

Master of Arts in Sociology

NOTE: The MA program in Sociology at ISU has been discontinued and is no longer accepting applications. This catalog content has been retained as a reference to current MA graduate students.

Mission

The mission of the M.A. in Sociology program is to prepare students for careers in sociological practice, research, and/or teaching. We focus on building core skills in social research methodology and theory, as well as tailoring the program to develop secondary skills in areas such as applied data analysis, reporting, and policy development. Our graduates find positions in both the business and non-profit sectors, including in marketing, market research, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and environmental and other non-profits. Other graduates go on to pursue additional graduate education through sociology and social science doctoral degrees, as well as in law and medicine.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will master literature in at least one substantive area of sociology.
2. Students will develop an understanding of sociological theory.
3. Students will become proficient in social research skills, including research design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Applied Project and Thesis Options

The M.A. in Sociology program offers both an applied project and a thesis option. Depending on career and educational goals, students work with their advisors to determine the option that best fits their goals.

The applied project option helps students prepare for careers in either the business or non-profit sector, including in marketing, market research, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and environmental and other non-profits. Students who pursue this option will complete an applied project that demonstrates mastery of sociological practice skills. The applied project may involve fieldwork, an internship, or other practice components, and will culminate in an applied project document. Full details regarding the guidelines and expectations of students pursuing the applied project option can be found in the M.A. in Sociology Handbook.

The thesis option helps students prepare for additional graduate education, such as doctoral degrees in sociology and social science fields, as well as in law and medicine. Students who pursue this option will complete a thesis based on their own original research. Full details regarding the guidelines and expectations of students pursuing the thesis option can be found in the M.A. in Sociology Handbook.

General Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		18
SOC 6600	Advanced Sociological Theory	3
SOC 6603	Qualitative Research Methods	3
SOC 6620	Advanced Sociological Seminar	3
PSYC 6632	Statistics and Research Design II	3
SOC 6640	Applied Project	6
or SOC 6650	Thesis	
Elective Courses		15

5500- or 6600-level Sociology electives or other University graduate courses as approved by the M.A. in Sociology Program Director

Total Credits 33

Interdisciplinary Specialized Area in Environmental Social Science

For the specialized area in Environmental Social Science, students complete 4 required courses for the M.A. in Sociology program (12 credits: SOC 6600, SOC 6620, SOC 6603, and PSYC 6632) and also complete an applied project or thesis (6 credits). In addition, students complete 15 credits of electives from the courses listed below, including 6 credits of core elective courses and 9 credits of additional elective courses. Other courses appropriate to the specialized area, including some special topics courses offered by Anthropology, Biology, History, and Political Science, may be counted as additional elective courses as approved by the M.A. in Sociology Program Director.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		18
SOC 6600	Advanced Sociological Theory	3
SOC 6603	Qualitative Research Methods	3
SOC 6620	Advanced Sociological Seminar	3
PSYC 6632	Statistics and Research Design II	3
SOC 6640	Applied Project	6
or SOC 6650	Thesis	
Core Electives		6
SOC 5556	Substance Abuse: Family and Community	3
Additional Elective Courses		9
ANTH 5502	Ecological Anthropology	3
GEOL 5503	Principles of Geographical Information System	3
GEOL 5504	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	3
GEOL 5528	Programming for GIS	3
HIST 5530	Global Environmental History	3
POLS 5555	Environmental Politics and Policy	3
POLS 6623	Program Assessment	3
Total Credits		33

Interdisciplinary Specialized Area in Criminology

For the specialized area in Criminology, students complete 4 required courses for the M.A. in Sociology program (12 credits: SOC 6600, SOC 6620, SOC 6603, and PSYC 6632) and also complete an applied project or thesis (6 credits). In addition, students complete 15 credits of electives from the courses listed below.

The interdisciplinary specialized area in Criminology is a shared curriculum between the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology and the Department of Political Science. Other courses appropriate to the specialized area may be offered by both departments and may be counted as elective courses as approved by the M.A. in Sociology Program Director.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		18
SOC 6600	Advanced Sociological Theory	3
SOC 6603	Qualitative Research Methods	3

SOC 6620	Advanced Sociological Seminar	3
PSYC 6632	Statistics and Research Design II	3
SOC 6640 or SOC 6650	Applied Project Thesis	6
Elective Courses		15
SOC 5531	Criminology	3
SOC 5536	Elite Deviance and Crime	3
SOC 5538	Sexual Crimes	3
SOC 5551	Victimology	3
SOC 5552	Gang Violence	3
SOC 5553	Serial Murder	3
SOC 5555	Prisons, Reentry, Reintegration	3
SOC 5556	Substance Abuse: Family and Community	3
SOC 5557	Fundamentals of Forensic Behavioral Science	3
SOC 5566	Rural Sociology and Community Development	3
SOC 5592	Topics in Criminology	3
ANTH 5534	Forensic Archaeology	3
POLS 5542	Constitutional Law	3
POLS 5543	Civil Rights and Liberties	3
Total Credits		33