

SOCIOLOGY (BA/MA)

The Sociology Department offers a 5 year BA/MA degree, allowing you to begin graduate school in your senior year, and to finish the MA degree at the end of your 5th year. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain an advanced degree without the time and expense of the longer 2 year MA degree offered by most programs. This is approximately one year less than normally required to earn both degrees. Graduates of this program will be well prepared to enter the labor force, a professional school or pursue a PhD.

CURRICULUM

Bachelor of Arts Degree (Years 1-4)

- 15 sociology courses x 3 hours = 45 out of 120 hours required to graduate
- Of the 15 sociology courses, only two may be 100-level; the student must take all required courses in the BA sequence: SOCL 205 Sociological Thought, SOCL 206 Principles of Social Research, SOCL 301 Statistics for Social Research, SOCL 365 Social Theory & Social Research.
- At least four of the fifteen courses must be graduate-level (400 or higher) courses taken in the senior year.
- Students who earn a grade of B or better in both courses will qualify for distinction in the undergraduate major, even though the courses also count toward the MA degree.
- If the student intends to do the applied MA track, she/he is advised not to take the undergraduate internship (SOCL 380 Internship) but to take the graduate internship instead (SOCL 494 Internship).
- *The BA/MA program requires four more sociology courses than the eleven normally required for a BA sociology major. The four extra courses must be graduate-level courses. Consequently, BA/MA students will have four fewer nonsociology electives than ordinary BA students.*

Master of Arts Degree (Year 5)

During the fifth year, students will take 6 graduate-level sociology courses (both elective and required) x 3 hours = 18 hours out of 30 hours required for the MA degree. Either a thesis or portfolio is required. Only one independent research/directed study course counted toward MA.

General Track

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
SOCL 405	History Sociological Thought	3
SOCL 406	Modern Sociological Theory	3
SOCL 410	Logic of Sociological Inquiry	3
SOCL 412	Qualitative Methods in Social Research	3
SOCL 414	Statistical Methods Analysis I	3
Select five elective courses		15
Total Hours		30

Applied and Public Sociology Track

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
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
Select five elective courses		15
Total Hours		30

Guidelines for Accelerated Bachelor's/ Master's Programs

Terms

- **Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs:** In this type of program, students share limited credits between their undergraduate and graduate degrees to facilitate completion of both degrees.
- **Shared credits:** Graduate level credit hours taken during the undergraduate program and then applied towards graduate program requirements will be referred to as Shared credits.

Admission Requirements

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to enhance opportunities for advanced training for Loyola's undergraduates. Admission to these programs must be competitive and will depend upon a positive review of credentials by the program's admissions committee. Accordingly, the admission requirements for these programs may be higher than those required if the master's degree were pursued entirely after the receipt of a bachelor's degree. That is, programs may choose to have more stringent admissions requirements in addition to those minimal requirements below.

Requirements:

- Declared appropriate undergraduate major,
- By the time students begin taking graduate courses as an undergraduate, the student has completed approximately 90 credit hours, or the credit hours required in a program that is accredited by a specialty organization,¹
- A minimum cumulative GPA for coursework at Loyola that is at or above the program-specific requirements, a minimum major GPA that is at or above the program-specific requirements, and/or appropriate designated coursework for evaluation of student readiness in their discipline.²

Students not eligible for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program (e.g., students who have not declared the appropriate undergraduate major) may apply to the master's program through the regular admissions process. Students enrolled in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program who choose not to continue to the master's degree program upon completion of the bachelor's degree will face no consequences.³

Ideally, a student will apply for admission (or confirm interest in proceeding towards the graduate degree in opt-out programs) as they approach 90 credit hours. Programs are encouraged to begin advising students early in their major so that they are aware of the program and, if interested, can complete their bachelor's degree requirements in a way that facilitates completion of the program. Once admitted as an undergraduate, Program Directors should ensure that students are enrolled using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program will ensure that students may be easily identified as they move through the program. Students will not officially matriculate into the master's degree program and be labeled as a graduate student by the university, with accompanying changes to tuition and Financial Aid (see below), until the undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once admitted to the graduate program, students must meet

the academic standing requirements of their graduate program as they complete the program curriculum.

- ¹ Programs that have specialized accreditation will adhere to the admissions criteria provided by, or approved by, their specialized accreditors.
- ² The program will identify appropriate indicators of student readiness for graduate coursework (e.g., high-level performance in 300 level courses). Recognizing differences between how majors are designed, we do not specify a blanket requirement.
- ³ If students choose not to enroll in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, they still must complete all of the standard requirements associated with the undergraduate degree (e.g., a capstone).

Curriculum

Level and progression of courses. The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to be competitive and attractive to our most capable students. Students admitted to Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs should be capable of meeting graduate level learning outcomes. Following guidance from the Higher Learning Commission, only courses taken at the 400 level or higher (including 300/400 level courses taken at the 400 level) will count toward the graduate program.^{1,2} Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may come from 300/400 level courses where the student is enrolled in the 400 level of the course. Further, at least 50% of the credit hours for the graduate program must come from courses that are designed for and restricted to graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at Loyola (e.g., enrolled in plan code that indicates the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, typically ending with the letter "D").³

In general, graduate level coursework should not be taken prior to admission into the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Exceptions may be granted for professional programs where curriculum for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program is designed to begin earlier. On the recommendation of the program's Graduate Director, students may take one of their graduate level courses before they are admitted to the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program if they have advanced abilities in their discipline and course offerings warrant such an exception.⁴ Undergraduate degree requirements outside of the major are in no way impacted by admission to an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program.⁵

Shared credits. Undergraduate courses (i.e., courses offered at the 300 level or below) cannot be counted as shared credits nor count towards the master's degree. Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may be counted in meeting both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Of those shared credits, students in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program should begin their graduate program with the standard introductory course(s) for the program whenever possible. So that students may progress through the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program in a timely manner, undergraduate programs are encouraged to design their curriculum such that a student can complete some required graduate credit hours while completing the undergraduate degree. For instance, some of the graduate curriculum should also satisfy electives for the undergraduate major.

The program's Graduate Director will designate credit hours to be shared through the advising form and master's degree conferral review process. Shared credit hours will not be marked on the undergraduate record as having a special status in the undergraduate program. They will be included in the student's undergraduate earned hours and GPA. Graduate

credit hours taken during the undergraduate program will not be included in the graduate GPA calculation.

- ¹ If students wish to transfer credits from another university to Loyola University Chicago, the program's Graduate director will review the relevant syllabus(es) to determine whether it meets the criteria for a 400 level course or higher.
- ² Programs with specialized accreditation requirements that allow programs to offer graduate curriculum to undergraduate students will conform to those specialized accreditation requirements.
- ³ In rare cases, the Graduate Director may authorize enrollment in a 400-level course for a highly qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, ensuring that the undergraduate's exceptional participation in the graduate class will not diminish in any way the experience of the graduate students regularly enrolled.
- ⁴ For example, if a particular course is only offered once every 2-3 years, and a student has demonstrated the necessary ability to be successful, the Graduate Director may allow a student to take a graduate level course to be shared prior to the student being formally admitted to the graduate program. See, also, footnote 4.
- ⁵ Students should not, for example, attempt to negotiate themselves out of a writing intensive requirement on the basis of admission to a graduate program.

Graduation

Degrees are awarded sequentially. All details of undergraduate commencement are handled in the ordinary way as for all students in the School/College/Institute. Once in the graduate program, students abide by the graduation deadlines set forth by the graduate program. Students in these programs must be continuously enrolled from undergraduate to graduate degree program unless given explicit permission by their program for a gap year or approved leave of absence.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

General Track MA Learning Objectives

This degree prepares students for positions as research staff in government, non-profit, and for profit sectors. The General Track also prepares students for application to Ph.D. programs.

Research learning outcomes:

- 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

Track II: Applied Master of Arts (MA)

Applied Track MA Learning Outcomes

This degree prepares students for positions as program directors or staff in government, non-profit, and for-profit sectors.

Research learning outcomes:

- 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