Sociology M.A.

Are you curious about social problems? Do you have ideas about how to improve society? Are you interested in social policies and their effects? If so, Sociology may be for you. A Sociology degree prepares you for a wide range of careers in the following areas: business and industry, government, community and social services, the legal system, education, and research. Our majors work in nonprofit organizations, government, marketing, urban planning, and human resources. They also work with at-risk youth, senior citizens, and people struggling with substance abuse. Our faculty have areas of specialization in family sociology, medical sociology, immigration, religion, race and ethnic relations, social inequality, complex organizations and nonprofit organizations, and conflict resolution.

The Candidate Plan of Study (CPS) must include the following requirements:

1. A minimum of twelve undergraduate upper-level hours in the behavioral sciences (Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology). If this requirement has not been met prior to admission, then such courses should be completed before beginning work toward the Master of Arts.

2. If students are not taking the coursework option (36 hours; see details below), then a minimum of six hours is required in one of the following master's options:
   a. Master's Thesis
   b. Graduate Internship

3. Registering for a master’s thesis or internship should not be seen as an automatic right. Students wishing to complete a master’s option must submit a master’s option proposal. For the thesis, the proposal should be 3–6 pages in length. It should include a literature review with references and a statement of the proposed methodology for carrying out the thesis. Before registering for thesis, a student must have the approval of a faculty member who agrees to supervise the work. Before registering for a graduate internship, a student must apply through the internship coordinator and meet the required criteria, including a grade point average of 3.00 or better. The university reserves the right to deny admittance to or to remove a student from a specific internship.

4. Grades of "B-" or better must be earned for at least 30 hours of coursework. Grades of "C+" or below are not acceptable for these 30 hours.

5. No more than 25% of the credit hours required for program completion (6 for a 30-hour program, 9 for a 36-hour program) may be transferred in from another school and applied toward the Master of Arts degree. In such a case, the following requirements must be met:
   a. The courses are pertinent to the degree objective and the CPS.
   b. The courses were taken not more than five years prior to admission to graduate study at UHCL.
c. Grades of "B-" or better were earned. Grades of "C+" or below are not acceptable.
d. The courses were not applied to a graduate degree already earned.
e. The courses were not taken by correspondence or extension.
6. At least 24 credits of the degree plan must be earned at UHCL.

Degree Requirements

General Requirements

SOCI 6730 and SOCI 6731 must be completed for credit within the first three long semesters (Fall/Spring) of a student’s graduate coursework. Students seeking an exception must obtain written approval from the Sociology program director.

Note: SOCI 6731 is offered in the fall and is a prerequisite to SOCI 6730 which is offered in the spring.

Core Sociology Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5032</td>
<td>Seminar in Mental Health and Illness Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5233</td>
<td>Religion and Immigration Studies in Houston Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5236</td>
<td>Religion and Global Change Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5333</td>
<td>Minorities and Majorities Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5334</td>
<td>Social Stratification Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5337</td>
<td>Complex Organizations Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5433</td>
<td>Social Conflict and Mediation Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5434</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5435</td>
<td>Gendered Inequality: Work and Family Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5438</td>
<td>Sociology of the Life Course and Aging Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5537</td>
<td>Urban Problems Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5633</td>
<td>American Immigration Studies Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5731</td>
<td>Politics and Protest Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5732</td>
<td>Seminar in Social Problems Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5734</td>
<td>Seminar in Women’s Health Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5737</td>
<td>Seminar in Medical Sociology Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 6736</td>
<td>Seminar in Global Health Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentrations

Graduate Sociology students are also encouraged to work with their faculty adviser to structure their plans of study in order to reflect concentrations within the discipline. Five concentrations are available.

1. Concentration in Diversity

Choose THREE of the following courses. For SOCI 5236, the following may be substituted: CRCL 5033. For SOCI 5333, the following may be substituted: PSYC 5534.

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<tr>
<td>SOCI 5233</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 5333</td>
<td>Minorities and Majorities Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Concentration in Work and Occupations

Choose THREE of the following courses. For SOCI 5532, the following may be substituted: PSYC 5532.

- SOCI 5337: Complex Organizations 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5433: Social Conflict and Mediation 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5435: Gendered Inequality: Work and Family 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5532: Advanced Social Psychology 
  Credit Hours: 3

3. Concentration in Urban Studies

Choose THREE of the following courses. For SOCI 5333, the following may be substituted: PSYC 5534.

- GEOG 5132: Urban Political Ecology 
  Credit Hours: 3
- GEOG 5134: Geographic Information Systems 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5233: Religion and Immigration Studies in Houston 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5333: Minorities and Majorities 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5334: Social Stratification 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5537: Urban Problems 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5633: American Immigration Studies 
  Credit Hours: 3

4. Concentration in Health and Medicine

Choose THREE of the following courses.

- SOCI 5032: Seminar in Mental Health and Illness 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5232: Environmental Health 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 6734: Seminar in Women’s Health 
  Credit Hours: 3

5. Concentration in Family Sociology

Choose THREE of the following courses. For SOCI 5437, the following may be substituted: PSYC 5437.

- SOCI 5434: Marriage and Family 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5435: Gendered Inequality: Work and Family 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5437: Aging 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5438: Sociology of the Life Course and Aging 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5533: Sociology of Human Intimacy 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 5535: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Family 
  Credit Hours: 3

Master’s Options

Thesis Option (30 hours)

For SOCI 6432, the following may be substituted: GEOG 5134, SOCI 6939 must be repeated for a total of 6 hours. In addition to the courses below, students should choose 9 hours from the “Core Sociology Classes” listed above; students should also complete a 3-hour SOCI elective.

- SOCI 5131: Contemporary Sociological Theory 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 6730: Graduate Statistics 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 6731: Graduate Research Methods 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 6432: Qualitative Research Methods 
  Credit Hours: 3
- SOCI 6939: Master’s Thesis Research 
  Credit Hours: 3

Additional Information

The thesis is a 35-40 page paper that could potentially be publishable in a Sociology scholarly journal; it must be in American Sociological Association
format, use real data, contain a literature review, and test at least one hypothesis derived from a sociological theory. This option requires a thesis committee, a proposal, and a completed thesis approved by the student’s thesis committee consisting of at least two members as well as by the dean and the associate dean.

**Internship Option (36 hours)**

For SOCI 6432, the following may be substituted: GEOG 5134. SOCI 6739 must be repeated for a total of 6 hours. In addition to the courses below, students should choose 9 hours from the "Core Sociology Classes" listed above; students should also complete 9 hours of SOCI electives.

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<td>SOCI 6432</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 6739</td>
<td>Graduate Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Additional Information**

Internships may be completed in one of two ways: 1) students may complete a 500-hour internship at a social service agency, nonprofit organization, or other association related to career goals and with approval of the Sociology Internship Coordinator; or 2) students may complete a teaching internship, which consists of acting as a teaching assistant for a community college professor in the first semester and then teaching a course independently in the second semester, most likely Introduction to Sociology at a community college.

**Additional Coursework Option (36 hours)**

For SOCI 6432, the following may be substituted: GEOG 5134. In addition to the courses below, students should choose 15 hours from the "Core Sociology Classes" listed above; student should also complete 9 hours of SOCI electives.

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 6909</td>
<td>Sociology Comprehensive Exam</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Information**

Students should complete SOCI 6909 in the last semester of the degree. The Comprehensive Exam will be either a research proposal developed by the student in consultation with a faculty adviser or a written examination that includes questions contributed by all full-time sociology faculty.