

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

The Master of Arts in Sociology is a completely online program designed to provide students with advanced instruction in quantitative and qualitative techniques of sociological research, theory, and sociological analysis. Students will develop the advanced professional skills necessary to analyze social issues in applied settings and advance their careers. The Master of Arts in Sociology degree program emphasizes public sociology. Public Sociology takes many forms and ranges from community-based research and partnerships to the publication of research briefs that seek to engage the broader public to engagement in local social movements. Students have the option of completing a thesis or capstone project.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/sociology/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit

All students seeking admission to the Master of Arts program in Sociology must submit the following documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html>):

1. Graduate Application (<https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee: (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>) An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Transcripts from all degree-granting institutions.*

Applicants having at least a 3.50 undergraduate GPA and a degree in Sociology will be automatically admitted. In addition to these *required* application materials, the graduate committee strongly recommends that applicants submit additional items based on their prior coursework and performance.

For applicants who have *either* a 3.5 undergraduate GPA without a Sociology degree *or* a 3.0-3.49 undergraduate GPA, we **strongly recommend** they include a response to the following prompt:

In 500 to 1,000 words, describe how your personal, professional, and/or educational experiences have prepared you to engage with sociological thinking. Then, select a social problem that is important to you and demonstrate how a sociological perspective can be used to consider potential solutions. Finally, identify professional or career goals and articulate how our program can help you to achieve them.

If applicants have a traditional writing sample that demonstrates their ability to apply a sociological perspective, they may submit that in the place of their response to the prompt.

For applications who have below a 3.0 undergraduate GPA, we **strongly recommend** they include a response to the previously stated prompt (or a writing sample), at least one letter from a professional reference, and a statement explaining why their undergraduate GPA is not the best indicator of their potential to succeed in the program.

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

Students will be admitted for the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. The application deadline for Spring enrollment is December 1st; the application deadline for Summer enrollment is May 1; the application deadline for Fall enrollment is August 1st.

Notes

Admission to the MA Program in Sociology is competitive and the number of available positions is limited.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Contact information:

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The Master of Arts in Sociology requires a minimum of 30 hours of 5000-level SOCI courses.

Students can select between a Thesis Option and a Non-Thesis Option.

Requirements

Thesis Option (30 semester hours)

- Must complete 9 hours of Core Requirements
- SOCI 6098 and SOCI 6099, which represent the completion of a formal MA thesis
- Minimum of 15 credit hours of Sociology Electives

Non-Thesis Option (30 semester hours)

- Must complete 9 hours of Core Requirements
- Minimum of 21 hours of Sociology Electives
- Must complete the Capstone Project. The requirements for the capstone project include a formal paper and professional presentation.

Required Courses

Students pursuing a Master's Degree in Sociology must take the following core courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Course Requirements		
SOCI 5310	Seminar In Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 5312	Seminar in Sociological Research	3
SOCI 5314	Social Statistics	3
Total Hours		9

Degree Plan 1 - MA in Sociology (Thesis Option)

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Arts in Sociology (Thesis Option)		
Specified Courses		
SOCI 5310	Seminar In Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 5312	Seminar in Sociological Research	3
SOCI 5314	Social Statistics	3
SOCI 6098	Thesis Practicum	3
SOCI 6099	Thesis	3
Prescribed Electives: SOCI		
Select five of the following:		15
SOCI 5313	Qualitative Methods	
SOCI 5320	Sociology of Community	
SOCI 5321	Cultural Sociology	
SOCI 5322	Seminar In Medical Sociology	
SOCI 5324	Seminar in Social Change and Development	
SOCI 5325	Seminar in Food and Society	
SOCI 5331	Sociology of The Family	
SOCI 5337	Gender and Society	
SOCI 5338	Sociology of Disasters	
SOCI 5351	Seminar in Environmental Sociology	
SOCI 5353	Seminar in Race And Ethnic Studies	
SOCI 5355	Seminar in Social Inequality	
SOCI 5378	Techniques of Research Proposal Writing in Social Sciences	
SOCI 5380	Social Impact Assessment and Program Evaluation	
SOCI 5384	Seminar in Economy and Society	
SOCI 5386	The Sociology of Aging	
SOCI 6360	Seminar In Sociology	
Total Hours		30

Degree Plan 2 - MA in Sociology (Non-Thesis Option)

Code	Title	Hours
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Non-Thesis Option)		
Specified Courses		
SOCI 5310	Seminar In Sociological Theory	3
SOCI 5312	Seminar in Sociological Research	3
SOCI 5314	Social Statistics	3
Prescribed Electives: SOCI		
Select seven of the following:		21
SOCI 5313	Qualitative Methods	
SOCI 5320	Sociology of Community	
SOCI 5321	Cultural Sociology	
SOCI 5322	Seminar In Medical Sociology	
SOCI 5324	Seminar in Social Change and Development	
SOCI 5325	Seminar in Food and Society	
SOCI 5331	Sociology of The Family	
SOCI 5337	Gender and Society	
SOCI 5338	Sociology of Disasters	
SOCI 5351	Seminar in Environmental Sociology	
SOCI 5353	Seminar in Race And Ethnic Studies	
SOCI 5355	Seminar in Social Inequality	
SOCI 5378	Techniques of Research Proposal Writing in Social Sciences	
SOCI 5380	Social Impact Assessment and Program Evaluation	
SOCI 5384	Seminar in Economy and Society	
SOCI 5386	The Sociology of Aging	
SOCI 6360	Seminar In Sociology	
Total Hours		30

Notes: Must complete the Capstone Project. The requirements for the capstone project include a formal paper and professional presentation.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MA in Sociology is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Expertise in core sociological theories, concepts, and methods.
- Expertise in multiple topical areas in sociology.
- Knowledge of sociology pedagogy.
- Applied skills in data management and analyses.
- Competency to teach sociology courses at the community college and high school levels.