Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Why study sociology?
Sociology offers a distinct perspective on understanding the social world. Our discipline emphasizes how institutions and structural forces outside the individual—the family, organizations, politics, economics, culture—shape individual and group behavior, opportunities, and histories. As a major teaching and research unit, we seek to ensure that the knowledge imparted to our students is current and that they learn the skills of critical inquiry, analytical evaluation, and historical sensibilities.

Admission to Graduate Studies
An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission
The Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas offers a Ph.D. program in sociology. Upon admission, all students are enrolled as Ph.D. students, but must complete all requirements for a M.A. degree during their progress toward the Ph.D. degree. Students are eligible to apply for the M.A. degree once these M.A. requirements are met.

To be considered for admission, applicants must have completed 15 credit hours in sociology, a course in sociological theory, and a course in statistics. Applications must include scores on the Graduate Record Examination aptitude tests. International applicants and/or non-native speakers of English must submit scores on the GRE and either the Test of English as a Foreign Language administered by ETS, the academic format of the International English Language Testing System administered by Cambridge ESOL Examinations, or the academic version of the Pearson Test of English.

Applications also must include:

- A statement of academic interests and professional goals,
- 3 recommendation rating forms and letters from individuals who can evaluate the applicant’s academic performance,
- 1 complete set of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended,
- A current résumé/curriculum vitae,
- A writing sample (senior or master’s thesis preferred), and
- A nonrefundable application fee (see Admission in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog).

The applicant’s record should indicate considerable academic promise and a high level of motivation.

Submit your graduate application online (http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application). Most application materials can be attached to the online application.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements
For the Ph.D., students must complete 54 hours of graduate coursework, which includes both M.A. and Ph.D. coursework requirements. Thesis and dissertation hour enrollments are also required.

1. Within the first 2 years of the program, students must complete all M.A. level requirements, including coursework, portfolio, thesis, and a final exam. If a student does not complete all the M.A. level requirements within the first 2 years of the program, s/he will not be eligible for the renewal of his/her GTA/GRA funding. 36 hours of graduate credit are required for the M.A., including:

Required Courses (6)
SOC 810 Sociological Inquiry
SOC 811 Sociological Research

Methods (6)
SOC 812 Analytic Methods in Sociology
SOC 814 Health Services Research: Epidemiology, Evaluation, and Survey Methods
SOC 910 Seminar on Special Topics in Methods: ______

Theory (6)
SOC 801 The Rise of Social Theory
SOC 802 Classical Social Theory
SOC 803 Issues in Contemporary Theory: ______
SOC 808 Feminist Theories
SOC 900 Seminar on Special Topics in Theory: ______

Elective Seminars (15)
SOC 722 Sociology of Gender
SOC 760 Social Inequality
SOC 762 Seminar in Social Deviation and Control: ______
SOC 767 Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gerontology and Aging
SOC 780 Advanced Topics in Sociology: ______
SOC 820 Political Sociology
SOC 824 Health and Social Behavior
SOC 873 International Political Economy
SOC 875 The Political Economy of Globalization
SOC 920 Seminar on Special Topics in Social Organizations: ______
SOC 930 Seminar on Special Topics in Comparative Studies: ______
SOC 940 Seminar on Topics in Demography, Ecology, and Community: ______
SOC 970 Seminar on Special Topics in Social Conflict and Change: ______

Thesis (3)
SOC 899 Thesis

*Individual Master’s Readings courses (SOC 91) may not be used to meet these requirements except by approved petition.
2. During their first year in the program, students must begin compiling portfolios of their professional work.

3. Students must complete an M.A. thesis under the direction of a sociology faculty member of the student's choosing, an oral defense of the thesis, and a final exam for the M.A. Degree.

4. After completing the requirements for the M.A. degree above, students must attain the requisite levels of competence in the history and theory of sociology and in methods of sociological research by completing the courses listed below. Students must complete an additional 18 graduate credit hours from the coursework list above. This should include:
   - An additional 3 credit hours of theory
   - An additional 3 credit hours of methods
   - An additional 9 credit hours of electives

*Individual Doctoral Readings courses (SOC 991) may not be used to meet these requirements except by approved petition.

The doctoral student must also complete SOC 995 Professionalization Proseminar.

5. Students must complete the Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship (RSRS) requirement. The university requires that every doctoral student have training in responsible scholarship and research skills pertinent to the field of research and appropriate to the doctoral level. This requirement must be met before taking the comprehensive oral exam. Doctoral students in sociology meet this requirement by completion of the following courses: SOC 810, SOC 811, SOC 812, SOC 910. Additional information about this requirement can be found under Doctoral Degree Requirements, Doctor of Philosophy (http://catalog.dept.ku.edu/201314/schools/gs/programs/#docreqs), Research Skills in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

6. Students must compile portfolios of their professional work successfully demonstrating command of 2 fields of specialization within sociology and preparation to undertake dissertation research.

7. Students must pass an oral comprehensive examination and defense of dissertation proposal, within the first 6 semesters post-M.A. degree. The oral comprehensive examination and dissertation proposal defense occur at the same time. The oral comprehensive examination refers to an oral examination of the student’s understanding of the 2 fields of specialization. The dissertation committee must consist of at least 5 members, 4 of whom are members of the sociology department.

8. The candidate must continue to enroll in accordance with the Office of Graduate Studies Post-comprehensive Enrollment policy (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-candidacy) until all Ph.D. degree requirements have been met.


**Non-thesis (Terminal) M.A. Option**

A student that wishes to complete a master’s degree but does not wish to continue on to the doctoral level of the program may choose the non-thesis, terminal M.A. option. Completion of these requirements leads to the M.A. degree but does not allow the student to proceed to doctoral study. Non-thesis students must complete 30 hours of graduate credit. Coursework requirements are the same as listed above for the thesis-option M.A., but SOC 811 and thesis hours (SOC 899) are not required.