



University of Nevada, Reno

Sociology

Master's Program

Guidelines

Curriculum and Program
Requirements

2017



Built in 1896, the historic Lincoln Hall, originally a dormitory, is now home to faculty members in the sociology, communication studies and history departments.

University of Nevada, Reno

Department of Sociology

Guidelines for Graduate Students in Sociology

All sociology graduate students should be familiar with the general requirements of the Graduate School and specific requirements of the Sociology Department for the successful completion of the Master of Arts degree in Sociology. Students should consult the University's catalog on-line at <http://catalog.unr.edu/> which provides details on these requirements and regulations, as well as important calendar dates governing the academic year.

M.A. Degree in Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Sociology and participates in a graduate program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Social Psychology. The program of graduate studies in Sociology is designed to prepare sociologists for careers in the academic world and in areas of policy-related research. The foundations of both theory and research are emphasized as valuable tools in the study of modern society and social relations in comparative and historical perspective.

Students pursuing graduate studies to obtain the Master of Arts degree in Sociology who opt for Plan A (Thesis Option) or Plan B (Comprehensive Examination Option) must follow the following guidelines as appropriate for their chosen option for graduate study in Sociology.

Plan A and Plan B both require the satisfactory completion of the following graduate-level courses: SOC 710 History of Social Thought, SOC 711 Contemporary Social Theory, a course in research methods (SRJS 725) and a course in statistics (SOC 706) or a substitute for these with departmental approval. Students are required to complete four additional substantive courses under Plan A and seven additional substantive courses under Plan B, which may include one or two independent readings and/or research courses, such as SOC 701 or SOC 702 under the supervision of a sociology faculty member.



The historic Quad, lined up with tall trees on both sides between Mackay Mines Building and Morrill Hall, the first building built on campus in the late 1800s, convey the historic academic environment conceived from its inception.

Plan A (The Thesis Plan)

Plan A requires a total of 30-semester credits, of which 21 credits must be completed while in residence. Students opting for the thesis plan should complete their Master's degree program requirements normally over a period of four semesters or less, i.e., two years, and should adhere to the following schedule:

1. Complete at least 12 credits of coursework by the end of the second semester in the program and sign up for the remaining 18 credit hours (including 6 hours of thesis credit) during the third and fourth semesters in the program;

2. By the end of year one, students should have selected and established a relationship with a thesis advisor.
3. Form a thesis committee by the beginning of the third semester in the program; complete a thesis proposal; and meet with the thesis committee and obtain approval of the thesis proposal by the end of the third semester in the program;
4. Write the thesis during the fourth semester, schedule an oral defense of the thesis, and obtain approval of the thesis at the end of the fourth semester in the program.

To be making progress in the program and to be eligible for continued departmental funding, students must follow the above stated guidelines. Students may be provided funding beyond the two years *only if such funds are available and after all other students in their first two years of study are funded.*

Plan B (The Non-Thesis Plan)

Plan B requires 33-semester credits, of which 24 credits must be completed while in residence. Students opting for the non-thesis plan should also complete their program requirements over a period of not more than two years and should adhere to the following schedule:

1. Complete at least 15 credits of coursework by the beginning of the third semester in the program and sign up for the remaining 18 credit hours of coursework during the third and fourth semesters in the program;
2. Schedule to take comprehensive exams at the beginning of the fourth semester in the program by signing up for 1 credit of comps during this fourth and final semester.

Master's Comprehensive Examinations will consist of three parts:

- Theory
- Methods
- Substantive Area in Sociology

The theory exam and the exam on a substantive area within sociology are to be taken in the department on two different days (4 hours each exam) within one week. The methods exam is a take-home exam that must be completed over the course of the following week.



Manzanita Lake is a prominent feature of the natural environment at the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno

The exam on a substantive area in sociology may be based on a course the student has taken in the department or an area the student has studied under the supervision of a sociology faculty member through independent readings or research.

The substantive areas in sociology include, but are not limited to: class structure/stratification; sociology of gender; race and ethnic relations; sociology of the family; the community; religion; social movements and collective behavior; social psychology; political sociology; bureaucracy and large-scale organizations; industrial sociology; social change; socio-economic development; sociology of law; political economy; Third World studies; and other areas within sociology, as determined by the department.

All three exams are comprehensive and can cover a wide range of topics and issues. They will be graded on the basis of the following scale: High Pass; Pass; Fail. Students who fail to pass a particular exam may schedule to re-take that exam one more time during the same exam period, but no later than the following semester.

All exams are administered by the director of the graduate program, graded by the faculty member(s) submitting the question(s), and reviewed by the department chair, for a final decision.

Under **Plan A**, the thesis plan, students must meet the following additional requirements: satisfactory completion of an additional 18 credits in graduate-level courses (including 6 thesis credits) with departmental approval, for a total of 30 semester credits; a thesis proposal approved by the student's thesis committee; a thesis written under the supervision of three faculty members constituting the student's thesis committee; and an oral defense of the thesis.

Under **Plan B**, the non-thesis plan, students must meet the following additional requirements: satisfactory completion of 21 credits in graduate-level courses with departmental approval, for a total of 33-semester credits; and pass a series of written comprehensive examinations. Please see more information about the Thesis and Non-Thesis Plans and about the graduate courses.

General Guidelines

In addition to the above requirements, students must comply with the following additional general guidelines with regard to credit hours, grades, residency requirements, and other related provisions of the Graduate School and the department.

Credit Hours

All students must register for at least three credits each semester in order to remain in active status in the program, and all requirements for the MA degree must be satisfied within the period of six calendar years immediately preceding the granting of the degree.

Graduate Assistants

Graduate teaching or research assistants are required to register for a minimum of six credits each semester. Full-time students not on assistantships are advised to register for nine credits of coursework each semester.

700-level courses

Under both Plan A and B, candidates must complete at least 18 credits in 700-level courses. A maximum of 12 credits can be accepted from 600-level courses.

Grades

Each candidate for the MA degree must have a “B” average or above on all graduate coursework taken, including transfer credit. In addition, a “B” average or above must be obtained throughout a student’s Program of Study. Students with a grade point average of less than a “B” would be placed on probation, as per Graduate School regulations.

Residency Requirement

All students in the Sociology Master's program must meet residency requirements. Under Plan A (Thesis Option) or Plan B (Comprehensive Examination Option) students are required to complete 21 credits of coursework in residence.



North Campus: rapidly growing with new buildings sprung up everywhere across campus over the past decade, the university is home to the most modern facilities in the nation, including a high-tech library.

Transfer Credits

Students who have completed coursework in another sociology graduate program or have received a graduate degree in sociology at another institution are allowed to transfer up to nine credits of coursework to their sociology graduate program at UNR, with department approval. Students on Graduate Special status can transfer up to 9 credit hours of coursework to their program after they are formally admitted to the Sociology MA program.

Advising

Upon admission to the program, the Graduate Director will serve as advisor until such time the student picks a faculty member with whom he or she plans to work on a thesis project. Once this occurs, the Thesis Chair serves as the student's program advisor. Those opting for the comprehensive exam option, will be advised by the Graduate Director.

For Further Information

To obtain additional information about the Master's Program in Sociology at the University of Nevada, Reno, you may contact the Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology:

Dr. Berch Berberoglu, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557
E-mail: berchb@unr.edu
Phone: (775) 784-1855