

Track Requirements

Revised October 2012

Objectives

UC Merced's Ph.D. in the Sociology track of the Social and Cognitive Science emphasis prepares students for a variety of careers. We are geared toward training students for faculty positions at research universities, teaching colleges, and community colleges. At the same time, we offer the skills necessary for applied work—typically in research, education or health administration. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with:

- Rigorous, high quality training in sociology
- The ability to employ multiple research and data analysis methods
- Foundational knowledge in sociological theory and two core areas of the discipline
- The skills necessary to conduct research projects and publish the results
- The background necessary to teach several courses in sociology

Requirements

Students seeking a Ph.D. in the Sociology track must complete the following requirements:

- Successful completion of five full time semesters of approved graduate work, including the following courses:
 - One theory class
 - Two statistics classes plus one additional advanced methods class
 - One research methods class
 - One writing/publishing seminar
 - Six substantive courses or sets of reading hours
 - One professionalization seminar
- To continue in the program, a student must pass a review at the end of the first year. The evaluation is made by the faculty on the basis of:
 - Student GPA
 - Written evaluations from faculty
 - Ability to meet minimum program standards
- Bi-annual progress reports completed by the student's faculty advisor in the fall and spring, and reviewed by the faculty advisory committee in the spring, will chart student progress. Satisfactory progress is needed to continue in the program.
- Maintain an overall GPA above 3.0
- Complete a second year paper. The paper must include original empirical analysis and

be in the form of a sociology journal article.

- To advance to candidacy a student must:
 - Meet all of the requirements listed above
 - Form a Candidacy Committee, including no fewer than four faculty members (three from sociology), each selected to evaluate student performance in one of two exam areas
 - Successfully complete Comprehensive Exams in two broad areas (education, gender, health, immigration, political sociology, race and ethnicity, sexuality, social class, and social movements) during the spring of their third year
 - Submit a dissertation research proposal contextualized in the appropriate scholarly literature, and including a discussion of data collection and analysis
 - Complete a formal oral defense of the dissertation before the Committee, and receive approval from all members

- The student will normally advance to candidacy by the fourth year, and complete the program by the end of five years.