

# SOCIOLOGY, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.)

## Program goals

The goal of the graduate program in sociology is to facilitate the development of theoretical, methodological and substantive competence appropriate for students' interests and career goals. In keeping with VCU's role as an urban institution, the program focuses on the study of public sociology, inequality, social problems, policy alternatives and strategies for change. In addition to its program on the VCU campus, the department offers an online concentration in digital sociology. The master's in sociology will be completed entirely online.

## Student learning outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate a mastery of the key concepts, including diversity and inequality, developed by classical and modern sociological theorists.
2. Students will organize and integrate information into a cohesive overview of current knowledge; demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the meaning, value and contribution of published literature in the field.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to design and implement an appropriate collection and analysis of data, which is a critical response to theory and current literature in the field of sociology.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to draw reasoned conclusions based on qualitative and/or quantitative evidence relevant to the discipline of sociology.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to present their work as a cohesive artifact to their relevant publics.

## VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.](https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/) (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

## Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy

requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.](https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/) (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

## Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements.](https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/) (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

## Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.S.	Fall	Jun 1	

**Note:** A limited number of assistantships are available for qualified applicants. Applicants for assistantships should have their files complete by March 1. Individuals not applying for assistantships should file their applications for graduate study as early as possible to permit adequate review.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

Preference is given to students who have a substantial background in sociology, such as an undergraduate major or minor or 18 or more college-level credit hours in sociology. Students with an undergraduate or graduate degree in a closely related field will also receive consideration for admission.

## Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), the following requirements apply:

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Sociology program are required to earn a minimum of 36 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Transfer credits: A maximum of six credit hours of elective credit taken at another university or in another department can be applied

to the M.S. in Sociology. The courses applied to the degree should be relevant to the student's primary area of study and get prior approval from the graduate program director.

3. Other requirements: The sociology master's degree may be pursued 100 percent online.

## Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Required core courses</b>		
SOCY 502	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
SOCY/STAT 508	Introduction to Social Statistics	3
SOCY 601	Sociological Research Methods	3
SOCY 602	Applications of Sociological Research Methods	3
SOCY 699	Seminar in Sociological Practice (course may be repeated; six credits required for degree) <sup>1</sup>	6
<b>Electives</b>		
A maximum of six credits from outside the sociology department and a maximum of three credits of SOCY 692 may be presented toward the degree with the prior approval of the graduate program director.		18
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

1

A maximum of six credits of SOCY 699 may be presented toward the degree.

**The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 36.**

The department offers opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. See the program page in the Undergraduate Bulletin (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/sociology-program/sociology-bs/#acceleratedbsandmstext>) for details.

### Contact

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**Program website:** [sociology.vcu.edu](http://www.sociology.vcu.edu) (<http://www.sociology.vcu.edu>)