

M.A. in Sociology

Admission Requirements

1. Admission is based on the entire record of the applicant and availability of departmental resources.
2. Students must submit a completed admissions form to the UTEP graduate school, including references and statement of purpose, as well as transcripts.
3. A bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university or proof of equivalent education at a foreign institution. Generally, students should have a 3.0 (B) grade point average, or equivalent, particularly in Sociology courses and over the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.
4. The department also grants a limited number of teaching and research assistantships to selected graduate students. Other forms of financial assistance are also available. For further information, please contact the graduate advisor.

Degree Requirements

The following are the requirements of the 33-hour MA in Sociology degree program:

1. Each candidate must take:

Code	Title	Hours
SOCI 5311	Prof Development in Sociology	3
SOCI 5312	Sem-Advanced Measure/Inference	3
SOCI 5320	Seminar in Research Methods	3
SOCI 5328	Social Theory	3
Plus three semester hours of sociology methods 3		3
Plus twelve semester hours of sociology or anthropology approved for graduate credit		12
SOCI 5398 or SOCI 5396	Thesis I Non-Thesis Project I	3
SOCI 5399 or SOCI 5397	Thesis II Non-Thesis Project II	3
Total Hours		33

2. Students are required to enroll in one methods elective, based on their interests. This includes SOCI 5322 Seminar in Qualitative Methods and other special topics methods electives such as, but not limited to, advanced statistics or Geographic Information Systems.
3. No later than the completion of 24 credits in the program, the student shall declare to the Graduate Advisor in writing her or his intention to choose the thesis plan or the applied non-thesis plan. Students may change between plans, but should be aware that this may result in taking additional credit hours to complete the degree. More information on the specific expectations of the thesis plan and the applied non-thesis plan is available from the Graduate Advisor.
4. Students enrolled in the thesis plan must enroll at least one semester in SOCI 5398 Thesis I and SOCI 5399 Thesis II and successfully propose and defend the thesis before a committee while enrolled in SOCI 5399. Each thesis course can only count once toward the total number of hours needed for the degree. Thesis committees consist of at least two departmental representatives and one member from outside the department.
5. Students enrolled in the applied non-thesis plan must enroll at least one semester in SOCI 5396 Non-Thesis Project I and SOCI 5397 Non-Thesis Project II and successfully propose and defend the thesis before a committee while enrolled in SOCI 5397 Non-Thesis Project II. Each non-thesis project course can only count once toward the total number of hours needed for the degree. Project committees consist of at least two departmental representatives and one member from outside the department.
6. Candidates may pursue a minor in Anthropology. Candidates taking this option must obtain the consent of the graduate advisor and his/her thesis director, and may take up to 9 hours of anthropology courses from the list of advanced undergraduate courses approved for graduate credit. The plan of anthropology courses must be approved by the graduate advisor and thesis advisor, once assigned. Additional requirements are listed in item 6 below.
7. Undergraduate courses and independent studies approved for graduate credit will count toward the degree only by permission of the graduate advisor and thesis advisor, once assigned. To use an undergraduate course for graduate credit, the following additional work is required: additional reading of original scholarly books and articles above and beyond textbooks; additional written work such as research on specific topics or hypotheses, literature reviews, or identifying research problems in specific areas; and at least five additional meetings with the professor to discuss the added requirements and their completion. The extra requirement must be specified by the instructor in a syllabus.
8. Each candidate will submit a PDF that must be approved by the candidate's committee and submitted to the graduate school following their requirements.

9. Candidates will be allowed only one grade lower than a "B" in coursework taken for graduate credit. No grade lower than a "B" will be accepted in a required course. Candidates must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Degree Plan

Required Credits: 33

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Sociology ¹		
Required Courses (All courses require a grade of B or better):		
SOCI 5311	Prof Development in Sociology	3
SOCI 5312	Sem-Advanced Measure/Inference	3
SOCI 5320	Seminar in Research Methods	3
SOCI 5328	Social Theory	3
Three hours of sociology methods		3
Students are required to enroll in one methods elective, based on their interests. This includes SOCI 5322 (Seminar in Qualitative Methods) and other special topics methods electives such as, but not limited to, advanced statistics or Geographic Information Systems.		
Electives (All courses require a grade of C or better):		
Select twelve additional hours from graduate SOCI or ANTH: ²		12
SOCI 5190	Individual Studies	
SOCI 5290	Individual Studies	
SOCI 5303	Grad Internship in Sociology	
SOCI 5340	Seminar - Demography	
SOCI 5341	Special Graduate Topics	
SOCI 5348	Seminar-Criminology	
SOCI 5355	US-Mexico Borderlands in Chang	
SOCI 5360	Gender	
SOCI 5362	Border Research	
SOCI 5363	Environmental Justice	
SOCI 5364	Sociology of Health	
SOCI 5365	Seminar-Sociology of Education	
SOCI 5381	Cartography & Visualization	
SOCI 5390	Individual Studies	
SOCI 5396	Non-Thesis Project I	
SOCI 5397	Non-Thesis Project II	
Applied, Thesis, or Course Option:		
Select applied non-thesis option of SOCI 5396 & 5397 or thesis option of SOCI 5398 & 5399 ³		6
SOCI 5396 & SOCI 5397	Non-Thesis Project I and Non-Thesis Project II	
SOCI 5398 & SOCI 5399	Thesis I and Thesis II	
Course Option (Courses require a grade of B or better) ⁴ : Two additional SOCI/ANTH courses at the 5300 level, with the exception of SOCI 5390, SOCI 5398, SOCI 5399, SOCI 5396, and SOCI 5397 can be taken to fulfill this requirement. ⁴		
Total Hours		33

1 Only one grade lower than a "B" in coursework taken for graduate credit will be allowed.

2 Undergraduate courses with additional work approved for graduate credit are also available for use as electives.

3 SOCI 5396, SOCI 5397, SOCI 5398, and SOCI 5399 are graded as S/U until completion. All courses require a grade of C or better.

4 Under the Course option students will complete an exit exam. The exam will include three areas of study: sociological theory, methods of research, and an area of specialization that is identified by the student through the concentration of coursework. If the student fails to pass any section of the comprehensive exam, they will be allowed to re-take the area(s) not completed or passed at another date and time scheduled by their committee. The failed portion(s) may be re-taken up to two times.