



# Sociology

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The University of Oklahoma

**2024-2025**  
Application Information



## *The University of Oklahoma*

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Dear Student,

I am happy to learn of your interest in the graduate program in the Department of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma. This packet provides detailed information that should answer many of the initial questions you might have about our program. In particular, you should note that the current level of support for graduate teaching assistants includes up to \$20,000 for PhD students and \$17,500 for MA students for 9 months (August-May), a full tuition waiver, and student health insurance. **All application materials should be submitted by December 15 to receive full consideration for admission and funding for the following fall semester.** The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) should be taken in time to allow receipt of your scores by the application deadline. Request that your scores be forwarded to the Sociology Department at the University of Oklahoma.

The application process is done entirely online. For information on the application process, go to: [http://ou.edu/gradcollege/admissions/apply#contentpar\\_text\\_1504381663](http://ou.edu/gradcollege/admissions/apply#contentpar_text_1504381663)

The online application will request the following:

- A formal academic curriculum vitae (CV) that describes your academic and professional accomplishments, fellowships/scholarships, research experience, professional certificates, etc.
- A statement of purpose outlining your interest in our graduate program.
- Names and email addresses of three references (we will get in touch with them and request letters of recommendation on your behalf).
- An example of your written work.
- Your scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
- A copy of your complete college transcript(s) to date.
- Application fee: \$50 US/\$100 International.
- TOEFL scores (international students).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Schleifer, PhD  
Associate Professor and Graduate Liaison  
Department of Sociology  
University of Oklahoma  
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# University Background

The University of Oklahoma was founded in 1890 by the first legislature of the Territory of Oklahoma, 19 years before Oklahoma became a state. The first classes convened in the fall of 1892 with 119 students and four faculty. Since then, more than 150,000 degrees have been granted. The current enrollment of the Norman campus is almost 22,000 and includes more than 4,000 graduate students.

Norman is a city of over 100,000 that provides the advantages of small-town living along with easy access to a large metropolitan area. Oklahoma City, the state's capital and largest city, is located 15 miles to the north. Lake Thunderbird, a 6,070-acre lake, lies within Norman's city limits. The university community, Norman, and Oklahoma City offer a wide variety of cultural, recreational, and sports activities.

## Overview of the Graduate Program

The graduate program provides rigorous training in methods, statistics, and theory as well as in the substantive areas of Inequality/Stratification, Criminology/Deviance, Global/Environmental Sociology, Sociology of the Family, and Sociology of Religion. The program also offers numerous research opportunities through collaborative work with faculty. Our students also receive training and experience in teaching. Our training program includes an orientation workshop for new teaching assistants, a teaching seminar for PhD students, and an opportunity for PhD students to design and teach their own courses. Over the years, the department has placed its graduates in tenure-track jobs in universities and colleges and in research-based positions in a wide variety of public and private agencies.

The department provides access to a host of resources for research. The department is a member of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) program, a membership that gives students access to numerous data sets on domestic and international issues related to the economy, education, family, gender, and health. We also house many data sets collected by the National Opinion Research Center, the Bureau of the Census, and by the faculty themselves. These data sets are available to students for theses, dissertations, course papers, and independent projects. In addition, the department provides graduate students with access to a large computer lab furnished with computers that are equipped with a variety of quantitative and qualitative software packages. The department and university also give graduate students travel grants to defray the cost of travel to national and international conferences. Students who are presenting their own research at a conference can receive support for at least one conference per year.

# Master of Arts Program

The M.A. degree in sociology is a 34-hour program requiring a thesis.

The following core coursework is required:

- Advanced Methods of Social Research (5293)
- Fundamentals of Sociological Statistics (5283)
- Sociological Theory (5933)
- Advanced Regression Analysis (5483)
- Categorical, Panel, and Advanced Statistics (5683)
- Professionalization Seminar (5821)
- Three hours of Thesis Credit (5980)

In addition to the core courses, completion of the program entails 15 hours of elective coursework. Twelve of the 15 hours of electives must be courses housed in the Department of Sociology at the 5000-level or above. The remaining three hours of electives may be Directed Readings (5960) or coursework outside the department.

# PhD Program

With few exceptions, students seeking this degree anticipate a career in research and/or teaching. Departmental requirements emphasize professional competence in research methods and in two fields within sociology. In preparing for the PhD, students acquire a broad knowledge of the fundamentals of sociology and a focused specialization in chosen areas of interest.

For the PhD, students must pass a general examination, write a doctoral dissertation, and complete 90 hours of graduate coursework. A plan of study, filed formally with the dean of the Graduate College, should develop a student's expertise in any two areas of emphasis in the department. A maximum of 34 credit hours may be transferred from other universities with the permission of a student's advisory committee and the Graduate College Dean.

The general examination in sociology consists of written components and an oral defense. Students take exams in two areas, selected from the following: class/stratification, criminology and deviance, cross-national sociology, environmental sociology, family, gender, quantitative methods, race/ethnicity, religion, and social demography. The exam is taken in the fall semester of the third year of the Ph.D. program. Failure to pass the exam leads to dismissal from the program. Formal work on the dissertation begins after a student has successfully passed the examination. The doctoral dissertation is written and defended under the guidance of a student's doctoral committee, consisting of five members of the graduate faculty, including one from outside the Department of Sociology.

Students who are interested in a PhD, but enters the graduate program with only a bachelor's degree are expected to complete a Master degree before applying to pursue their doctoral work. A doctoral student who enters with a master's degree is required to pass the general examination within four calendar years. A doctoral candidate is required to complete all degree requirements, including the written dissertation and its defense, within five years of passing the general examination.

## **Graduate Teaching Assistantships**

We offer 5-7 Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA) each year to incoming students. The GTA represents a value of over \$27,000 and involves working with a professor 20 hours per week during the semester. In exchange for this work, the student will be paid (MA - \$17,500; Ph.D - \$20,000) over 9 months, a full tuition waiver for degree requirements, and student health insurance.

At the PhD level, GTA positions are awarded by merit to first-year students, and instructor positions are granted to more advanced doctoral students (with stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance benefits) after the first year of study.

For further information, please contact:

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