

# SOCIOLOGY (MA)

## Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Sociology requires 30 credit hours and a master's thesis or portfolio. Students may choose between a general or applied sociology track.

### General Sociology Requirements

The Master of Arts in Sociology general track is designed to equip students with a broad foundation in general sociology and a particular focus in a more specialized field of relevance to the student's career interests in teaching, research, governmental work, or public service. Requirements include 30 credit hours of course work (5 required courses and 5 electives) selected with the approval of the Graduate Program Director or the student's faculty advisor, and the preparation of a Master's Thesis or a Portfolio (consisting of two class related papers, one of which must be empirical).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>General Sociology Required Courses</b>		
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		
SOCL 405	History Sociological Thought	3
SOCL 406	Modern Sociological Theory	3
<i>Methods and Research Courses</i>		
SOCL 410	Logic of Sociological Inquiry	3
SOCL 412	Qualitative Methods in Social Research	3
SOCL 414	Statistical Methods Analysis I	3
<b>Choose Five Electives</b>		<b>15</b>
SOCL 415	Statistical Methods of Analysis II	
SOCL 418	Demography	
SOCL 421	Theories Social Change	
SOCL 423	Social Movements	
SOCL 425	Inequality and Society	
SOCL 426	Sociology of Gender	
SOCL 427	Political Sociology	
SOCL 428	Poverty and Social Welfare	
SOCL 432	Socialization Thru Life Cycle	
SOCL 438	The Family	
SOCL 439	Community Change	
SOCL 440	Organizations & Organizational Change	
SOCL 441	Sociology of Religion	
SOCL 442	Religious Conflict & Change	
SOCL 446	Knowledge, Power & Expertise	
SOCL 447	Sociology of Culture	
SOCL 448	Technology & Material Culture	
SOCL 452	Complex Organizations	
SOCL 453	Occupations and Professions	
SOCL 461	Race & Ethnicity	
SOCL 462	The Urban Metropolis	
SOCL 463	Sociology & Natural Environment	
SOCL 471	Sociology of Deviance & Control	
SOCL 473	Criminology	
SOCL 481	Medical Sociology	
SOCL 490	Workshop: Applied Sociology	

SOCL 491	Sociological Discourse
SOCL 494	Internship
SOCL 497	Independent Research
SOCL 498	Independent Research
SOCL 499	Directed Study

**Total Hours** **30**

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

### Applied Sociology Requirements

Although all aspects of the department's curriculum aim to provide students with a better understanding of social structures and processes, the track in Applied Sociology puts special emphasis on the application of sociological knowledge and methods to the development of policies and programs. It provides students with the research skills in both qualitative and quantitative analysis and the substantive sociological background needed to pursue careers in applied research.

This degree can be particularly useful for students planning jobs with such organizations as a corporation, a hospital, an urban police department, a metropolitan archdiocese, a social service agency, a labor union or a community organization.

In addition to five electives within the Sociology Program, this track consists of five required courses:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Applied Sociology Required Courses</b>		
SOCL 405	History Sociological Thought	3
SOCL 410	Logic of Sociological Inquiry	3
SOCL 412	Qualitative Methods in Social Research	3
SOCL 414	Statistical Methods Analysis I	3
SOCL 494	Internship	3
<b>Choose Five Electives</b>		<b>15</b>
SOCL 406	Modern Sociological Theory	
SOCL 415	Statistical Methods of Analysis II	
SOCL 418	Demography	
SOCL 421	Theories Social Change	
SOCL 423	Social Movements	
SOCL 425	Inequality and Society	
SOCL 426	Sociology of Gender	
SOCL 427	Political Sociology	
SOCL 428	Poverty and Social Welfare	
SOCL 432	Socialization Thru Life Cycle	
SOCL 438	The Family	
SOCL 439	Community Change	
SOCL 440	Organizations & Organizational Change	
SOCL 441	Sociology of Religion	
SOCL 442	Religious Conflict & Change	
SOCL 446	Knowledge, Power & Expertise	
SOCL 447	Sociology of Culture	
SOCL 448	Technology & Material Culture	

SOCL 452	Complex Organizations
SOCL 453	Occupations and Professions
SOCL 461	Race & Ethnicity
SOCL 462	The Urban Metropolis
SOCL 463	Sociology & Natural Environment
SOCL 471	Sociology of Deviance & Control
SOCL 473	Criminology
SOCL 481	Medical Sociology
SOCL 490	Workshop: Applied Sociology
SOCL 491	Sociological Discourse
SOCL 497	Independent Research
SOCL 498	Independent Research
SOCL 499	Directed Study
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

The internship is a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience and to make professional contacts that will facilitate their careers. Interns have worked in a variety of organizations—the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority, American Medical Association, Better Government Association, and the Midwest Women's Center—as well as for several metropolitan newspapers, fair housing commissions, city government departments, and major corporations. Students in this track are also required to complete a thesis or submit a portfolio (including the internship report).

## Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional-academic-standards-regulations/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supercede school policies.

## Learning Outcomes

This Master of Arts in Sociology prepares students for positions as research staff in government, non-profit, and for profit sectors. The General Track also prepares students for application to PhD programs.

### *Students in the General track will learn to:*

- identify the broad theoretical orientations of the discipline
- frame sociological research questions
- synthesize social scientific literature
- select appropriate data sources
- collect and present data in accordance with ethical and professional standards
- use one or more data collection methods to carry out a research project, such as interviews, participant observation, surveys, or archival evidence

- analyze quantitative or qualitative data
- write a sociological research report

### *Students in the Applied track will learn to:*

- apply sociological knowledge to governmental, non-profit, or for-profit organizational activities
- contribute to the work of a governmental, non-profit, or for-profit organization through an internship
- frame a research question relevant to an organization
- select appropriate data sources
- collect and present data in accordance with ethical and professional standards
- use one or more data collection methods, such as interviews, participant observation, or surveys
- analyze quantitative or qualitative data
- write a sociologically-informed report that is relevant to an organization