

# Sociology, PhD (Boston)

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University is home to a distinguished graduate program offering a PhD in Sociology. The primary objectives of our graduate program are to offer a strong curricular foundation in sociology and the social sciences; to inculcate in students a depth of knowledge in the basic tools of the discipline; to train our students to be outstanding teachers and researchers; and to provide professional socialization that adequately prepares students for a career in the discipline.

The PhD program is designed to attract students who wish to develop a broad base of sociological knowledge, such as would equip students to embark on academic careers in leading institutions of higher education. The PhD program boasts a wide array of curricular strengths and diverse methodological offerings, all of which draw upon the department's emphasis on the study of social inequalities along lines of race, class, and gender. Faculty expertise ranges widely from domestic U.S. concerns to issues that affect groups, regions, and societies on a global scale.

The PhD program is designed to admit relatively small numbers of graduate students each year, which affords students the opportunity to forge close working relationships with the faculty. Our faculty and graduate students work together in a number of interdisciplinary research projects, programs, and centers, including the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute (<http://www.northeastern.edu/environmentalhealth/>); the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict (<http://www.northeastern.edu/brudnickcenter/>); the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy; and the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research (<https://bouve.northeastern.edu/institute-for-health-equity-and-social-justice-research/>). Many of the faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology have additional interests and are affiliated with other departments on campus, including environmental studies; law and public policy; Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean studies; African American studies; international affairs; Jewish studies; and criminal justice. Students who wish to work with faculty in other disciplines are encouraged to enlist the aid of the sociology graduate director or their advisors in contacting individual faculty members.

## Admissions

Students interested in the PhD apply directly to that program. Students admitted without a master's degree earn the Master of Arts in Sociology en route once PhD coursework is completed. Please note that all applicants for the doctoral program are required to submit a writing sample that should consist of written materials that demonstrate their capacity for scholarship at the doctoral level. (Copies of several course or term papers or a copy of a master's thesis or paper are appropriate.)

## Coursework

Doctoral students are required to complete 60 standard credit hours (SH) with grades of B or higher if coming in with a bachelor's degree and 40 credit hours if coming in with a master's degree in sociology. Students admitted without a master's degree earn the MA in sociology en route to completing their PhD requirements (30 credits).

Required courses cover the core areas of sociological theory, research methods, and statistical analysis. All students must take courses in these areas regardless of their areas of specialization. Students must fulfill these requirements during their first year in the program. Students entering our program may be able to substitute courses taken at the prior institution for some or all of these requirements by submitting a course waiver form (a course waiver does not waive the associated semester hour requirement) or transfer of credit (courses submitted with a transfer of credit cannot have counted toward another degree).

## FOUR PROSEMINARS

Proseminars provide students structure for their first two years in the PhD program to help ensure their professionalization into the discipline and to help them move more smoothly through program requirements.

Each course meets weekly for 60-minute sessions throughout each fall and spring semester for the student's first two years. Each 1-credit course will be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (pass/fail) basis. In order to receive a satisfactory grade, students must attend most proseminar class meetings, complete the requirements for the proseminar course in a satisfactory manner, and attend most intellectual and professional development events organized by the department. Proseminar 1 and 2 are completed in the first year; Proseminar 3 and 4 are completed in the second year.

## POST COURSEWORK BUT PRIOR TO PROPOSAL DEFENSE

Students must complete two field statements prior to their proposal defense and will register for Exam Preparation—Doctoral (SOCL 8960) (with the field statement chair listed as instructor of record).

Once field statements are complete and students are working on their dissertation proposal, students should register for a Research course (with their committee chair listed as instructor of record) until the proposal is successfully defended.

## DEGREE CANDIDACY

To enter into degree candidacy, the student must have earned a Master of Arts degree or its departmental semester-hour equivalent, completed the four proseminars, successfully defended two field statements, and defended their dissertation proposal.

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*Students who have completed required coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better may be eligible to receive an MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) degree. In addition, students who do not qualify for the doctoral*

degree, but who have completed required coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better, may be eligible to receive a terminal MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) degree. Note that no students will be admitted directly into the MA in Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/sociology/sociology-ma/>) to pursue a master's degree.

## Program Requirements

### Bachelor's Degree Entrance

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

### Milestones

Annual review  
Two field statements  
Dissertation committee  
Dissertation proposal  
PhD candidacy  
Dissertation defense

### Core Requirements

| Code                                                                                                   | Title                                                           | Hours |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Foundations</b>                                                                                     |                                                                 |       |
| SOCL 7200                                                                                              | Foundations of Social Theory 1                                  | 4     |
| SOCL 7201                                                                                              | Foundations of Social Theory 2                                  | 4     |
| <b>Proseminars</b>                                                                                     |                                                                 |       |
| SOCL 7001                                                                                              | Proseminar 1: Acclimating to Graduate School                    | 1     |
| SOCL 7002                                                                                              | Proseminar 2: Academic Planning                                 | 1     |
| SOCL 7003                                                                                              | Proseminar 3: Committee, Topics, and Reading Lists              | 1     |
| SOCL 7004                                                                                              | Proseminar 4: Field Statement Writing                           | 1     |
| <b>Research Methods</b>                                                                                |                                                                 |       |
| INSH 6300                                                                                              | Research Methods in the Social Sciences                         | 4     |
| INSH 6500                                                                                              | Statistical Analysis                                            | 4     |
| <b>Advanced Methods</b>                                                                                |                                                                 |       |
| Complete 8 semester hours from the following. Courses not listed need approval from student's advisor. |                                                                 | 8     |
| INSH 6302                                                                                              | Qualitative Methods                                             |       |
| INSH 6406                                                                                              | Analyzing Complex Digitized Data                                |       |
| INSH 7300                                                                                              | Advanced Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities |       |
| INSH 7400                                                                                              | Quantitative Analysis                                           |       |
| INSH 7500                                                                                              | Advanced Quantitative Analysis                                  |       |
| INSH 7600                                                                                              | Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis                              |       |
| PHTH 6320                                                                                              | Qualitative Methods in Health and Illness                       |       |
| PPUA 6509                                                                                              | Techniques of Program Evaluation                                |       |

### Electives

| Code                                                                                                                              | Title | Hours |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Complete 32 semester hours in the following ranges. Courses in additional disciplines may be allowed with prior advisor approval: |       | 32    |
| CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |
| INSH 6000 to INSH 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |
| POLS 6000 to POLS 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |
| PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |
| SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |
| WMNS 6000 to WMNS 7999                                                                                                            |       |       |

### Dissertation

| Code                                                                                                           | Title                     | Hours |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| <b>Exam Preparation</b>                                                                                        |                           |       |
| Required for students who must maintain full-time status while completing comprehensive exam. Must take twice: |                           |       |
| SOCL 8960                                                                                                      | Exam Preparation—Doctoral |       |
| <b>Research</b>                                                                                                |                           |       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SOCL 8986                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Research                  |
| <b>Dissertation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                           |
| SOCL 9990                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dissertation Term 1       |
| SOCL 9991                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dissertation Term 2       |
| <b>Dissertation Continuation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |                           |
| Following completion of two semesters of dissertation, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed: |                           |
| SOCL 9996                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dissertation Continuation |

## Progression Requirements

Students who receive two grades below B may be placed on academic probation and risk being separated from the program.

## Program Credit/GPA Requirements

60 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required

## Advanced Entry Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

## Milestones

Annual review

Two field statements

Dissertation committee

Dissertation proposal

PhD candidacy

Dissertation defense

## Core Requirements

| Code                                                                                                   | Title                                                                                          | Hours |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Foundations</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                                |       |
| SOCL 7200                                                                                              | Foundations of Social Theory 1                                                                 | 4     |
| SOCL 7201                                                                                              | Foundations of Social Theory 2                                                                 | 4     |
| <b>Proseminars</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                                |       |
| SOCL 7001                                                                                              | Proseminar 1: Acclimating to Graduate School                                                   | 1     |
| SOCL 7002                                                                                              | Proseminar 2: Academic Planning                                                                | 1     |
| SOCL 7003                                                                                              | Proseminar 3: Committee, Topics, and Reading Lists                                             | 1     |
| SOCL 7004                                                                                              | Proseminar 4: Field Statement Writing                                                          | 1     |
| <b>Research Methods</b>                                                                                |                                                                                                |       |
| INSH 6300                                                                                              | Research Methods in the Social Sciences                                                        | 4     |
| INSH 6500                                                                                              | Statistical Analysis                                                                           | 4     |
| <b>Advanced Methods</b>                                                                                |                                                                                                |       |
| Complete 8 semester hours from the following. Courses not listed need approval from student's advisor: |                                                                                                | 8     |
| INSH 6302                                                                                              | Qualitative Methods                                                                            |       |
| INSH 6406                                                                                              | Analyzing Complex Digitized Data                                                               |       |
| INSH 7300                                                                                              | Advanced Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities                                |       |
| INSH 7400                                                                                              | Quantitative Analysis                                                                          |       |
| INSH 7500                                                                                              | Advanced Quantitative Analysis                                                                 |       |
| INSH 7600                                                                                              | Multilevel Theorizing and Analysis                                                             |       |
| PHTH 6320                                                                                              | Qualitative Methods in Health and Illness <sup>please note this course is only 3 credits</sup> |       |
| PPUA 6509                                                                                              | Techniques of Program Evaluation                                                               |       |

## Electives

| Code                                                                                                                   | Title | Hours |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Complete 12 semester hours in the following ranges. Courses in additional disciplines need student's advisor approval: |       | 12    |
| CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999                                                                                                 |       |       |
| INSH 6000 to INSH 7999                                                                                                 |       |       |
| POLS 6000 to POLS 7999                                                                                                 |       |       |

PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999

SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999

WMNS 6000 to WMNS 7999

**Dissertation**

| Code | Title | Hours |
|------|-------|-------|
|------|-------|-------|

**Exam Preparation**

Students register for this course while writing each of their two field statements. Must take twice:

|           |                           |  |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| SOCL 8960 | Exam Preparation—Doctoral |  |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|

**Research**

|           |          |  |
|-----------|----------|--|
| SOCL 8986 | Research |  |
|-----------|----------|--|

**Dissertation**

|           |                     |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| SOCL 9990 | Dissertation Term 1 |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|

|           |                     |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| SOCL 9991 | Dissertation Term 2 |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|

**Dissertation Continuation**

Following completion of two semesters of dissertation, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:

|           |                           |  |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| SOCL 9996 | Dissertation Continuation |  |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|

**Progression Requirements**

Students who receive two grades below B may be placed on academic probation and risk being separated from the program.

**Program Credit/GPA Requirements**

40 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required