

Sociology, PhD

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University is home to a distinguished graduate program offering a PhD in Sociology. The primary objectives of our graduate program are to offer a strong curricular foundation in sociology and the social sciences; to inculcate in students a depth of knowledge in the basic tools of the discipline; to train our students to be outstanding teachers and researchers; and to provide professional socialization that adequately prepares students for a career in the discipline.

The PhD program is designed to attract students who wish to develop a broad base of sociological knowledge, such as would equip students to embark on academic careers in leading institutions of higher education. The PhD program boasts a wide array of curricular strengths and diverse methodological offerings, all of which draw upon the department's emphasis on the study of social inequalities along lines of race, class, and gender. Faculty expertise ranges widely from domestic U.S. concerns to issues that affect groups, regions, and societies on a global scale.

The PhD program is designed to admit relatively small numbers of graduate students each year, which affords students the opportunity to forge close working relationships with the faculty. Our faculty and graduate students work together in a number of interdisciplinary research projects, programs, and centers, including the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute (<http://www.northeastern.edu/environmentalhealth/>); the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict (<http://www.northeastern.edu/brudnickcenter/>); the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy (<http://www.northeastern.edu/dukakiscenter/>); and the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research (<https://bouve.northeastern.edu/institute-for-health-equity-and-social-justice-research/>). Many of the faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology have additional interests and are affiliated with other departments on campus, including environmental studies; law and public policy; Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean studies; African American studies; international affairs; Jewish studies; and criminal justice. Students who wish to work with faculty in other disciplines are encouraged to enlist the aid of the sociology graduate director or their advisors in contacting individual faculty members.

Admissions

Students interested in the PhD apply directly to that program. Students admitted without a master's degree earn the Master of Arts in Sociology en route once PhD coursework is completed. Please note that all applicants for the doctoral program are required to submit a writing sample that should consist of written materials that demonstrate their capacity for scholarship at the doctoral level. (Copies of several course or term papers or a copy of a master's thesis or paper are appropriate.)

Coursework

Doctoral students are required to complete 60 standard credit hours (SH) with grades of B or higher if coming in with a bachelor's degree and 40 credit hours if coming in with a master's degree in sociology. Students admitted without a master's degree earn the MA in sociology en route to completing their PhD requirements (30 credits).

Required courses cover the core areas of sociological theory, research methods, and statistical analysis. All students must take courses in these areas regardless of their areas of specialization. Students must fulfill these requirements during their first year in the program. Students entering our program may be able to substitute courses taken at the prior institution for some or all of these requirements by submitting a course waiver form (a course waiver does not waive the associated semester hour requirement) or transfer of credit (courses submitted with a transfer of credit cannot have counted toward another degree).

FOUR PROSEMINARS

Proseminars provide students structure for their first two years in the PhD program to help ensure their professionalization into the discipline and to help them move more smoothly through program requirements.

Each course meets weekly for 60-minute sessions throughout each fall and spring semester for the student's first two years. Each 1-credit course will be taken on a pass/fail basis. In order to receive a passing grade, students must attend most proseminar class meetings, complete the requirements for the proseminar course in a satisfactory manner, and attend most intellectual and professional development events organized by the department. Proseminar 1 and 2 are completed in the first year; Proseminar 3 and 4 are completed in the second year.

POST COURSEWORK BUT PRIOR TO PROPOSAL DEFENSE

Students must complete two field statements prior to their proposal defense and will register for Exam Preparation—Doctoral (SOCL 8960) (with the field statement chair listed as instructor of record).

Once field statements are complete and students are working on their dissertation proposal, students should register for a Research course (with their committee chair listed as instructor of record) until the proposal is successfully defended.

DEGREE CANDIDACY

To enter into degree candidacy, the student must have earned a Master of Arts degree or its departmental semester-hour equivalent, completed the four proseminars, successfully defended two field statements, and defended their dissertation proposal.

Students who have completed required coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better may be eligible to receive an MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) degree. In addition, students who do not qualify for the doctoral

degree, but who have completed required coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better, may be eligible to receive a terminal MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) degree. Note that no students will be admitted directly into the MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) to pursue a master's degree.

Program Requirements

- Concentrations and course offerings may vary by campus and/or by program modality. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for the course availability each term at your campus or within your program modality.
- Certain options within the program may be *required* at certain campuses or for certain program modalities. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for requirements at your campus or for your program modality.

Bachelor's Degree Entrance

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review
Two field statements
Dissertation committee
Dissertation proposal
PhD candidacy
Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundations		
SOCL 7200	Foundations of Social Theory 1	4
SOCL 7201	Foundations of Social Theory 2	4
Proseminars		
SOCL 7001	Proseminar 1: Acclimating to Graduate School	1
SOCL 7002	Proseminar 2: Academic Planning	1
SOCL 7003	Proseminar 3: Committee, Topics, and Reading Lists	1
SOCL 7004	Proseminar 4: Field Statement Writing	1
Research Methods		
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4
INSH 6500	Statistical Analysis	4
Advanced Methods		
Complete 8 semester hours from the following. Courses not listed need approval from student's advisor:		8
INSH 6302	Qualitative Methods	
INSH 6406	Analyzing Complex Digitized Data	
INSH 7300	Advanced Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities	
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	
INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis	
INSH 7600	Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis	
PHTH 6320	Qualitative Methods in Health and Illness	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 32 semester hours in the following ranges. Courses in additional disciplines may be allowed with prior advisor approval:		32
CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999		
INSH 6000 to INSH 7999		
POLS 6000 to POLS 7999		
PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999		

SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999
WMNS 6000 to WMNS 7999

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Preparation		
Required for students who must maintain full-time status while completing comprehensive exam. Must take twice:		
SOCL 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral	
Research		
SOCL 8986	Research	
Dissertation		
SOCL 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
SOCL 9991	Dissertation Term 2	
Dissertation Continuation		
Following completion of two semesters of dissertation, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:		
SOCL 9996	Dissertation Continuation	

Progression Requirements

Students who receive two grades below B may be placed on academic probation and risk being separated from the program.

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

60 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.500 GPA required

Advanced Entry Program Requirements

- Concentrations and course offerings may vary by campus and/or by program modality. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for the course availability each term at your campus or within your program modality.
- Certain options within the program may be *required* at certain campuses or for certain program modalities. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for requirements at your campus or for your program modality.

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review
Two field statements
Dissertation committee
Dissertation proposal
PhD candidacy
Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundations		
SOCL 7200	Foundations of Social Theory 1	4
SOCL 7201	Foundations of Social Theory 2	4
Proseminars		
SOCL 7001	Proseminar 1: Acclimating to Graduate School	1
SOCL 7002	Proseminar 2: Academic Planning	1
SOCL 7003	Proseminar 3: Committee, Topics, and Reading Lists	1
SOCL 7004	Proseminar 4: Field Statement Writing	1
Research Methods		
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4
INSH 6500	Statistical Analysis	4

Advanced Methods

Complete 8 semester hours from the following. Courses not listed need approval from student's advisor:		8
INSH 6302	Qualitative Methods	
INSH 6406	Analyzing Complex Digitized Data	
INSH 7300	Advanced Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities	
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	
INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis	
INSH 7600	Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis	
PHTH 6320	Qualitative Methods in Health and Illness <small>please note this course is only 3 credits</small>	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 12 semester hours in the following ranges. Courses in additional disciplines need student's advisor approval:		12
CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999		
INSH 6000 to INSH 7999		
POLS 6000 to POLS 7999		
PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999		
SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999		
WMNS 6000 to WMNS 7999		

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Preparation		
Students register for this course while writing each of their two field statements. Must take twice:		
SOCL 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral	
Research		
SOCL 8986	Research	
Dissertation		
SOCL 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
SOCL 9991	Dissertation Term 2	
Dissertation Continuation		
Following completion of two semesters of dissertation, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:		
SOCL 9996	Dissertation Continuation	

Progression Requirements

Students who receive two grades below B may be placed on academic probation and risk being separated from the program.

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

40 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required