



SOCIOLOGY Master's Degree (M.S.)

utrgv.edu/sociology/graduate

Overview

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious traditions; from the division of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.

Sociology is distinct because it is a social science. It uses theoretical frameworks and scientific methods of research to investigate the social world and test hypotheses with empirical data. The results of sociological investigations help in the development of new theories and inform social policy, programs, and laws.

Source: American Sociological Association

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the graduate program in sociology, prospective candidates must first meet all requirements for graduate admission to UT Rio Grande Valley, as well as the other requirements listed below:

1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or a recognized international equivalent in a similar or related field.
2. Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester credit hours.
3. Two letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.
4. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree.

NOTE: The GRE is no longer required to apply.

Application for admission must be submitted prior to the published deadline. The application is available at

<https://www.utrgv.edu/gradapply/>

CAREERS in SOCIOLOGY

Education: College Professor, College Admissions Officer, Education Administrator, High School Teacher, Academic/Career Counselor

Research: Data Analyst, Research Scientist, Demographer, Program Evaluator, Grant Writer

Community/Non-Profit: Community Organizer, Outreach Coordinator, Disaster Relief Specialist, Social/Economic Justice Specialist, Immigrant/Human/Worker Rights Advocate, Policy Analyst, Research Analyst

Business/Marketing: Diversity Trainer & Recruiter, Market Research Analyst, Public Relations Specialist, Training & Development Specialist, Human Resources Specialist

Human Services & Politics: Immigration Specialist, Family Support Specialist, Prevention Specialist, Social & Community Services Manager, Communications Director, Neighborhood Development Coordinator, Urban & Regional Planner, Policy/Political Analyst

Community Coalitions

- UNIDAD Coalition (Hidalgo Co.)
- SCAN Coalition (Starr Co.)
- TPCC Coalition (Cameron Co.)

Sociology Graduate Advisor

Dr. Salvatore Restifo
Salvatore.Restifo@utrgv.edu
Ph: (956) 665-8798

Degree Plan

Thesis	Required Core	Non Thesis
12 hrs	18 hrs	12 hrs
	Designated Electives	24 hrs
6 hrs	Thesis	0 hrs
36 hrs	Total	36 hrs

Required Courses - 12 Hours

- SOCI 6300 Statistics
- SOCI 6301 Social Theory
- SOCI 6302 Research Methods

Thesis Requirement:

- SOCI 6306 Multiple Regression Analysis
- SOCI 7300 Thesis I
- SOCI 7301 Thesis II

Non Thesis Option Requirement:

- SOCI 6304 Research Capstone

Designated Electives

- SOCI 6306 Multiple Regression Analysis
- SOCI 6310 Social Change
- SOCI 6312 Teaching Sociology
- SOCI 6315 Special Topics
- SOCI 6326 Health Research & Policy
- SOCI 6327 Aging & the Life Course
- SOCI 6328 Sociology of Globalization
- SOCI 6330 Social Psychology
- SOCI 6331 Disasters & Society
- SOCI 6344 Demography
- SOCI 6345 Social Stratification
- SOCI 6350 Sociology of Education
- SOCI 6354 Family & Society
- SOCI 6358 Sociology of the Economy
- SOCI 6361 Race & Ethnic Relations
- SOCI 6362 Mexican American Society
- SOCI 6363 Border Studies
- SOCI 6364 Gender & Society
- SOCI 6376 Directed Study



Department Info

Edinburg: ELABN 344
Brownsville: BMAIN 1.440
Ph: 956-665-3321 (Edin)
Ph: 956-882-7313 (Brown)



Jesus "Jesse" Medina

Administrative Assistant II

Email: Jesus.Medina@utrgv.edu



Social Media

UTRGV Sociology

facebook.com/utrgvsociology



Sociology Club

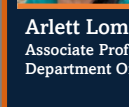
facebook.com/the.sociologyclubrgv

Graduate Faculty



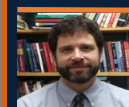
Amie Bostic, PhD

Associate Professor
Department Of Sociology



Arlett Lomeli, PhD

Associate Professor
Department Of Sociology



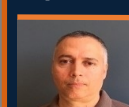
William Donner, PhD

Professor & Department Chair
Department Of Sociology



Salvatore Restifo, PhD

Associate Professor & Sociology Graduate
Program Coordinator
Department Of Sociology



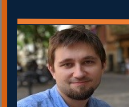
Bienvenido Ruiz, PhD

Associate Professor
Department Of Sociology



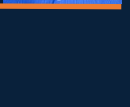
Igor Ryabov, PhD

Professor
Department Of Sociology



Dawid Wladyka, PhD

Associate Professor
Department Of Sociology





COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

(THESIS OPTION)

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 36

REQUIRED COURSES: 12 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 6300	STATISTICS	3.0		
SOCI 6301	SOCIAL THEORY	3.0		
SOCI 6302	RESEARCH METHODS	3.0		
SOCI 6306	MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS	3.0		

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT: 6 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 7300	THESIS I	3.0		
SOCI 7301	THESIS II	3.0		

DESIGNATED ELECTIVES: 18 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 6310	SOCIAL CHANGE	3.0		
SOCI 6312	TEACHING SOCIOLOGY	3.0		
SOCI 6315	SPECIAL TOPICS	3.0		
SOCI 6326	HEALTH RESEARCH & POLICY	3.0		
SOCI 6327	AGING & THE LIFE COURSE	3.0		
SOCI 6328	SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION	3.0		
SOCI 6330	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3.0		
SOCI 6331	DISASTERS & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6344	DEMOGRAPHY	3.0		
SOCI 6345	SOCIAL STRATIFICATION	3.0		
SOCI 6350	SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION	3.0		
SOCI 6354	FAMILY & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6358	SOCIOLOGY OF THE ECONOMY	3.0		
SOCI 6361	RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS	3.0		
SOCI 6362	MEXICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6363	BORDER STUDIES	3.0		
SOCI 6364	GENDER & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6376	DIRECTED STUDY	3.0		



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

(NON-THESIS OPTION)

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 36

REQUIRED COURSES: 9 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 6300	STATISTICS	3.0		
SOCI 6301	SOCIAL THEORY	3.0		
SOCI 6302	RESEARCH METHODS	3.0		

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT: 3 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 6304	RESEARCH CAPSTONE	3.0		

DESIGNATED ELECTIVES: 24 hours

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	GRADE	SEMESTER COMPLETED
SOCI 6306	MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS	3.0		
SOCI 6310	SOCIAL CHANGE	3.0		
SOCI 6312	TEACHING SOCIOLOGY	3.0		
SOCI 6315	SPECIAL TOPICS	3.0		
SOCI 6326	HEALTH RESEARCH & POLICY	3.0		
SOCI 6327	AGING & THE LIFE COURSE	3.0		
SOCI 6328	SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION	3.0		
SOCI 6330	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	3.0		
SOCI 6331	DISASTERS & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6344	DEMOGRAPHY	3.0		
SOCI 6345	SOCIAL STRATIFICATION	3.0		
SOCI 6350	SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION	3.0		
SOCI 6354	FAMILY & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6358	SOCIOLOGY OF THE ECONOMY	3.0		
SOCI 6361	RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS	3.0		
SOCI 6362	MEXICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6363	BORDER STUDIES	3.0		
SOCI 6364	GENDER & SOCIETY	3.0		
SOCI 6376	DIRECTED STUDY	3.0		

SOCIOLOGY M.S. (SAMPLE SCHEDULE)
36 TOTAL GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS

THESIS OPTION

YEAR 1		FALL		SPRING	
COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
SOCI 6300: Statistics (Required)	3	SOCI 6302: Research Methods (Required)	3		
SOCI 6301: Social Theory (Required)	3	SOCI 6306: Multiple Regression (Required)	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI 6312: Teaching Sociology <i>or</i> Elective	3		

Year 2		FALL		SPRING	
COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
SOCI 7300: Thesis I (Required)	3	SOCI 7300: Thesis II (Required)	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3		

NON-THESIS OPTION

YEAR 1		FALL		SPRING	
COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
SOCI 6300: Statistics (Required)	3	SOCI 6302: Research Methods (Required)	3		
SOCI 6301: Social Theory (Required)	3	SOCI 6312: Teaching Sociology <i>or</i> Elective	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3		

Year 2		FALL		SPRING	
COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI 6304: Research Capstone (Required)	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3		
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3		

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it necessary to have majored in sociology as an undergraduate in order to apply to the program?

No. However, applicants' preparedness will be evaluated to determine whether they will require any additional remedial courses to succeed in the program. The possible three required undergraduate courses are Social Theory, Sociological Research Methods, and Statistics.

Will students who take a Methods or Statistics course in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Political Science or Math be required to take these courses again in Sociology?

No, these courses would not need to be repeated. However, it would be highly recommended to review Social Theory. It is possible to apply and discuss these courses in detailed with the Program Advisor to evaluate what courses would be required.

I am a graduating sociology major and would like to enter the master's program the following academic year. What do I do?

Students are required to [apply](#) for Graduate Admission and submit all program requirements. After the Graduate College has processed your application, an Admissions Specialist will send your application over to the program where they will review and make a decision on your application.

Do I need to talk to the Graduate Advisor before applying?

No, you will have to first apply, declare your major as Sociology, and then make an appointment to talk to the Graduate Advisor.

Do I need to take the GRE?

No. The GRE is no longer required to apply.

What will I need to submit along with my application to the program?

Yes, students will need to provide an official bachelor's degree transcript with a minimum 3.0 GPA, a letter of intent including professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree, and two letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.

Will I have to write a master's thesis?

No. However, students are encouraged to complete a thesis if they wish to pursue a doctorate as many doctoral programs require its completion for admission. Otherwise, students are able to select the non-thesis option, which includes completing research within the Capstone course.

How many total hours are students required to complete before graduation?

Students are required to complete 36 graduate credit hours.

What are the required courses?

The four required graduate courses are Statistics, Social Theory, Research Methods, and Research Capstone.

Does the program have specializations or tracks?

While there are no designated areas of specialization or official tracks, students may focus on self-selected topics from amongst the designated electives.

Local Non-Profit Organizations

- Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas
www.bhsst.org
- Palms Behavioral Health
www.palmsbh.com
- Family Crisis Center
www.familycrisisctr.org
- Friendship of Women
www.fowinc.com
- The Purple Door
www.purpledoortx.org
- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
www.ttbh.org
- South Texas Civil Rights Project
<https://texascivilrightsproject.org/>

Community Coalitions

- UNIDAD Coalition (Hidalgo Co.)
- SCAN Coalition (Starr Co.)
- TPCC Coalition (Cameron Co.)

Some Positions

- Academic Counselor
- Case Manager
- Coalition Coordinator
- Compliance Reviewer
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Data Coordinator
- Family Support Specialist
- Market Research Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Prevention Specialist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Racial/Economic Justice Outreach Coordinator
- Youth Care Manager