



UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Ph.D. in Sociology

The doctoral degree in Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston prepares students for distinguished academic careers and leadership roles in public and private sectors. Through rigorous coursework and independent research, students gain the skills needed to address complex social issues and drive meaningful change.

Located in the vibrant city of Boston, our program offers unique opportunities to engage directly with critical national and international conversations around race, gender, inequality, health care, immigration, identity, and public policy.

PhD students complete core courses in social theory and research methods, then pursue specialized research in their chosen area of interest, supported by faculty expertise and real-world research opportunities.

BENEFITS OF STUDYING SOCIOLOGY

- Development of analytical and research skills desired by academic and research institutes, non-profit agencies, and government agencies.
- Professional knowledge of the factors influencing social change.
- Preparation for leadership positions in policy development, health care, community development, veteran services, criminal justice, social service agencies, higher education, and think tanks.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate assistantships provide doctoral students with opportunities to conduct research in collaboration with faculty and to teach classes under faculty supervision. The PhD Programs offers funding for full-time doctoral students consisting of a tuition credit, bi-weekly stipend, and a contribution to student health insurance. Students work up to 18 hours per week in either research or teaching roles at the university to receive assistantship benefits.

FACULTY AND RESEARCH

Our faculty is a dynamic, interdisciplinary community of scholars with diverse intellectual interests and methodological expertise. Nationally recognized for their research, they are deeply committed to guiding students through critical explorations of the human condition, globalization, culture, and the pressing issues shaping our world today.

Our faculty engages in teaching and research that explores a wide range of social issues including:

- race and racism
- gender
- sexuality
- health
- culture
- politics
- migration
- law & society
- social transformation
- work & occupations



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students can apply to the PhD program with or without additional graduate training. Those who apply without a master's degree will complete the requirements for our MA en route to their PhD. Those who apply with graduate training may be eligible for admission with "advanced standing" and receive credit for their previous graduate work.

- Minimum 3.25 undergraduate GPA
- Minimum 3.50 graduate GPA

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students with advanced standing

- 36 credits of coursework
- Pass both the Empirical Paper Comprehensive and the Substantive Area Comprehensive Exams
- Research and written dissertation
- Dissertation Defense

Students without advanced standing

- Must first complete requirements for UMass Boston's 36-credit MA in Applied Sociology
- Complete the 36 credits of coursework in the PhD program
- Pass both the Empirical Paper and the Substantive Area Comprehensive Exams
- Research and written dissertation
- Dissertation defense



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PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Requirements:

- SOCIOL 604 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCIOL 607 Contemporary Social Theory
- SOCIOL 609 Qualitative Methods and Field Research
- SOCIOL 610 Teaching Sociology
- SOCIOL 650 Methods of Research
- SOCIOL 651 Quantitative Methods
- SOCIOL 652 Advanced Quantitative Methods
- SOCIOL 694 Research Seminar
- SOCIOL 700 Proseminar I Intro to Graduate Sociology
- SOCIOL 701 Proseminar II: Career Planning

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions for **fall entry** through the [online application portal](#) by the **application deadline: January 2**

Application Materials

- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate programs attended.
- TOEFL scores (if applicable).
- Three (3) letters of recommendation.
 - At least one of the letters must be a faculty member with whom the applicant is studying or has studied.
- 1500-word statement addressing specific interest in a PhD in sociology and rationale for pursuing the PhD, current major research and interests in the field of sociology, and professional post-PhD goals.
- Academic writing sample.

For more information,
please scan the
QR code



sociology.graduate@umb.edu