

GRADUATE POLICY HANDBOOK

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
University of Delaware

Edited: May, 2021

All revisions will be effective beginning Fall 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Policy Handbook includes all policies and procedures pertinent to the graduate program in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. The interpretation of these policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Graduate Policy Committee. Petitions for waivers of any requirements are the responsibility of, and must have the approval of, the Graduate Policy Committee.

Students may appeal decisions of the GPC following this procedure:

1. Petition the GPC for reconsideration by adding additional information that the applicant feels may be significant.
2. In the event the GPC does not change its decision, students may petition the full faculty. A 3/4 vote is required to overrule the GPC.

Students who allege they have been aggrieved because of perceived discrimination or because a member of the University community fails to follow published University or Departmental procedure should utilize the Student Grievance Procedure stipulated by University policy. Please see policies and resources in sections F and G of this document.

Deletions or modifications to the Graduate Policy Handbook become effective at the beginning of the following academic year. Students are subject to policies existing at the time of entrance into the program; if a change in policy is approved by the Faculty Senate while a graduate student is enrolled in the program, they may choose between the new policy or old policy regarding future expectations or requirements.

Students should also consult the Graduate Catalog of the University of Delaware for University regulations regarding graduate degrees.

This version of the Graduate Handbook includes all revisions made since the publication of the original in 1991.

Important:

Requirements and other information are subject to change. Students are responsible for maintaining up to date information.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice offers a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy degree program in both Sociology and Criminology. The primary focus of these programs is the preparation of members of the next generation of sociologists and criminologists by emphasizing systematic training in theory and research methodology as well as teaching. These advanced education degrees are intended for persons interested in careers in academia, public service, or private enterprise. The Department has a large number of full-time distinguished faculty from the disciplines of Sociology, Philosophy, Law, Political Science, Criminology, History and Criminal Justice. This allows students to work closely with faculty members while preserving a reasonable breadth of interests. Thus, while both the Sociology and Criminology degrees rely on strong theoretical and methodological foundations, they also allow students to tailor a program that meets their individual needs.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

(International Students See: <http://www.udel.edu/ofs>)

All admission and funding decisions are made by the Graduate Policy Committee (GPC). Applicants are evaluated on several criteria: resume, GRE scores, undergraduate/graduate grade point average and

transcripts, letters of recommendation (three), and applicant's statement of objectives. Applicants are also encouraged to submit a short writing sample. The GPC may also consider a limited number of other factors, including challenging social, economic, educational, cultural or other life circumstances, quality of undergraduate program, undergraduate major, relevant work/field/research experience, publications and reports, presentations, or other work demonstrating the ability to do graduate study in the field. International students may apply competitively to all of our full-time programs. In doing so, international students must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. Admission to the graduate program is selective and competitive based on the number of well-qualified applicants and the limits of available faculty and facilities. Those who meet minimum academic requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths. We offer Fall admission only.

FINANCIAL AID

A. Procedures for Awarding Funding

Financial aid is available to graduate students in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships, tuition scholarships, and University fellowships. Assistantships and fellowships consist of tuition and a stipend for the September-May academic year. Awards are competitive and merit-based. Funding decisions will be made with priority given to doctoral students.

All funding decisions are made in consultation with the Graduate Policy Committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Department Chair. Continuing students without funding may petition the GPC to be considered for future funding. Letters of petition should be sent to the Chair of the GPC by the end of the Fall semester in order to be considered for funding for the following academic year.

B. Procedures for Assigning Assistantships

Research Assistantships: Appointments are made in consultation with the faculty member conducting the research, the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair. Faculty who anticipate funding for a research assistantship for the following academic year are encouraged to contact graduate students to inform them of possible research assistantship opportunities and to identify qualified students who wish to work on their projects. Research assistantships on funded projects may be offered to students not currently funded by the University or Department.

Teaching Assistantship: Appointments are made by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Chair each semester. Faculty are required to submit a request for a teaching assistant form for each semester they are seeking an assistant specifying their expectations of the assistant (e.g., facilitation of classroom discussion, preparation and grading of examinations).

The assignment of graduate students to faculty members should balance scholarly interests and professional objectives of the student and the teaching and research needs of the department. The Director of Graduate Studies may change assignments as necessary and make additional assignments if new sources of funding become available.

C. Responsibilities of Funded Students

Assistantships carry the expectation of twenty hours of service per week. University guidelines stipulate that students holding assistantships are expected to give their full-time attention to graduate study and their assigned assistantship work during the fall and spring semesters. Students receiving University fellowships and assistantships are expected to devote their full time to graduate study and are discouraged from engaging in any remunerative employment while holding the fellowship or assistantship. Students holding tuition scholarships have no employment restrictions. All students receiving financial aid must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students awarded assistantships must satisfactorily fulfill the requirements of their assignments.

Faculty with assistants (either research or teaching) will submit an assessment to the Director of Graduate Studies at the end of each semester concerning fulfillment of awarded assistantships. This information may be shared with the students in order to enhance their performance in the program

D. Limits on Funding

Typically, eligibility for student funding is limited to 2 years of funding for students with a B.A. to earn the M.A. degree, and 4 additional years for these students to earn the Ph.D; for students entering with a B.A. to earn the PhD degree, eligibility typically ends after 6 years of funding; for students entering with an M.A. degree to earn the PhD, eligibility in typical cases ends after 5 years of funding. The GPC may recommend extending these time frames based on students' progress toward their degree and individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Funded students are not required to apply for renewal of their financial aid. Student funding is renewed as long as they remain in good standing in the program. "Good standing" is defined as strong performance in coursework, satisfactory fulfillment of their research/teaching assistantship duties, and timely progress toward completion of the degree. The Director of Graduate Studies is in charge of monitoring student progress, in consultation with the Graduate Policy Committee.

TRANSFER & WAIVER OF CREDIT

Policies for transfer of graduate credit earned at another university: An official transcript is required. Credits used to complete other degrees may not be transferred into a degree at UD. A maximum of 9 credits earned at another U.S. institution may be applied to a graduate degree if not used to complete a previous degree. The student's grade must be "B" or better to be acceptable for transfer. Course completion date must be no older than 5 years. Credits but no grades or quality points will transfer. Credits from institutions outside the United States are not transferable to the University of Delaware unless permission to transfer is given by Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

In cases of courses used to complete other degrees (e.g., an MA at another university), students may *waive* rather than transfer such credits.

All petitions for transfer and waiver of graduate credit require the approval of the Graduate Policy Committee. It is recommended that incoming students discuss with the Director of Graduate Studies their intentions to petition the Graduate Policy Committee as early in the program as possible. The Director of Graduate Studies will advise students if any of their Master's level courses may be eligible for waiver for the department's course requirements, and make suggestions for course enrollment. Students will need material (i.e., course syllabi, transcripts) to support their requests, which will be evaluated by the faculty member who teaches that course as well as the GPC.

ADVISEMENT

All students entering the program are assigned a Faculty Mentor and Graduate Student Peer Mentor. Assignments attempt to match the academic interests of students and faculty.

The faculty mentor and student should plan and periodically review a plan of study that fulfills departmental requirement and provides comprehensive professional training. This plan of study should take account of students' backgrounds and available departmental resources. Final responsibility for course selection and the meeting of departmental requirements resides with the student.

REGULATIONS REGARDING GRADUATE STATUS

A. Definition of Full-time Status

According to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education, *during fall and spring semesters, full-time status is a minimum of six graduate-level credits for students holding an assistantship or a tuition scholarship and a minimum of nine graduate level-credits for students holding a fellowship.* Please note, however, that in order to make normal progress through the program, it is typically necessary to take more than six credits per semester. *These courses must be for credit and must be maintained throughout the semester. Students with sustaining credit registration are considered as full-time by the University in any semester. Half-time status is a minimum of five graduate credits for students on non-contract graduate pay during the fall and spring semesters.*

B. Normal Progress and Time Limits for Completion of the Degrees

Normal Progress: Students are expected to make continuing progress toward the completion of their graduate education. In order to assess their progress and professional development, each graduate student is required to submit a progress report to the Director of Graduate Studies by April 15. The report should cover the student's activities involving completion of required course work, area examinations, thesis or dissertation progress, professional engagement (publications, conference presentations, involvement in external funding activities, and participation in research projects other than the thesis or dissertation), teaching, and other relevant items. In addition, a letter from one faculty member of the student's choice should be submitted. Under ordinary circumstances we define "normal progress" in the following ways:

Full-time students entering the master's program are expected to complete their master's degree by the end of their second year in the program. Optimally, students continuing into the doctoral program are expected to complete the doctorate by the end of their fifth year in the program.

Optimally, full-time students entering the Ph.D. program with a bachelor's degree are expected to complete the doctorate by the end of their sixth year in the program; students with a master's degree from another program or university are expected to complete the doctorate by the end of their fifth year in the program.

Time Limits: The statutes of limitations adopted by the Office of Graduate and Professional Education are as follows: For students entering into a master's program, ten consecutive semesters (5 years). Students completing the requirements for the master's degree who are subsequently granted admission into the doctoral program are given an additional 10 consecutive semesters (5 years). Students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree are given 10 consecutive semesters (5 years).

Exceeding these limits may result in dismissal from the program. Requests for extensions must be made in writing by the student and approved by the Graduate Policy Committee before they can be considered by the Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

C. Quality of Graduate Work

Consistent with University regulations, a minimum "B" average (3.00) is required for certification of readiness to take comprehensive examinations and for conferral of a graduate degree. Students should consult the University catalog for further information regarding graduate standing.

CHINA DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

A. Overview

The Department offers a dual degree program in both Sociology and Criminology to undergraduate students matriculated at UD's partner universities in China. The primary goal of the program is to cultivate the next generation of Chinese sociologists and criminologists through rigorous and systematic training in theory and research methodology. By having UD faculty available to lecture on a Chinese campus during summer breaks,

Chinese students are able to complete their master's degrees in a more expeditious and affordable way.

B. Admission Requirements

The decision to admit an applicant to the China program in Sociology or Criminology is primarily based on: GPA 3.0 and above; three letters of recommendation; statement of objectives (1 to 5 pages in length); and minimum TOEFL 100 or IELTS 7.5 (interviews required for TOEFL 90-99 and IELTS 6.5-7.0). The GRE requirement is waived. *Students in the China dual-degree program are considered as external applicants to the doctoral program if they apply after completing the M.A. degree.*

C. Program Features

Admitted students take courses offered by UD faculty during the summer of their junior and senior years on a Chinese campus. Students in China multiple degree program may take four courses offered by the Department faculty on the Chinese campuses during the first academic year, but they have to complete the remaining courses on the UD campus during the second academic year (with a minimum GPA of 3.0). It is required that they complete SOCI 605 and SOCI 612 prior to their enrollment at UD's Newark campus. Admitted students complete their second year of study and degree on the UD campus.

All questions should be addressed to program director Dr. Ivan Sun at isun@udel.edu.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

A. Course Requirements

Students have two M.A. options:

- Thesis Option (Sociology or Criminology)
- Examination Option (Sociology or Criminology)

All new students are required to take a non-credit one-hour pro-seminar.

Courses Required for M.A. in Sociology:

- 1) M.A. in Sociology with Thesis Option
 - SOCI 605 – Data Collection
 - SOCI 606 – Qualitative Methodology
 - SOCI 612 – Development of Sociological Theory
 - SOCI 813 – Current Issues in Social Theory
 - One course from the following:
 - SOCI 614 – Advanced Data Analysis OR
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics OR
 - SOCI 676 – Advanced Qualitative Methods OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)
 - 3 elective courses from *at least* two substantive area to assure breadth in sociology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.
 - SOCI 869 - M.A. Thesis cannot be taken pass/fail-- Candidates without a thesis committee may

not accumulate more than three credits in SOCI 869. Six (6) credits need to be completed for this course. These credits may all be taken during one semester, or divided between two terms.

2) M.A. in Sociology with Master's Examination Option

If a student chooses not to pursue a thesis, they can complete the M.A. in Sociology with a Master's Examination Option. However, this is for a terminal M.A. only.

- SOCI 605 – Data Collection
- SOCI 606 – Qualitative Methodology
- SOCI 612 – Development of Sociological Theory
- SOCI 813 – Current Issues in Social Theory

- One course from the following:
 - SOCI 614 – Advanced Data Analysis OR
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics OR
 - SOCI 676 – Advanced Qualitative Methods OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)

- 5 elective courses from *at least* two substantive area to assure breadth in sociology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.

Courses Required for M.A. in Criminology:

1) M.A. in Criminology with Thesis Option

- SOCI 605 - Data Collection
- SOCI 606 – Qualitative Methodology
- SOCI 612 - Development of Sociological Theory
- SOCI 835 – Theoretical Criminology I

- One course from the following:
 - SOCI 614 – Advanced Data Analysis OR
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics OR
 - SOCI 676 – Advanced Qualitative Methods OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)

- 3 elective courses in which the student invokes criminological-, law and society-, or criminal justice –related work from *at least* two substantive area to assure breadth in criminology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.

- SOCI 869 - M.A. Thesis (6 credits) cannot be taken pass/fail-- Candidates without a thesis committee may not accumulate more than three credits in SOCI 869. Six (6) credits need to be completed for this course. These credits may all be taken during one semester, or divided between two terms.

2) M.A. in Criminology with Master's Examination Option

If a student chooses not to pursue a thesis, they can complete the M.A. in Criminology with a Master's Examination Option. However, this is for a terminal M.A. only.

- SOCI 605 - Data Collection
- SOCI 606 – Qualitative Methodology
- SOCI 612 - Development of Sociological Theory
- SOCI 835 – Theoretical Criminology I
- One course from the following:
 - SOCI 614 – Advanced Data Analysis OR
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics OR
 - SOCI 676 – Advanced Qualitative Methods OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)
- 5 elective courses in which the student invokes criminological-, law and society-, or criminal justice –related work from *at least* two substantive area to assure breadth in criminology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.

B. Master's Thesis

The thesis is encouraged to be in the form of a scholarly journal article. With advice of the thesis committee each student will select a journal most appropriate to their area of interest, and write a paper of the type normally considered by that journal.

Each thesis will adhere to a particular journal's page limits, bibliographic format, manner of data presentation, etc. Where appropriate, students are encouraged to develop their thesis from research conducted for their course work, or from faculty members' data bases.

1. Thesis Proposal Procedures

It is the responsibility of the student to form an M.A. thesis committee consisting of a Chairperson who is a member of the faculty of the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and two additional members (one of whom may be from an outside department).

Upon obtaining the written consent of all potential members, the student notifies the Graduate Policy Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies by memo of the composition of the Thesis Committee.

The M.A. proposal defense is strongly recommended; the process for an M.A. proposal defense follows that of the Ph.D. proposal defense (below). Upon subsequent approval of the M.A. Thesis Proposal by the committee students provide one copy for their file (approved and signed by all members of the committee). The chair of

the Thesis Committee shall notify the Graduate Policy Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies and all members of the faculty by memo of the existence of the signed proposal as well as the proposed thesis title.

2. Oral Defense of the Master's Thesis

All requirements for the Master's degree must be completed prior to defending the thesis.

The oral defense is administered by the Thesis Committee. The student shall be responsible for notifying the faculty ten (10) days prior to the scheduled defense and to see that a copy of the thesis is on file in the departmental office 10 days prior to the scheduled defense.

Any faculty member of the department may attend the defense if desired, but the right of voting is reserved to members of the thesis committee.

A majority vote of the committee is required for any action. The thesis and oral defense will be evaluated as a combined effort. There are three possible outcomes: Pass, Conditional Outcome, and Fail. In the case of failure, the oral defense may be repeated within one semester of the first attempt.

It is the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Thesis Committee to notify the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of the outcome.

Successful candidates need to provide copies of the completed thesis to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education, and one copy for the departmental archives and one copy for the chair of the committee. Students should consult with the Office of Graduate and Professional Education regarding regulation for graduate theses.

C. Examination Option

Candidates for the Master's degree must take the Master's examination prior to completion of their fourth semester in the program. Students considering the examination option must notify the Director of Graduate Studies to express the intent to take the examination the semester prior to taking the exam.

Examinations are written, and a maximum of three hours per exam is allowed. Successful completion of the Master's examination requires passing the exam in two areas outlined below. Upon completion of the written examinations, an oral examination may be required at the option of the Area Examination Committee.

Candidates for the master's degree are examined in:

- I. Theory or methods,
- II. One additional area of expertise from the standing areas of specialization offered in the department.

Standing exam committees are responsible for constructing and evaluating examinations. Reading lists are to be provided at least one semester prior to the scheduled examinations. The reading lists should include, at minimum, the readings from the two most recent course syllabi in each area (e.g., SOCI605 and SOCI614 for Methods) and any further content recommended by the standing exam committees.

Grading - Possible outcomes are: Pass, Conditional Outcome, and Fail. It is the responsibility of the Chairpersons of the examinations committees to notify the student and the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of the action taken by the examination committee within ten days of the exam. Within one week of notification of the grade on the master's examination, students will receive a detailed evaluation in writing from the chair of the examination committees. For conditional outcomes, students are required to complete additional work within one month of formal notification of the committee's decision. If the committee is satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Pass. If the committee is not satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Fail.

If students receive a failing grade, they may retake the exam within two months of the original exam date. Only one repeat of the exam in any area of expertise is permitted. Failure on a repeat examination is a permanent failure for that area, and shall result in dismissal from the program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE

A. Admission to the Doctoral Program

Please refer to the Admissions procedures outlined above (“Requirements for Admission”). Note that a masters degree is not required for entrance into the program. *However, for students without a prior masters degree who were initially admitted to the doctoral program, they will earn a M.A. embedded within the PhD program and upon successful completion of a masters thesis.* For students entering the doctoral program with a previously earned masters degree, their prior courses will be assessed by the Graduate Policy Committee, as outlined under the “Transfer and Waiver of Credit” section above. Completion of a thesis for those students entering with a masters degree will not be required.

If students are initially admitted to the Masters program (*not* the doctoral program), after successfully defending an M.A. thesis, they may apply to the doctoral program in Criminology or Sociology by submitting a dossier to the Graduate Policy Committee. The dossier should include: a cv, a letter detailing reasons for obtaining the Ph.D. in Sociology or Criminology and an outline of your intended course of study, three letters of recommendation one of which shall be a letter from the Master’s thesis advisor evaluating past graduate performance and future potential for doctoral work. This dossier should be submitted by the same deadline that the MA thesis is due to the Graduate Office. The minimum GPA in all graduate course work should be a 3.5 but the Graduate Policy Committee may evaluate the GPA in light of other criteria such as course difficulty. Passage of the Master’s thesis is also required. Students should submit a ‘change of classification’ form to the Graduate Office.

Regulations of the Graduate College require one continuous academic year of full-time residency for the Ph.D.

C. Course Requirements (*Tentative until approval from Faculty Senate*)

Ph.D. in Sociology

Students are encouraged to: take a broad array of courses, go beyond these minimum course requirements in order to pursue additional learning opportunities, and consider courses outside the department. The following specific courses are required:

- SOCI 605 - Data Collection and Analysis
- SOCI 614 – Advanced Data Analysis
- SOCI 606 - Qualitative Methodology
- SOCI 612 - Development of Sociological Theory
- SOCI 813 - Current Issues in Social Theory
- SOCI 698 - Teaching Social Science (1 credit)

- One course from the following:
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - SOCI 676 -- Advanced Qualitative Methodology OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)

- At least six elective courses. *At least* two of these courses must be in a substantive area to assure breadth in sociology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.

Comprehensive Exam in one area and Qualifying Paper in one area

SOCI 969 - Dissertation (9 credits)

Ph.D. in Criminology

Students are encouraged to: take a broad array of courses, go beyond these minimum course requirements in order to pursue additional learning opportunities, and consider courses outside the department. The following specific courses are required:

- SOCI 605 - Data Collection and Analysis
- SOCI 614 - Data Analysis
- SOCI 606 - Qualitative Methodology
- SOCI 612 - Development of Sociological Theory
- SOCI 835 - Theoretical Criminology I
- SOCI 836 - Application of Criminological Theory and Empirical Tests
- SOCI 698- Teaching Social Science (1 credit)

- One course from the following:
 - SOCI 625 – Advanced Social Statistics (Highly Recommended) OR
 - PSYC 878 – Hierarchical Linear Modeling OR
 - SOCI 676 Advanced Qualitative Methodology OR
 - (another course approved by the department methods comprehensive exam committee)

- At least five elective courses in which the student invokes criminological-, law and society-, or criminal justice –related work from *at least* two substantive area to assure breadth in criminology. Substantive areas include: Race, Gender, Disasters and the Environment, Criminology, Law and Society, Methods, and Theory.
 - It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that students take SOCI837: Criminology and Systems of Criminal Justice within their elective selections.
 - We encourage students to pursue courses outside of the department. However, no more than two of the elective courses outside of the department will count towards degree.
 - Independent studies do not count as elective courses.

Comprehensive exam in Criminology and one additional area.

SOCI 969 - Dissertation (9 credits)

D. Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams

Candidates for the doctoral degree must be certified in two specialized areas of expertise. The department offers specialization in the following areas of expertise:

1. Disasters and the Environment
2. Criminology
3. Gender
4. Law and Society

5. Race
6. Sociological Theory
7. Health
8. Methods

Doctoral students in our department must pass a comprehensive examination in one area of expertise and write a qualifying paper with a passing grade in the other area. Students may determine which of their two areas of expertise will be fulfilled via comprehensive examination and which will be fulfilled via the qualifying paper; it is strongly recommended that students seek the advice of an adviser in making this decision. Students are required to take either their comprehensive exam or their qualifying paper in one of the standing areas of expertise offered by the department. If the candidate wishes to be certified in a specialized area that is not listed above (for which there is no standing exam committee), they may petition to do so after securing the agreement of three (3) faculty members willing to serve as examiners in that area by providing reading lists, constructing and evaluating examinations and other certification requirements. The Graduate Policy Committee must review and approve the petition of the student and inform the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chairperson of the department of its decision.

1. Administration of Comprehensive Exams

An exam in any given area of expertise, e.g., Gender, will be offered once per semester, on a date to be determined by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the exam committee chairs the semester prior. The exam is typically given early in the term (about three weeks after the start of any semester). Comprehensive examinations will be administered to students in a common room with a maximum 6-hour time allotment and proctored by a faculty member.

2. Exam Committees

There is one committee for each standing area of expertise (listed above). Exam committees are responsible for preparing reading lists, overseeing the respective curriculum in this area, and providing students with written guidelines to aid them in the selection of courses and preparation for examinations. Exam committees are responsible for designing the specific certification requirements for their particular area of expertise, preparing examination questions, and reading and evaluating exams.

Published guidelines and reading lists are reviewed and revised as necessary, usually on a regular cycle of every two (2) years; reading lists are to trend toward equality in length across comprehensive exam areas and committees should make them available on the department website and in the sociology office to students at the beginning of the academic year. The GPC will oversee these requirements.

Members of exam committees and their chairs are appointed by the Chair of the Department. Committees are composed of at least three (3) members of the faculty, but committees may consult other members of the faculty with competence in the area during the preparation of exams and reading lists.

3. Scope of the Examinations

Minimal preparation for written examinations includes mastery of material on the reading lists provided by exam committees. However, reading lists are merely guidelines and should not be considered as the sole basis for examinations. Exam committees are responsible for clarification of the goals of reading lists, with specific attention to the question of whether such lists represent “minimal” or “exhaustive” definitions of the core literature. For each area of expertise, the candidate is expected to be: up-to-date with the literature in the field at the time of the exam, able to discuss the most important controversies, issues and problems (in both theory and methodology) that exist in the field, and capable of evaluating existing theory and methodology and suggesting new direction of effort.

Students are allowed to have copies of their area's reading list with them during the exam. Additionally, one week in advance of the exam, students may submit one page of supplemental references (citations only, *not* annotations) to the Chair of the Area Committee. This document may be printed on back and front, any size font. This one-page citation list would then be printed along with the area reading list and provided to the student in the envelope with their exam.

4. Qualifying Paper

In addition to the written comprehensive exam in one area of expertise, students must write a qualifying paper in the other area. As this is another “comprehensive exam,” students should utilize the reading list in their respective area to inform the content of their paper.

This paper should be of "publishable quality" (though it need not be submitted for publication) and should focus on specific issues within the literature, foundational pieces on the topic, and conclude with more specificity and application of the material relevant to the student's interests within the broad area of study. It should not be a dissertation proposal or the literature review of the proposal; rather, its intention is to evaluate students' critical thinking/analytic skills. A good model is found in the articles published in journals such as *Sociological Compass*. The paper must reflect the student's own work and not work done in collaboration with co-authors or faculty mentors. After the student turns in the qualifying paper, the exam committee will meet with the student (within at least three weeks) to conduct an oral defense. Grading for the qualifying paper and dissemination of results will be the same as those stated for the comprehensive exam.

Papers will be due on an agreed upon date with the area committee.

5. Pre-requisites and Schedule of Examinations

Students are required to declare their intent to take a comprehensive examination or write the qualifying paper, in writing, within the first two weeks of the previous semester to the Director of Graduate Studies who will notify the relevant exam committee. The committee will schedule an interview with the student to explore their level of preparedness. Students are expected to provide committee members with written documentation of their preparedness in that area prior to the interview (e.g. courses taken, etc.).

IMPORTANT: All Ph.D. course requirements, including any outstanding incomplete grades, must be completed before students are eligible to take Ph.D. examinations. [This excludes the 1-credit teaching seminar].

Students are encouraged to complete both the exam and qualifying paper during the first one or two semesters immediately after they complete course requirements. Students have the option of completing both exams during the same semester.

Graduate students may seek accommodations when planning to sit for the comprehensive exam and may take the exam at the testing center if they qualify for any of the accommodations offered by the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). Contact information for DSS is 302-831-4643 or email dssoffice@udel.edu.

6. Grading

Chairs of the committees are responsible for notifying students of their exam results within three (3) weeks. Committee Chairs are also required to notify the Department Administrative Assistant to the graduate program, the Director of Graduate Studies and the GPC of the results of examinations.

The outcome of examinations and qualifying papers is determined by majority vote. There are four possible

outcomes: Pass with distinction, Pass, Conditional outcome, Fail. Within one week of formal notification of the grade, students will receive a detailed evaluation in writing from the chair of the exam committee.

Conditional Outcomes: In the case of the examination, this results when the student failed 1 of the 3 questions. Students receiving this grade are required to complete additional work within two months of formal notification of the committee's decision. If the committee is satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Pass. If the committee is not satisfied with the quality of the work, the student will receive a grade of Fail.

Failing Outcomes: In the case of the examination, this results when the student failed 2 or more of the 3 questions. In the case of a failing grade, the student must retake the exam or rewrite the paper in the following semester. Students who fail a written exam or qualifying paper, or any part thereof, may request a re-reading from the original examination committee. This request is to be submitted within 20 days of the student receiving the detailed written evaluation.

7. Repeats of Examinations

Only one repeat of an exam in any area of expertise is permitted. Failure on a repeat examination or paper is a permanent failure for that area. Because students in the Criminology degree program are required to take the exam or paper in that area, permanent failure in the criminology area for these students results in dismissal from that degree and other options must be pursued. Three failures of Ph.D. comprehensive examinations or qualifying papers in any combination shall result in dismissal from the program.

E. ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

Formal Ph.D. candidacy follows the approval of the dissertation proposal. Procedures for admission to Ph.D. candidacy are as specified by the Office of Graduate and Professional Education. Admission to candidacy must be obtained before the deadlines specified in the academic calendar. Responsibility for seeing that admission is secured at the proper time rests with the student, but must include the recommendation of the student's dissertation committee and the chairperson of the department. Students must complete and submit the required form.

F. DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

1. Dissertation Committees

It is the responsibility of the student to form a four-person Ph.D. dissertation committee, consisting of a chairperson(s), who must be a member of the department, and three additional members, two from within the department and one from an outside department (either external or internal to the University of Delaware). Faculty on joint appointments in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice are considered to be inside members of the department for the purposes of dissertation committees.

After obtaining the written agreement of all members of the committee, the student must notify the Director of Graduate Studies. Subsequent changes in the composition of the dissertation committee also require the approval of the Graduate Policy Committee. Overlap in membership between the Graduate Policy Committee and the dissertation committee does not require those involved to disqualify themselves.

Candidates without an approved dissertation committee may not enroll for more than three credits of dissertation research (SO CI 964).

2. Dissertation Proposals

It is required that students hold a dissertation proposal defense with their committee (at least the 3 internal members). Dissertation proposals should be worked out with the advice of the dissertation committee. The

student makes a copy of the proposal available to the departmental faculty at least 10 business days in advance of the scheduled dissertation proposal defense date.

The Committee Chair communicates final approval of the proposal to the Director of Graduate Studies. A signed copy of the proposal is placed in the student's permanent file.

The student is responsible for initiating the paperwork necessary for admission to formal candidacy by the University Coordinator of Graduate Studies. (Please consult the graduate catalog for specific time schedules).

3. The Ph.D. Dissertation

Students are expected to prepare copies of the dissertation for the departmental archives, the chair of the committee, and those required by the Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

The bibliographic format and style of the dissertation must conform to the standards of the Office of Graduate and Professional Education. Styles may include book format or 3-paper dissertation format, for example, but should be discussed with the student's committee.

4. Oral Defense of Dissertation

An oral defense of the dissertation is required. It is administered by the dissertation committee. The student is responsible for notifying the faculty 10 days prior to the scheduled examination and to see that a copy of the dissertation is on file in the department office 10 days prior to the scheduled defense. The oral defense is open to the public, though the right of voting is reserved to the dissertation committee.

All other requirements for the degree must be completed before the oral defense of dissertation can be scheduled.

Grading is limited to Pass or Fail, and a majority vote is required for any action. It is the responsibility of the chairperson of the dissertation committee to notify the Director of Graduate Studies of the decision of the dissertation committee.

INSTRUCTIONAL EDUCATION FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

The majority of graduate students in Sociology and Criminology are pursuing Ph.D.'s in preparation for a career in higher education. Therefore, we are committed to providing our students with a broad and systematic set of instructional experiences as an integral part of their graduate education.

This will normally include the following elements:

A. CTE Conference:

All incoming students holding a teaching assistantship are required to participate in the Annual Conference for Graduate Teaching Assistant sponsored by the Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL).

B. Mentoring Experiences:

All faculty have accumulated a storehouse of knowledge and skills that they can and should share with students as part of an "every faculty as mentor" approach to the teaching enterprise. Therefore, faculty supervising TAs are expected to offer students meaningful introductory instructional experiences commensurate with students' experience and ability. Included among the suggested activities are preparing exams, handling review sessions, developing a lecture or a seminar session. We envision a process of planning, supervision and feedback for each of these activities.

C. Instruction in Teaching Techniques:

All Ph.D. students are required to enroll in a one-semester, one-credit Pass-Fail course in teaching techniques (SOCI 698: Teaching Social Science or UNIV 601: Pedagogy or UNIV 600: Learning). It will focus on some of the central elements in course preparation and instruction, instructional philosophy, textbook evaluation, selection of reading assignments, syllabus preparation, managing large and small classes, developing lecture outlines and student evaluation techniques.

D. Individual Courses:

Students having participated in the courses on teaching and acted as a seminar leader will earn the privilege of teaching their own sections. Students have the responsibility of enlisting the cooperation of a faculty mentor of their choice to provide advice and assist in assessing their effectiveness.

ADDENDUM

A. Independent Studies (SOCI 666)

Independent study courses are not required. Rather, they are designed to provide students with the opportunity to take a course in an area or on a topic that is not offered by the Department but which is crucial to their area(s) of specialization.

B. Pre-candidacy Credits (SOCI 964)

Pre-candidacy credits are taken in preparation for the dissertation. They are taken after all required coursework has been completed but when students have not yet passed their comprehensive examinations and have not yet had their proposal approved. Students may enroll for anywhere from 3 to 12 credits. Pre-candidacy credits are not required. If the student registered in Pre-Candidacy is admitted to candidacy before the end of the free drop/add period of the next semester, the registration in Pre-Candidacy Study (964) for the preceding semester may be changed to Doctoral dissertation (SOC 969). Once a student has passed their comprehensive examinations and has an approved proposal on file, Pre-Candidacy credits can be used as Doctoral Dissertation credits as described in the previous sentence. In order to do so, the student must contact the Associate Provost in the Office of Graduate and Professional Education. While these are not independent studies, a student must enroll using a faculty member's supervised study number. It is typical that a student will enroll with the faculty member who will be chairing their dissertation. The grading for this course is Pass/Fail.

C. Dissertation Credits (SOCI 969)

Once a student has passed their comprehensive examinations and has an approved proposal on file, they enroll for 9 dissertation credits. While these are not independent studies, a student must enroll using a faculty member's supervised study number with the faculty member who is chairing their dissertation. A student may enroll for all nine credits in one semester. A student who wishes to enroll in 6 one semester and 3 in another must augment those 3 dissertation credits with 3 more credits from another source including: A course, an independent study, or 3 additional dissertation credits in order to maintain full-time status. The grading for this course is Pass/Fail.

D. Doctoral Sustaining (UNIV 999)

Doctoral sustaining is for students who are ABD. They will have passed their comprehensive examinations, have an approved proposal on file, and have all 9 dissertation credits completed. Enrolling for doctoral sustaining implies that a student is working full-time on their dissertation and confers full-time status on that student.

E. Forms

Below is a list of the forms that students must complete as they progress through the program. Copies of the forms are available in the Sociology office and online.

Important: Students are responsible for the submission of all forms. Dates and deadlines can be found on the Office of Graduate and Professional Education homepage (udel.edu/gradoffice) under "UD STUDENTS."

1. "Application for Advanced Degree" form. Submitted in the semester you plan to graduate. Students completing the M.A. degree who intend to continue in the Ph.D. program must fill out and attach the "Change of Classification" form. (To graduate as M.A. and as Ph.D.)
2. "Supervisory Committee Notification" form. Submitted to Department when members of the M.A. thesis committee or Ph.D. dissertation committee have been formally selected and agreed to serve.
3. "Confirmation of Dissertation Committee" form. Submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Education after successful completion of the comprehensive examinations when members of the defense committee have been formally selected and agreed to serve.
4. "Recommendation for Candidacy for Doctoral Degree" form. Submitted after dissertation proposal has been approved.
5. "Defense Notification" form. Submitted prior to a defense.
6. "Ph.D. Defense Certification" form. Submitted after the defense.

F. Non-Discrimination Statement

July 2016

The University of Delaware does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For inquiries or complaints related to Title IX, please contact:

Director, Institutional Equity & Title IX Coordinator

305 Hullihen Hall

Newark, DE 19716

(302) 831-8063

titleixcoordinator@udel.edu

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact:

Director, Office of Disability Support Services

Alison Hall, Suite 130,

Newark, DE 19716

(302) 831-4643

For complaints related to Title VII and age discrimination, please contact:

Director, Employee Relations

Department of Human Resources

413 Academy Street
Newark, DE 19716
(302) 831-2171

OR contact the U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights
(<https://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>).

Abridged Version – The University of Delaware is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and Title IX institution. For the University’s complete non-discrimination statement, please visit <http://www.udel.edu/home/legal-notices/>

G. Resources

Several resources are available for students who seek help with academic and personal needs, including:

- Center for Counseling and Student Development
- Office of Disability Support Services
- LGBT Community Office
- Center for Black Culture
- Office of Equity and Inclusion
- University Writing Center
- Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning
- Research Office
- Office of Professional and Graduate Education
- Student Guide to University Policies. <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/14-15/conduct.html#grTIXconsid>

Students should also be aware of University policies on behavior, including academic honesty, which can be found in the student guide to university policies. Note that graduate students who supervise undergraduates through TA or RA responsibilities may also be held to standards of the faculty handbook.