

M.S. Degree Requirements

Requirements for the M.S. Degree in Sociology

- A minimum of 30 semester credits is required for the M.S. degree.
- No more than 6 credits of 590 (special topics) may be applied toward the M.S. degree requirements.

Required M.S. Courses

Although responsibility for determining the student's course work resides with the POS Committee, the Sociology Department requires all students to satisfactorily complete a list of core courses. Following is a list of the core courses for the M.S. program. A graduate course taken elsewhere does not necessarily substitute for the Master's core requirements. The ISU Graduate College specifies that a course taken to satisfy degree requirements in which a student receives a C- or lower is not satisfactorily completed and must be repeated, unless a strong case for not repeating is made in writing by the student's committee and is approved by the Dean of the Graduate College.

- Soc 591 (1 credit) Orientation to Sociology.
- Soc 505 or 506:
 - Soc 505 (3 credits) History of Social Thought.
 - Soc 506 (3 credits) Classical Sociological Theory and Challenges to the Canon.
- Soc 511 (3 credits) Intermediate Research Methods.
- Stat 401 (4 credits) Statistical Methods for Research Workers.
- Soc 599 (6 credits) Master's Thesis Research.

Examinations and Evaluations

English Examination

To ensure competence in written English, all graduate students must take English exams that are required by the Graduate College. In addition, nonnative speakers of English who will have teaching responsibilities are required to take the SPEAK/TEACH tests.

First Year Evaluations

All first year graduate students in Sociology will be reviewed near the end of their first year of study by the Graduate Program Coordinator in consultation with the core course instructors. Advisors will be informed by the Graduate Coordinator if student performance is considered marginal or unsatisfactory. The advisor will inform the student of the evaluation.

M.S. Examinations

MS students are required to take a final examination. This is conducted after the thesis is completed and is an oral examination, although the POS committee may include written sections. The exam will focus upon, but is not limited to, a defense of the thesis. The POS committee's decisions are considered final.