



Fact Sheet

GRADUATE STUDIES

The PhD in Sociology

The Program Description

The Department of Sociology at UMass Boston announces a new PhD Program in Sociology. Coursework and research experiences will prepare students for outstanding academic careers as well as for leadership roles as applied sociologists in public and private agencies and research organizations.

The PhD Program in Sociology builds on the success of our MA Program in Applied Sociology and the research and scholarly accomplishments of our dynamic faculty. PhD students will complete a core set of courses in social theory and research methods and then concentrate in one of three areas.

- health, mental health and health care services
- communities and crime
- immigration and globalization

Doctoral students may also complete requirements for a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services or a Graduate Certificate in Survey Research.

Graduate assistantships will provide doctoral students with opportunities to conduct research in collaboration with faculty and to teach classes under faculty supervision. Training and research opportunities will be enriched through partnerships with the Departments of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and at the Harvard Medical School, with the Hannover Medical School in Germany, with UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, and with faculty in human services at Salem State University and in criminology at UMass Lowell.

PhD Requirements

Post-master's students are required to successfully complete 36 credits, complete their dissertation, and successfully defend their dissertation in one consecutive three-year period. Students who apply for admission to the PhD program without an MA must first complete requirements for UMass Boston's 36-credit MA degree in Applied Sociology and pass a comprehensive examination.

Please note: Courses taken to fulfill MA requirements may not be counted towards completion of the additional PhD program requirements. MA students must take the comprehensive exam and receive a passing grade in order to be admitted to the PhD Program.

Required Courses (12 credits):

Soc 607 - Contemporary Sociological Theory
Soc 652 - Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis
Soc 609L - Qualitative Methods and Field Research*

*If this course was taken to fulfill MA requirements, then an additional methods course is required.

One additional course emphasizing theory:*

Soc 601 - Complex Organizations
Soc 620 - Social Problems/Inequalities
Soc 604 - Theories of Globalization
Soc 606 - Semiotics and Cultural Analysis
Soc 682 - Sociology of Health and Illness
Soc 690 - Nature of Crime

*Courses taken to meet concentration requirements cannot be used also to satisfy the theory requirement.

2 courses from a substantive concentration (6 credits):

Medical Sociology Concentration:

Soc 618 - Psychiatric Epidemiology and Forensic Services
Soc 621 - Social Psychiatry
Soc 623 - Alcohol, Drugs, & Crime
Soc 681 - Health Care Policy
Soc 682 - Sociology of Health and Illness
Soc 683 - Socio-Medical Aspects of Aging

Communities and Crime Concentration:

Soc 690 - Nature of Crime
Soc 691 - Responding to Crime
Soc 692 - Communities and Crime (required course)
Soc 667 - Sociology of Law
Soc 623 - Alcohol, Drugs, & Crime
Soc 622 - Comparative Deviance

Migration/Globalization Concentration:

Soc 643 - Immigration Policy: Global and North American Perspectives
Soc 644 - Gender, Ethnicity and Migration
Soc 645 - Sociology of Migration (Required Course)
Soc 604 - Theories of Globalization

Elective Courses (select 1) (3 credits)*

Soc 600 - Foundations
Soc 601 - Complex Organizations
Soc 620 - Social Problems/Inequalities
Soc 668 - The Life Course Paradigm
Soc 630 - Applied Social Psychology
Soc 641 - Social Policy I

Soc 642 - Contemporary Social Policy
Soc 655 - Evaluation Research
Soc 610 - Teaching Sociology
Soc 660 - Introduction to Survey Methodology
Soc 661 - Measurement: Question Design and Evaluation
Soc 662 - Sampling and Inferential Statistics

*All courses outside of a student's concentration and required courses may be electives.

Special area exams must be successfully passed before enrolling in the Dissertation Seminar and advancing to candidacy.

Soc 897 - Dissertation Seminar (3 credits)
Soc 899 - Dissertation (12 credits)

A Typical Sequence of Courses

Year 1, Fall Semester (6 credits)

- Soc 607 - Contemporary Sociological Theory (3 cr)
- Soc 652 - Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis (3 cr)

Year 1, Spring Semester (9 credits)

- Soc 609L - Qualitative Methods and Field Research (3 cr)
- Concentration Elective 2 (3 cr)
- Elective (3 cr)

Year-end goal: Select Dissertation Committee.

Year 2, Fall Semester (6 credits)

- Soc 897 - Dissertation Seminar (3 cr)
- Elective (3 cr)

Year 2, Spring Semester (3 credits)

- Elective (3 cr)

Year-end goal: Pass the Qualifying Exam.

Year 3 (12 credits)

- Soc 899 - Dissertation (12 cr)

Year-end goal: Successful Defense of Dissertation.

The PhD in Sociology

Faculty and Research Expertise

With a strong commitment to research, our nationally recognized faculty guides students through an exploration of the human condition, globalization, culture, and current policy issues. Faculty use a broad-range of research methods and theoretical perspectives to understanding society at the local, national, and global levels.

Paul Benson, PhD University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: sociology of mental health, medical sociology, public policy

Keith Bentele, PhD University of Arizona: stratification, inequality, political sociology, public policy

Bianca Bersani, PhD University of Maryland: crime over the life course, criminological theories, immigration and crime, quantitative methodology

Philip Brenner, PhD University of Wisconsin - Madison: survey methodology, measurement, quantitative methods, sociology of religion, social psychology, self and identity

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce, PhD New School for Social Research: social theory, race and ethnic relations, media studies, Latino studies

Xiaogang Deng, PhD SUNY Buffalo: research methods, recidivism study, comparative criminology, and official corruption in China

Stephanie Hartwell, PhD Yale University: drugs and society, mental health, criminality, applied sociology, environmental justice and disasters

Glenn Jacobs, PhD Temple University: urban sociology, social theory, race and ethnic relations, social problems, sociology of music and art, field methods

Megan Klein Hattori, PhD University of Maryland: medical sociology, global health and fertility, transition age youth and decisions surrounding reproductive health

Philip Kretsedemas, PhD University of Minnesota: immigration, critical race theory, globalization and social change, social welfare policy, contemporary theory

Andrea Leverentz, PhD University of Chicago: communities and crime, prisoner re-entry, gender and crime, urban and community sociology, qualitative research methods

Siamak Movahedi, PhD Washington State University: social psychology, social psychiatry, research methods and statistics

Temitope Oriola, PhD University of Alberta: resource conflicts, political kidnapping, use of force by police, ethics and research in conflict zones, qualitative research methods, migration

Russell Schutt, PhD University of Illinois, Chicago: research methods, sociology of organizations, homelessness and mental health services, sociology of law

Cinzia Solari, PhD University of California, Berkeley: gender and migration, work and globalization, social theory, global ethnography

Lakshmi Srinivas, PhD University of California, Los Angeles: media and popular culture, media reception, spectatorship, public culture, consumption, globalization, ethnography, Bollywood Cinema

Behrooz Tamdgidi, PhD SUNY Binghamton: social theory: sociological imaginations, self and society, global and world-historical sociology, sociology of knowledge, social movements, utopias

Leslie Wang (fall 2013), PhD University of California Berkeley: family, gender, globalization/transnationalization, Asia, qualitative methods

Kevin Wozniak (fall 2013), PhD American University: justice, law and society, politics and policy

Reef Younggreen, PhD University of Iowa: social psychology, status processes, deviance

Heather Zaykowski, PhD University of Delaware: victimization, youth violence, communities and crime, law and society

Funded Research

Faculty research is funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, American Sociological Association, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Massachusetts state agencies.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the 36-credit post-MA PhD program must have an MA degree in sociology, or a related field from a nationally accredited college or university or its international equivalent. The review committee will admit applicants with degrees in other disciplines at their discretion. The program directors will review coursework from other graduate programs on a case-by-case basis to determine transferability of credits up to a maximum of 6 credits.

Preference will be given to all applicants whose transcripts show completion of these courses with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 and graduate GPA of 3.50, taken within the past seven years. Only applicants with GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores in the 20th percentile will be considered for admission. Admission standards are similar for those who have not yet completed an MA degree.

Application Process

Applicants should submit materials by **June 1** to the

Office of Graduate Admissions
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

Teaching assistantships are available and preference will be given to those who apply by March 1. PhD applicants may be required to schedule an interview as part of the application process.

A completed application includes these materials:

- Completed application form and required fee.
- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and/or graduate programs attended.
- GRE General test scores and, when applicable, TOEFL scores.
- Three letters of recommendation from persons with whom the applicant has had extensive academic and/or professional contact.

PhD applicants must submit an essay of no more than 1,500 words addressing the following:

- Specific interest in a PhD in sociology and rationale for pursuing the PhD.
- Current major research and interests in the field of sociology.
- Description of professional post-PhD goals.

If you would like to receive application materials, please write or call:

Enrollment Information Services
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
Tel: 617.287.6000 (TTY/TDD: 617.287.6010)
email: enrollment.info@umb.edu
Visit the University's web site at: www.umb.edu

If you have questions about the program, please write or call:

Stephanie Hartwell, PhD
Director of Graduate Programs
Department of Sociology
College of Liberal Arts
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
Tel: 617.287.6721,
email: stephanie.hartwell@umb.edu

About UMass Boston

UMass Boston, part of the five-member University of Massachusetts system, is an urban public university. Large enough to offer a broad-range of academic choices, UMass Boston is also small enough to maintain a closeness of community.

Three miles from downtown Boston and located on Boston Harbor, the campus houses research and teaching laboratories, a greenhouse, two theatres, an art gallery, an observatory, intramural and intercollegiate athletic facilities, extensive computer resources, and the Healey Library.

Concerts, lectures, and plays on campus offer additional opportunities for a rich and satisfying student life, and Boston's extensive cultural resources are nearby and easily traveled to using public transportation.