



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 is designed to prepare students for outstanding academic careers as well as for leadership roles as applied sociologists in public and private agencies and research organizations through stimulating coursework and independent research experiences.

Based in the vibrant city of Boston, the PhD program is uniquely positioned to expose students to the issues that are at the forefront of the nation's conversations regarding race, crime, equality, health care, immigration, identity, and public policy.

PhD students complete a core set of courses in social theory and research methods and specialize in an area of their interest.

BENEFITS OF STUDYING GRADUATE SOCIOLOGY

- Development of analytical and research skills desired by research institutes, non-profit agencies, and government agencies.
- Intimate 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 EXPERTISE

Our faculty is an interdisciplinary scholarly community with varied intellectual interests and methodological approaches. Our faculty engages in innovative and grounded teaching and research that explores a wide range of social issues including, but not limited to, race and racism, power, poverty, politics, culture, migration, crime and justice, physical and mental health, gender, sexuality, interpersonal and group processes, and social transformation. With a strong commitment to research, our nationally recognized faculty guides students through an exploration of the human condition, globalization, culture, and the current issues that affect us all.



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 Theory/Methods 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 Theory/Methods and the Substantive Area comprehensive exams
- Research and written dissertation
- Dissertation defense

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Requirements:

- SOCIOL 604 Classical Sociological Theory
- SOCIOL 607 Contemporary Social Theory
- SOCIOL 609 Qualitative Methods and Field Research
- SOCIOL 650 Methods of Research
- SOCIOL 651 Quantitative Methods
- SOCIOL 652 Advanced Quantitative Methods
- SOCIOL 700 Proseminar I Intro to Graduate Sociology
- SOCIOL 701 Proseminar II: Career Planning
- SOCIOL 702 Proseminar III: Developing Professional Skills

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions through the [online application portal](#) by the **application deadline: January 31**

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](#)



www.umb.edu



sociology.graduate@umb.edu



617-287-5717