

Understanding our social world is critical as we move through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The graduate programs in sociology at the University of Louisville prepare students to examine our constantly changing world through the development of strong research and analytical skills, allowing for the scientific study of social issues and problems.



### **Our programs**

The [master of arts in sociology](#) provides students with strong research skills, preparing them for direct entry into the workforce or a doctoral program. In addition to contemporary social theory, students take three statistics and two methods (qualitative and survey) courses before writing their thesis (a 30-page article-length paper based on original research). The degree requires a total of 34 credit hours and can generally be completed within two years in full-time status. (Visit our [MA curriculum page](#) for more details.)

The [doctor of philosophy in applied sociology](#) trains students to meet the growing demand for both academic scholars and employees who are prepared to help answer pressing empirical questions and advance policy on a variety of social issues and problems. In addition to core courses (program evaluation, classical social theory, organizational theory, social policy, fundamental assumptions of sociology, and social stratification), students have the opportunity to take several elective or independent study courses prior to their comprehensive exams (taken in a major and minor area which depend on current faculty expertise) and writing their dissertation (an original research project that is defended upon completion). The degree requires a total of 34 credit hours and can generally be completed within two to three years in full-time status. (Visit our [PhD curriculum page](#) for details.)

### **Our faculty**

The Department of Sociology is an active research unit, and our students have the opportunity to work with any of our fifteen [faculty](#) as both consultants/members of their thesis or dissertation committees, collaborators on manuscripts, and teaching mentors. At present, we have faculty with expertise in a wide variety of areas, including (but not limited to): families, gender, intersectionality, medical sociology, methodology, race and ethnicity, sexualities, urban sociology, and work and leisure.

### **Our students**

Our graduate student community is small enough that students are afforded an opportunity to develop strong mentoring relationships with our faculty and to collaborate meaningfully on research and teaching. Several of our graduate students have published work with our faculty in numerous academic journals—and our faculty welcome students to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Our invitation**

We encourage students to visit our campus and meet some of our sociology faculty and graduate students, and, if possible, attend a graduate course. To schedule a visit or for more information about our graduate programs, contact Dr. Jonetta Weber at [jonettaweber@louisville.edu](mailto:jonettaweber@louisville.edu).

## Our admissions criteria

The Department of Sociology does not base admission solely on meeting – or failure to meet – certain criteria; however, chances are improved if students have a minimum undergraduate (and graduate, if applying to the PhD program) GPA of 3.0; have demonstrated high-level competency in previous undergraduate (and graduate, if applying to the PhD program) coursework in statistics, methods, and theory; and, if applying to the PhD program, students must have completed a thesis or an independent work of research from another accredited graduate program. (Beginning with admission for Fall, 2021, GRE scores are no longer required, although students may submit them if they wish to supplement their application materials.) For complete admission criteria, visit our [MA admissions page](#) or [PhD admissions page](#).

## Our application requirements

Both the MA and PhD programs require applicants to submit an online graduate application, official transcripts from any colleges attended, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, a résumé or CV, a personal statement, and (if an international student), TOEFL or IELTS scores and a financial statement. For a complete list of required materials for each program, visit our [MA admissions page](#) or [PhD admissions page](#).

## Our funding opportunities

Funding (graduate assistantships or fellowships) is available to students who apply to the stand-alone PhD program (having earned a master's degree elsewhere) or to those who apply jointly to our MA and PhD programs. (Funding is not available to students who apply only to our MA program.)

## Our application deadlines

The application deadline for those seeking funding (graduate assistantships or fellowships) for fall admission is January 5 (for spring, October 1); for those not seeking funding, the deadline for fall admission is June 1; for spring admission, November 1.



Some faculty, staff, and students of Sociology – and Lutz Hall, home to the Department of Sociology

## Our graduates

Since our first class of doctoral students graduated in 2014, we have had [20 students earn their PhD degrees](#) from our program, entering academia as faculty/lecturers, administrators, or directors; or the public sector as a statistician/demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington DC, as a liaison between the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Workforce Development Council, as a member of the Cyber Crimes Unit with the Kentucky Attorney General's Office, as an epidemiologist, and another as a consultant with a research organization.

We have graduated numerous students from our MA program in the past several decades. In recent years, our MA graduates have pursued positions with social service agencies, as well as the public and private sectors, including (but certainly not limited to): researcher with an applied evaluation firm; house manager of local Ronald McDonald House; family coach at local Americana Community Center for immigrants, refugees, and low-income individuals; administrators in education, with a consulting firm, and at a local youth home. Several others have pursued doctoral degrees in sociology at other institutions, and several work as faculty or lecturers at both four-year and community colleges.

## Our facilities

Our graduate courses are generally held in the department – statistics courses in our computer room and other courses held in our large (or small) conference room – in the same hallways where our faculty offices are located.

## Our University and City

As you consider UofL for your graduate degree, please visit our Graduate School's website for "[future students](#)," which provides information about the application process (including fees, residency requirements, etc.), housing, financial support, living in Louisville, and campus life (including clubs, organizations, and diversity).