

GRADUATE

Sociology

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology

SIUE

siue.edu/grad/sociology

Sociology at SIUE

"I have come to realize that sociologists are the closest things to superheroes in this world. They challenge one another, but also larger societal institutions on issues such as racism, addiction, and poverty that impact communities like mine. They might not have superhuman abilities, but they are by no means powerless."

- Maurice Davis, MA '15

Graduates are equipped with the skills and understanding necessary to address today's social problems and policies. Through the program's advanced study, students examine theory, conduct research and analyze data on issues such as:

- Deviance and crime
- Gender/sexualities
- Race and ethnic relations
- Medicine
- Leadership and organizations
- Sustainability
- Social inequality
- Research methods and statistics

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in Sociology
- Master of Science in Integrative Studies - Sustainability

What can I do with a degree in sociology?

A master's degree in sociology is not for those who seek complacency, but rather for those who seek to create a legacy through their careers.

Many graduates of the master's program are regionally recognized leaders in their fields who command titles such as director, executive director, manager or owner soon after graduation. Others have used their degrees as stepping stones to a PhD or law degree, a credential for a teaching position at a community college, or preparation for doing research for private business or public service agencies.

Our graduates are not locked into lackluster or boring jobs. Rather, they create careers that are nothing short of excellent, bringing their skills to:

- Universities
- Global powerhouse organizations
- Medical centers
- Non-profits
- High-ranking government positions

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Submit a writing sample. The writing sample, which should be 4-15 pages in length, may consist of a paper turned in for a course or other written work prepared by the applicant. It should address some social scientific and preferably sociological issue.
- Statement of Purpose: Submit a written personal statement of one to two pages indicating their motivations and objectives for graduate study in sociology.
- Admission is usually routine for those who meet the following requirements and standards:
 - 30 or more semester hours in the social sciences (anthropology, political science, economics, psychology, history) including 21 hours in sociology, six of those hours being sociological theory and sociological statistics or methods, with grades of B or better.
 - An overall GPA of at least 2.7 (A=4.0).

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Application Deadline

Students may be admitted to the program at the beginning of any semester, but we encourage applications for admission in the fall semester because of course sequencing. Persons seeking admission for fall semester should apply no later than July 10 of the year in which they wish to begin their studies.

Although all applicants are encouraged to apply to begin their studies in the fall semester, applications for other semesters will be considered up to the following deadlines:

- Spring Semester: November 15
- Summer Term: April 1

Exit Requirements

There are three exit requirement options for students enrolled in the master's program in sociology: Thesis, internship and comprehensive exams. The completed thesis must be defended in a final oral examination administered by the student's thesis committee. Students pursuing the internship option must successfully complete an oral examination administered by the advisory committee. This examination will cover both the internship experience and the written internship report. A comprehensive exam option also requires an oral examination with an advisory committee; the oral component is related to the written exams taken by the student.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 30
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Curriculum

Requirements for the Master of Arts in sociology include 30 semester hours of graduate credit, distributed as follows:

Required courses (15 hours): SOC 500, 501, 515, 518, 592

SOC 501, 515, and 518 are taken in the first year to ensure a basic knowledge of sociological theory, methods and data analysis. SOC 592 is taken after completion of 18 hours, including 515, or with consent of the graduate program director. *Students with exceptional research skills and experience may elect to be evaluated for conditional exemption from the SOC 592 requirement. If conditional exemption is granted by the Graduate Committee, the student will complete another approved course in the Plan of Study.*

Students must receive a grade of B or higher in all required courses. Also, during the first 12 semester hours of graduate study, only courses with a grade of B or higher can be counted toward the degree.

Electives (9 hours): Students completing the thesis or internship exit requirements must complete 9 hours of electives, at least six hours of which must be sociology seminar courses at the 500-level. Students completing the comprehensive exam exit requirement must complete 15 hours of electives, 12 of which must be sociology seminar courses at the 500-level. For all options, up to three semester hours of 500-level electives may be taken in related fields outside sociology when approved by the graduate program director.

Thesis or Internship (6 hours): By the completion of 18 semester hours, and in consultation with the graduate program director, the student can select a traditional or applied research option: Six hours of SOC 599 (Thesis) or three hours of SOC 593A (Graduate Internship-Experience) and three hours of SOC 593B (Graduate Internship-Report). The internship comprises two parts: At least 140 hours of a supervised work experience in either a research or public service setting (SOC 593A), and a substantial, original written report concerning a sociological issue related to the internship (SOC 593B). Guidelines for the internship report are included in the department's graduate student handbook. Normally, the thesis or internship options will not be taken until the student has completed at least 24 semester hours of coursework.

Comprehensive Exam Option (6 hours): Students who choose the comprehensive exam option will be required to take additional six hours of sociology graduate seminar electives and successfully complete comprehensive exams in three areas: Theory, methods and a subject area chosen by the student. For the Comprehensive Exam option, students choose a three-person committee to help develop and grade both a written and oral exam.

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Contact Information
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