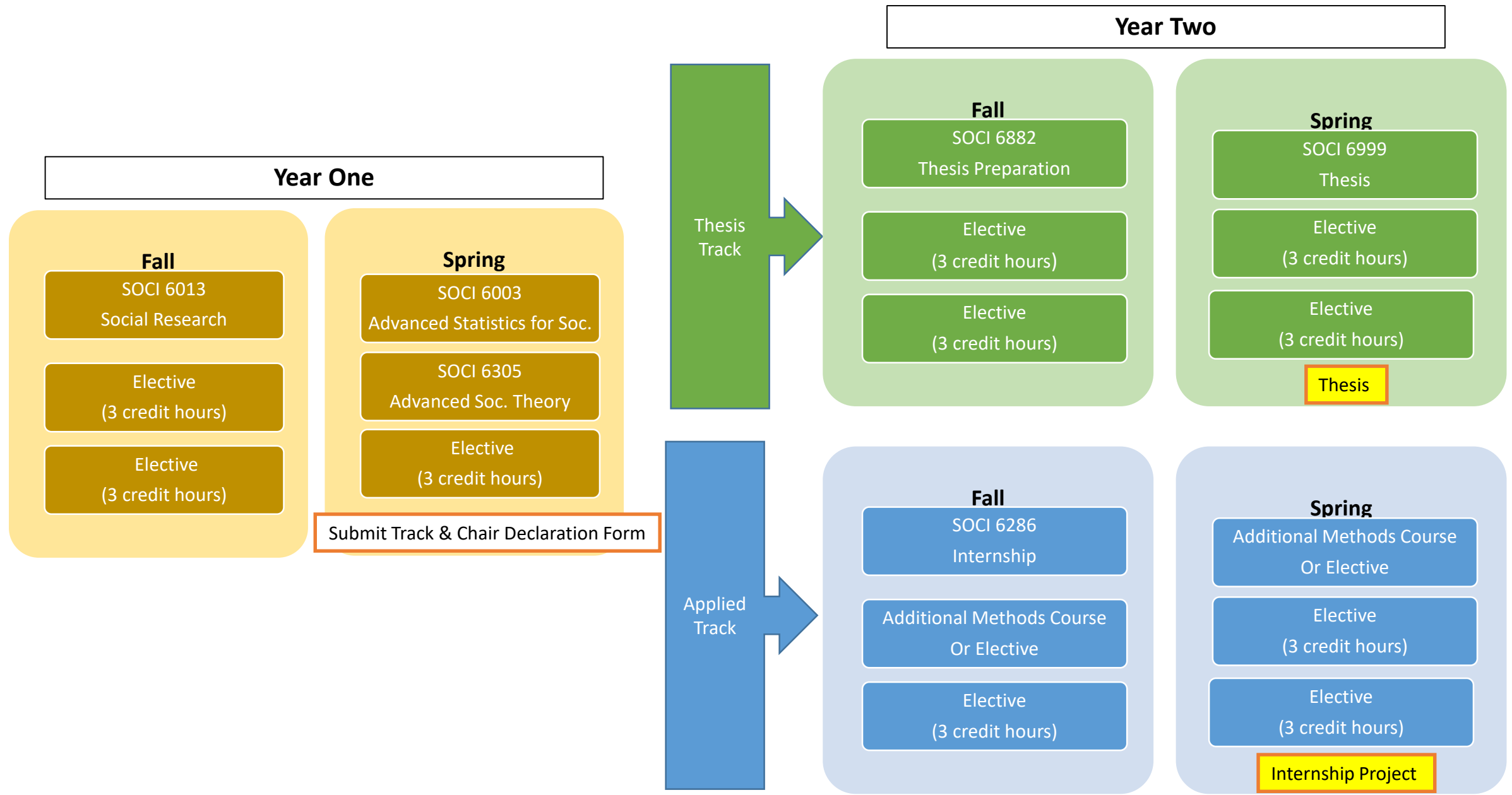
- Spring Graduation – Apply by October 1
- Summer Graduation – Apply by March 1
- Fall Graduation – Apply by August 1

Graduation applications can be found on BanWeb ([myuwg.westga.edu](http://myuwg.westga.edu)).

A complete list of policies applicable to graduate students can be found in the [UWG Graduate Catalog](#).

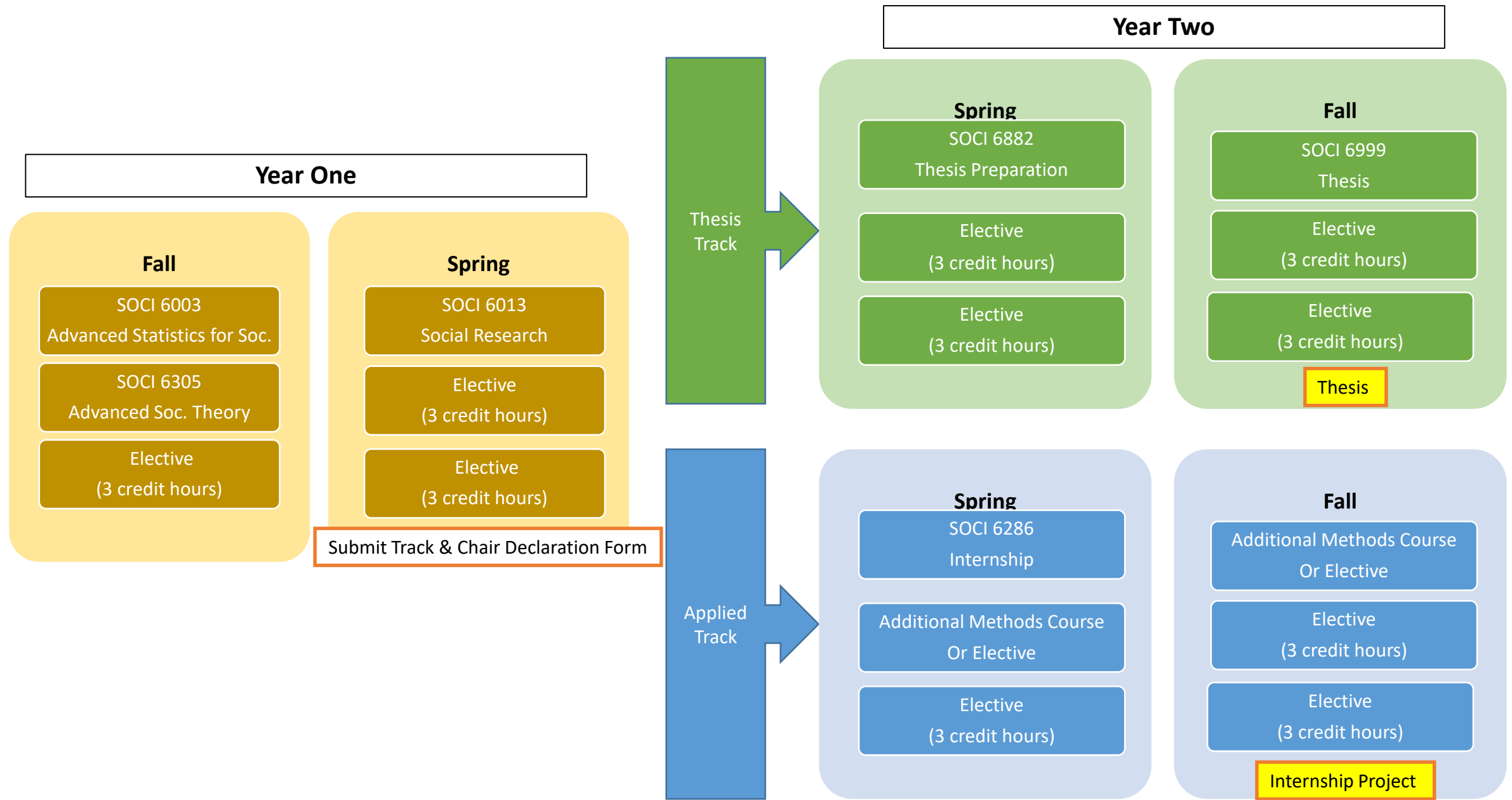


# Master of Arts In Sociology Ideal Map for Fall Cohort





# Master of Arts In Sociology Ideal Map for Spring Cohort





## Additional Guidelines for Proceeding through the MA Program

### First Semester

- Think about what topics within sociology you are most interested in (ie, Family, Inequality, Urban Sociology, etc).
- Think about if you are more interested in doing the Thesis or the Applied track.

### Second Semester

- Continue thinking about which topics in sociology you are most interested in and which track you would like to pursue.
- Think about which UWG sociology professors have research interests or experience similar to yours and who you would like to serve as your chair.
- End of second semester:
  - Select Thesis or Applied Track
  - Select a chair
  - Fill out Track & Chair Declaration Form

### Third Semester

- Thesis:
  - Take SOCI 6882: Thesis Preparation with your chair
- Applied Track:
  - Take SOCI 6286: Internship with your chair
  - Take additional methods course this semester or next semester

### Fourth Semester

- Thesis:
  - Take SOCI 6999: Thesis with your chair
  - Remember to pay attention to ProQuest deadlines for submitting your thesis
- Applied Track:
  - Take additional methods course if you haven't taken already

## Thesis Deadlines

Completed theses are uploaded to the ProQuest database. A thesis must be defended (with all necessary edits and revisions made) and formatted in a specific way in order to be uploaded to ProQuest. Students will receive information via email regarding the procedures for uploading your thesis to ProQuest. When formatting your thesis, use the [“Thesis and Dissertation General Guidelines for Formatting and Processing”](#) available on the UWG Graduate School website.

Students must submit their thesis to ProQuest by the deadlines listed below:

- Spring Graduation: April 1
- Summer Graduation: July 1
- Fall Graduation: November 1

If the ProQuest deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, then the thesis is due on the following workday by 5 PM.

## Examples of Previous Graduate Student Work

### Thesis:

“The Highest and Hardest Glass Ceiling: Examining the Effect of Media Exposure on Attitudes toward having a Female President”

- Hillary Ledford, 2017

“The Impact of Family Relationships on Racial Closeness and Racial and Ethnic Identity between Afro-Caribbeans and African Americans”

- Akilah Hairston, 2019

“Social Media Sister: Applying Interaction Ritual Theory to Sorority Women and Their Social Media Use”

- Victoria Beaver, 2016

“A Comparative analysis of the Pittsburgh and Adair Park Neighborhoods in Atlanta Following the Foreclosure Crisis”

- Dorothy DeYonker, 2016

“How Does Race Influence the Health Disparities in Hypertension Among Black And White Middle and Upper-Middle Class Americans?”

- Lindy Moore, 2019

“The Response of Law Enforcement in Regards To Intimate Partner Violence on Male Victims within Heterosexual Relationships”

- Melissa Milligan, 2019

“Managing Countercultural Authenticity: An Ethnographic Study of the Burner Identity”

- Trevor Snapp, 2016

### Applied Track:

“A Feasibility Study of a Pre-Arrest Diversion Program in a Rural Georgia Community”  
Internship: American Civil Liberties Union

- Jasmine Reagan, 2018

## Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships are intended to enhance the graduate education experience by providing qualified students with the opportunity to work closely with faculty.

Graduate assistants work a set number of hours per week with an assigned faculty supervisor. GAs will receive a stipend and tuition waiver but are still responsible for all university fees.

GA assignments are made on a semester-by-semester basis (ie, fall and spring). Being awarded an assistantship in one semester does not automatically guarantee another assistantship for the following semester. Students will need to apply for a graduate assistantship for each semester in which they are interested.

To be eligible for a graduate assistantship in Sociology, students must meet the following criteria:

- Admitted to and enrolled in the Sociology MA program.
- Enrolled in at least 9 credit hours of graduate coursework towards the Sociology MA (unless fewer than 9 hours are left in the degree plan).
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA in previous and current graduate coursework.
- Eligible for employment in the United States.

Additional information about graduate assistantships can be found through the [UWG Graduate School](#).

## Graduate Student Resources

### UWG Graduate School

The Graduate School has information about the following resources available on their [website](#):

- Graduate Assistantships
- UWG's Graduate Student Travel Grant, which assists students with travelling to conferences to present papers

### Ingram Library

- Graduate Student Reading Room: a workspace reserved for graduate students located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 6 PM to 2 AM
  - Saturday: 10 AM to 6 PM
  - Sunday: 2 PM to 2 AM
- Angela Pashia: library liaison to sociology.  
[apashia@westga.edu](mailto:apashia@westga.edu)
  - Sociology Research Guide: <http://libguides.westga.edu/sociology>

### American Sociological Association

The American Sociological Association has a list of resources for graduate students on their [website](#).

## Alumni Careers

Akilah Hairston, 2019

- Research Assistant, Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research

Tiffany Jenkins, 2013

- Community Support Specialist, Child & Adolescent Program at Highland Rivers Health

Christina McDermott

- Victim Advocate, Douglas County Solicitor-General's Office

Lacey Moore, 2018

- Graduate Student, University of Georgia-Athens PhD Program in Sociology

Jasmine Reagin, 2018

- Research/Document Review, Blasingame, Burch, Gerrard & Ashley, P.C.

Kelsey West, 2016

- Case Manager, Behavioral Unit – Bradley County Juvenile Detention Center

## Graduate Certificate in Data Analysis & Evaluation Methods

The Graduate Certificate in Data Analysis and Evaluation Methods (GCDAEM) focuses on the design of research studies, measurement of variables, data analysis, and formulation of models. Includes instruction in experimental, quasi-experimental, and case study methods; historical research; participant observation; questionnaire design; sampling theory; and statistical methods.

### Learning Outcomes:

Certificate students will demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of:

- Develop data collection instruments and procedures appropriate for specific research projects
- Show specific knowledge in at least one sphere of program evaluation
- Be able to apply qualitative and quantitative research techniques

### Program of Study

The GCDAEM requires the completion of 15 semester hours of graduate credit.

Foundation course:

- CRIM 6013 - Social Research 3 (or)
- SOCI 6013 - Social Research 3
- POLS 6202 - Research Methods for Public Administration 3

One course in program evaluation:

- CRIM 6275 - Planning and Evaluation 3 (or)
- SOCI 6275 - Planning and Evaluation 3
- POLS 6204 - Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation 3

Two courses in research methods:

- SOCI 6613 - Qualitative Research 3
- SOCI 6660 - Institutional Ethnography 3
- CRIM 6015 - Managing Data
- SOCI 6003 - Advanced Statistics for Sociology 3
- POLS 6202 - Research Methods for Public Administration 3
- GEOG 5551 - Introduction to GIS and Mapping Science 3
- EDRS 6303 - School-Based Research Methods 3
- ECON 6430 - Business Forecasting 3
- ECON 6485 - Special Topics in Economics 3
- PSYC 6083 - Research Methods 3

One elective in your area of interest or expertise:

Education, planning, child development, nonprofit management, public administration, social or environmental policy, nursing, sociology, or criminology.

Note: Students enrolled in the data analysis and evaluation methods program may use certificate courses toward the completion of MA degrees in Sociology or Criminology. Since both departments regularly teach these courses, no additional courses are required to support the certificate program. Both majors allow six credits outside of the department to count toward the major and an additional three with DGS approval. Also, students seeking the certificate in conjunction with other MA degree programs in the college of Social Sciences must consult their graduate advisors to ensure that they are on track to meet degree requirements.



## Links & Contact Information

### General Information

- Graduate Catalog - <https://catalog.westga.edu/index.php?catoid=4>
- College of Social Sciences Graduate Student Handbook - <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/assets-coss/docs/GraduateHandbookRevised20182019edited09.12.18.pdf>

### Master's Thesis

- College of Social Sciences Quick Guide for Theses and Dissertations - [https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/assets-coss/docs/ThesisDissertationQuickGuide\\_edited.pdf](https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/assets-coss/docs/ThesisDissertationQuickGuide_edited.pdf)
- Thesis and Dissertation Sample Template - <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coss/assets-coss/docs/TandDTemplate.docx>
- Thesis and Dissertation Formatting Requirements - <https://www.westga.edu/academics/gradstudies/theses-dissertations.php>

### Research & Conferences

- UWG Institutional Review Board - <https://www.westga.edu/academics/research/orsp/irb.php>
- UWG Graduate Student Travel Grant - <https://www.westga.edu/academics/gradstudies/graduate-student-travel-grant.php>

### Graduation

- Graduation Info for Graduate Students - <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/registrar/steps-for-graduate.php>

### Health

- UWG Health Services - <https://www.westga.edu/health/>
- UWG Confidential Victim Services - <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/about-us-patient-advocacy.php>
- UWG Counseling Center - (678) 839-6428 or <https://www.westga.edu/counseling/>

### Other

- UWG Campus Police - (678) 839-6000 (in an emergency, dial 911) <https://www.westga.edu/police/index.php>

## Forms

**Track & Chair Declaration Form:** Students will complete this form at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This form indicates if the student will be pursuing the Thesis or Applied Track and the faculty member who has agreed to serve as Chair.

**Independent Study Form:** This form is used to register for courses including Internship, Thesis Preparation, and Thesis.

A comprehensive list of graduate student links and forms can be found on the [UWG College of Social Science website](#).

### M.A. Track & Chair Declaration Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

917#: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Track Declaration:

**Plan I: Thesis**

Requirements for Thesis:

- SOCI 6882: Thesis Preparation
- SOCI 6999: Thesis
- Successful thesis defense with chair and two additional committee members
- Submission of thesis to ProQuest by deadline

**Plan II: Applied Track**

Requirements for Applied Track:

- Additional research methods course approved by the department
- SOCI 6286: Internship
- Internship Project:  
Students must constitute a three-member committee to approve and oversee the completion of a major initiative associated with their internship.

#### Chair Declaration:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair's name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
DGS Signature

**Directed Readings, Independent Study, Internship, Variable Credit Approval Form**

**Instructions:** Student is to complete this form and submit to supervising instructor and appropriate Department Chair for approval and signatures. Original is submitted to the Registrar's Office for registration. One copy should be maintained in the department.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Please select course type:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directed Readings</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent Study</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Internship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Variable Credit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>Instructor Use Only</i></p> <p>Please select Delivery Method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On-Campus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Entirely at a distance. No face-to-face meetings. (100%)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fully online with one face-to-face meeting and/or proctored exam. (95-99%)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially Online (51-94%)</p>	<p>Please select course term and session:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Summer</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session I (May)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session II (June-July)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session III (June)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session IV (July)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fall</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Session</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session I</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session II</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Spring</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Session</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session I</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Session II</p>	<p>Additional Course Information:</p> <p>_____ DEPT/SUBJ Abbreviation</p> <p>_____ Course Number</p> <p>_____ Credit Hours</p> <p><i>Registrar Use Only</i></p> <p>CRN: _____</p>
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Print course title as it should appear on student's transcript (30 character limit): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Students receiving Veteran's Benefits must attach a course description of the course content.**

**For Instructor/Department Chair Only:**

Student will receive:

- A standard letter grade of A-F
- An S/U grade (course must be on approved list of courses for S/U grading)

<p><b>Supervising Instructor</b></p> <p>Printed Name: _____</p> <p>ID: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>	<p><b>Department Chair</b></p> <p>Printed Name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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The signature of the Dean/Designee is required for the Richards College of Business and Tanner Health System School of Nursing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Dean/Designee (RCOB and SON only)