

# SOCIOLOGY (SOCY)

Graduate Degree Program  
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

## Abstract

The Graduate Program in Sociology offers two graduate degree programs: an MA and a PhD. Both degrees offer students rigorous training in theory, as well as research design, execution, analysis and dissemination, across a range of specialty areas (<https://socy.umd.edu/about-us/our-research/>). Students who will have earned a BA/BS degree by matriculation are typically admitted into the MA program and may apply to continue onto the PhD program at the end of the MA program contingent on satisfactory performance. Students who will have earned an MA/MS in sociology or related fields by matriculation should apply directly to the PhD program. Students without an MA/MS may directly apply to the PhD program if their prior training and experience make them competitive with applicants who have already earned an MA/MS.

Typically, about half the students finishing Ph.D. degrees in the Sociology Department work as faculty members at colleges and universities, and about half are working in research, administration, and consulting in federal, state, or private organizations. Our location in the Washington, D.C., area offers an unusual number of full-time research opportunities for our graduates.

## Financial Assistance

Due to current budget constraints, the department is unable to offer funding or graduate assistantships for students admitted at this time. While our department will not have assistantship positions available, other departments on campus (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/assistantship-information/>) may have a need for graduate assistants. We hope that departmental funding opportunities may return in the following academic year, but we cannot guarantee this at this time.

## Contact

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#### Department of Sociology

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**Courses:** SOCY

## ADMISSIONS

### General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- Personal Experience Prompt
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

### Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Supplemental Application (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/gradschool.umd.edu/files/uploads/admissionsforms/umdsupplementaryapplicationsocy.pdf>)
- Writing Sample: Limited to 35 pages with references, tables, and figures.
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)

Admission to the graduate program is based upon the student's academic record, letters of recommendation, and other information relevant to the applicant's chances of being successful in the program. Although a previous major in Sociology is not required, students entering the graduate program should have had the following in undergraduate courses: mathematics through college algebra, elementary statistics, sociological theory, and sociological research methods. Students who have completed prior graduate coursework in Sociology may petition to waive one or more courses in Social Theory, Statistics, or Research Methods. New graduate students are assigned temporary advisors upon arrival, and are then expected to select a permanent advisor who will direct their dissertation research.

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For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/>).

### Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
<b>Domestic Applicants</b>	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 12, 2025
<b>International Applicants</b>	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 12, 2025

**Other Deadlines:** Please visit the program website at <http://socy.umd.edu> (<http://www.socy.umd.edu>)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Sociology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/sociology-socy/sociology-phd/>)
- Sociology, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/sociology-socy/sociology-ma/>)

## FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

In addition to these programs, the department is closely involved with the following research centers: the Center for Research on Military Organization, the Maryland Population Research Center (MPRC), the Center for Innovation, and the Program for Society and the Environment. Collectively, these centers account for over five million dollars in annual research funding. The Department is also affiliated with an interdisciplinary Joint Program on Survey Methods (JPSM). The campus has excellent computer facilities and computer resources are available to faculty and graduate students.