



Master of Arts in Sociology  
Department of  
Sociology 102  
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Program Website:  
<https://www.iup.edu/sociology/grad/sociology/>

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Indiana University of Pennsylvania



## Admission

Applicants are expected to have completed at least 12 hours of undergraduate social science courses with an average of B or better. The minimum cumulative grade point average for admission consideration is: 2.6 (on a 4.0 scale) for those whose bachelor's degrees were earned five or fewer years ago; 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) if the bachelor's degree was earned more than five years ago; or 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) over the last 60 credits earned towards the bachelor's degree. Applicants who do not meet the undergraduate GPA criteria must admit a Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score of at least 395.

If you do not meet this requirement, you may be considered for admission by taking additional undergraduate or graduate sociology courses designated



## Academic Advisement

Your Master's



Students taking the Thesis option must: enroll in 15 credits of approved electives and in 6 credits of Thesis (SOC 795), form a Thesis Committee (3 faculty members), submit a Thesis to that Committee, present the Thesis at a Thesis Defense and deposit the Thesis according to the guidelines established by the School of Graduate Studies. ( )Tj ET EMC /Artifact0.7 (uM -0.014c0.7 ( (s)-8.3 5T E511 0 Tdd ( ) )473r

### Side-by-side Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

	Thesis	Non-Thesis (Academic Portfolio)	Non-Thesis (Professional Portfolio)
Credit Requirements	37 credits (Including 6 credits of SOC 795)	37 credits	37 credits (Including 6 credits of SOC 798)
Composition of Committee			

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**SOC 705 Research Seminar in Sociology 3 cr.** Examination of diverse research designs in the social sciences. Focuses on understanding and critique of designs in the social sciences and on integration of theory and research. Special attention given to development of thesis proposal. Required for M.A. in Sociology.

**SOC 707/807 Scholarly Writing in the Social Sciences 3 cr.** This seminar focuses on scholarly writing and communication for sociologists. Students will review the mechanics of writing social scientific papers, reports and presentations and will learn how to synthesize research literature, develop conceptual frameworks, and persuasively argue based on evidence. Students will learn and practice skills for writing, editing and revision. Coverage includes writing for thesis/dissertation, applied research projects, and practical applications within the discipline. Prerequisites: Graduate standing

**SOC 709 Contemporary Sociological Theory 3 cr.** Examination of major systems of sociological theory and major theoretical controversies vying for attention in contemporary sociology. Emphasis given to theories in macrosociology, especially functionalism, Marxian conflict theory, and societal evolutionism. Required for M.A. in Sociology.

**SOC 721/821 Sociology of Health Care 3 cr.** Examines the contrasting perspectives in the field of medical sociology, the structure of health care institutions, and the operation of health care providers. The social, environmental, and occupational factors in health and disease are considered as well.

**SOC 732/832 Addiction and the Family 3 cr.** Assesses the impact of alcohol or drug addiction on individuals and their families. Research on addiction patterns, codependency, and family treatment is discussed. Special attention is given to gender and racial differences in addiction and their impact on the family.

**SOC 736/836 Sociology of the Family 3 cr.** Involves the sociological analysis of the family from a variety of theoretical viewpoints such as functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory, symbolic interactionism, systems theory, and developmental theory. Special emphasis is placed on the contemporary American family. However, cross-cultural and historical comparisons are made, with the focal theme being the "decline of the family." Specific topics covered include gender, the family in historical context, power relationships and family roles, parent-child interaction, marital satisfaction, marital disruption, and the interrelationships between race/ethnicity, social class, work roles, the family, and family policy. Prerequisite: Graduate only.

**SOC 744/844 The Sociology of Deviance 3 cr.** Relationship between individual deviance and social and cultural factors is examined. How different groups set limits for acceptable behavior is analyzed in comparative and historical context.

**SOC 746/846 Theories of Sociological Social Psychology 3 cr.** Surveys a broad range of theories and substantive topics within field of sociological social psychology. Includes examination of influential theoretical and empirical work, both classic and contemporary that comprise the field's various perspectives. Emphasis on themes, perspectives, methods, and substantive issues specific to the sociological perspective on social psychology. Prerequisite: Graduate standing

**SOC 748/848 Gender and Society 3 cr.** Considers the position of women and men in society. Examines current perspectives and research on the nature of gender differences and causes of gender inequality.

Explores how gender is structured and maintained in both public and personal lives, in such arenas as family, education, and work, and in gendered interactions of friendship and love, sexuality, and violence.

**SOC 754/854 Social Inequality 3 cr.** Examines central theoretical perspectives on social inequality. Considers such topics as the nature of social classes and inequality; characteristics of working class, poor, and super rich; gender and racial inequality; and how social policies affect inequality in the United States.

**SOC 756/856 Social Change 3 cr.** Explores nature and consequences of social change, alternative theoretical perspectives on social change, and how social change might be implemented. Also discusses lessons to be learned from various planned change efforts.

**SOC 757/857 Aging and Society 3 cr.** Focuses on the social problems encountered by aging individuals in

SOC 767/867 Survey Research Methods 3 cr. This graduate level seminar provides a foundation in the theory and methods of survey research. (rv)-8612 0 11.04 ..56 Tm ( -0.0 1/4o1[ (f)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 0.837 0 Td ( )Tj g)2.6



### Incomplete Grades

Under some extenuating and unexpected circumstances, such as a serious illness or family emergency late in the semester, a student may request that a professor assign an "Incomplete" for the final grade. Students may use a course withdrawal or a full-semester withdrawal if circumstances arise that interfere with course work before the end of the semester. It is up to the professor's discretion as to whether an Incomplete is warranted. For an Incomplete grade to be converted to a letter grade, a Change of Grade form must be submitted to the faculty member by the end of the following regular semester. If not, the "I" will convert to an "F."

### Academic Good Standing

As outlined as part of the General Policies and Procedures in the graduate catalog: Students must maintain a minimum of 3.0 cumulative graduate quality point average to be in good standing academically. Students who fall below good standing are placed on probation for their next active semester or summer term, during which the cumulative average must be raised to 3.0. Students who fail to raise their cumulative average to at least 3.0 during their probation period will be dropped from their degree program as well as from the School of Graduate Studies.



committee

- human subjects, and be sure to address how you will protect against coercion.
- Include all related documents, such as a copy of IRB letter, advertisements, surveys, interview guide, consent form, etc.
  - Make sure that all documents that are submitted within the department, as well as outside of the department, are free of errors (e.g. typos, misspellings, omitted words, missing citations, etc.).
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may sign their approval of your thesis at the close of your oral defense. If the result of your defense is conditional approval, your thesis chair will retain these pages and wait to sign until you complete final revisions (see below). Committee members have the discretion to sign or wait to sign until those final revisions are complete.

The typical oral defense lasts about 1 to 1 ½ hours and is open to IU faculty, students, administrators, and others whom you may wish to invite. Your thesis chair convenes the meeting and moderates meeting participation. When asked to begin, you are expected to start with a brief (30 minute) summary presentation of your thesis. Next, your committee members will ask you to respond to their questions about your project, the research literature, your methods, results, findings and conclusions. Your committee members are free to ask you more broad questions about your research area and about Sociology more generally. You are expected to be fully engaged in this discussion of your work and to take notes about the proceedings. While your thesis chair moderates these discussions, you are responsible for demonstrating knowledge and command of your project. After the thesis committee members have completed their questioning, your thesis chair will ask others in the audience to

The School of Graduate Studies and Research has firm deadlines for the submission of your thesis. There are no exceptions to their deadlines. Typically, in order to qualify for graduation at the end of a particular semester, you must deposit your thesis one month prior to the end of the semester. The School of Graduate Studies and Research posts deadlines at [http://www.iup.edu/graduatestudies/resources/current-students/research/thesisdissertation\\_information/deadlines/](http://www.iup.edu/graduatestudies/resources/current-students/research/thesisdissertation_information/deadlines/)

### Evaluation Outcome for Thesis

Effective Fall 2017 for students admitted and students admitted after — Thesis credits will be assigned Pass or Fail as the final evaluation outcome for the taken credits and carry no quality



If you complete an Internship (SOC 798), then you will be expected to incorporate your internship experience into your Theme.

### Academic Portfolio Requirements and Contents

Portfolios must contain evidence of competency in each of the following areas with respect to the identified Theme:

- (a) scholarly sociological discussion;
- (b) review and assessment of the scholarship of others;
- (c) communication to diverse audiences (scholars, public, etc.);
- (d) theoretical, methodological and integrative knowledge.

### Contents of the Portfolio

The Portfolio must contain the following documents:

1. Cover Page
2. Table of Contents for the Portfolio
3. Curriculum Vitae (an academic résumé)
4. A personal, reflection or researcher position statement. In a minimum of three pages, this statement should describe how the student's views, ideas, or perspective may have developed, changed, or grown while enrolled in the graduate program. The statement may address issues and concerns outside the formal educational experience in the program.
5. A portfolio statement introducing and describing the specific Theme. In a minimum of three pages, this statement should describe how content materials demonstrate competency in addressing the Theme through the use of the sociological perspective (In other words, write a narrative explanation of the portfolio contents.)

Specific content includes a single paper (such as a research proposal) or separate papers (for example, revised final papers from required or elective courses) that address your Theme. One paper addressing all three elements below shall be at least 35 pages.

Three papers, each addressing a single element shall be 12 pages minimum. Required elements include each of the following:

1. Paper applying more than one theoretical perspective in Sociology.
2. Paper applying either quantitative or qualitative methods of research.
3. Paper reviewing a focused area of existing sociological scholarship.

Portfolios should include evidence of at least one presentation that addresses your Theme, such as:

1. Presentation at a local, regional or national conference
2. Guest lecture within an undergraduate Sociology course or presentation to a novice or non-academic audience.

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4. Reflection paper on the sociological perspective as it relates to the internship or service learning experience.

Portfolios may include additional materials or products related to coursework, internships, service learning, field experiences, and/or professional or applied scholarship.

Students with a thesis proposal, but who did not complete their thesis may use their thesis proposal as in place of the three separate portfolio papers at the discretion of their committee. The thesis proposal may need to be revised to meet the portfolio minimum requirements. Students may ~~keep~~ their original 3 committee members, or they may drop their committee down to the 2 required for the portfolio option.

For students who wish to switch from a thesis ~~opt~~ to a portfolio after they are already enrolled in SOC 795, the students must be withdrawn from the SOC 795 credits and take an additional 6 elective credits (either internship or coursework) in order to meet the 37 credit requirement for the Master's degree.

#### Committee Selection

Identify a tentative portfolio committee. (The faculty you identify will not formally become your portfolio committee until your Portfolio Committee Form is submitted.)

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You will submit your prospectus to your committee for review and have an informal meeting to discuss the direction of your portfolio. At the conclusion of this meeting, your committee will give you feedback and let you know whether or not your prospectus is approved for you to move forward on.

Following the approval of your portfolio theme by your committee, you will

Internship Site Supervisor's Evaluation This is the written and scored evaluation of students that their internship site supervisor is required

A completed Portfolio Committee Form with signatures from selected faculty members and the student should be submitted to t (m)-6.42.21sUtc 0p4utci-2.0.00g/TT0 1 Tf 110 Td6 0 79 Id315dpleted



as well as other faculty and students will be invited to attend Portfolio defense. Portfolio defenses are analogous to a Thesis defense.

Academic Portfolios will be assessed based how well they show competency in: scholarly sociological discussion, review

Sample Timeline for Portfolio Completion

Graduation Goal

MAY





## IUP Library - Online Resources

Online Databases | av (c3w(n)- i.e)- (an)-214c66.5lf .012o1x c66.5

ceremony to the student who demonstrates the combined best strengths as a Sociology master's student in both academics and service.

## Appendices

### Master's Program Coordinator

The Master's Coordinator is appointed by the Department of Sociology. The Coordinator has the primary responsibility, in coordination with the Graduate School and the Master's Committee, for recruitment, admissions, and assistantship placement for the program. The Coordinator is responsible for the following:

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not be allowed to enter the room where the defense is taking place. For that reason, it is recommended that you arrive at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled start of a thesis or dissertation defense.

### Books for Further Reading

Books below may be useful for students working on or toward dissertations. Some are available in either

### Signature Page

My signature below indicates that I am responsible for reading and understanding the information provided and referenced in this program student handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_[please initial] I understand my program coordinator may share this document with the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit to [cvaccaro@iup.edu](mailto:cvaccaro@iup.edu) by end of your first fall semester.

The Department of Sociology will keep this signed document on file.