

The logo for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is displayed in the top left corner. It features the letters "UTRGV" in a stylized font, with "UT" in orange and "RGV" in grey.

Q&A

Where is the Sociology Department?

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How can I get involved?

UTRGV Sociology

(<https://www.facebook.com/utrgvsociology>)

Sociology Club

(<https://www.facebook.com/the.sociologyclubrgv>)

Want to learn more?

<https://www.utrgv.edu/sociology/graduate/sociology-ms/index.htm>

SOCIOLOGY Master's Degree (M.S.)

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious traditions; from the division of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.

Sociology is distinct because it is a social science. It uses theoretical frameworks and scientific methods of research to investigate the social world and test hypotheses with empirical data. The results of sociological investigations help in the development of new theories and inform social policy, programs, and laws.

Source: American Sociological Association

CAREERS in SOCIOLOGY

Social Practice: Counseling, halfway houses, human services, private foundations, vocational services

Criminal Justice: Corrections, law enforcement, judiciary, probation, parole

Education: Teaching, administration, alumni relations, placement offices, research, public and private schools

Government: Public administration, policy analysis, program development, social statistics, urban planning

Business: Human resources, management, market research, public relations, sales

Social Action: Community organizations, lobbying, political advocacy, religious work

Degree Plans

Total Credits Hours for
Graduation: 36
Thesis Option
Or Non-Thesis Option

A. Thesis Option

- [SOCI 6300: Statistics](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6301: Social Theory](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6302: Research Methods](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6303: Multiple Regression Analysis](#) (3 hrs)
- [Designated Electives](#) (18 hrs)
- **Capstone Requirement: (6 hrs)**
[SOCI 7300: Thesis I](#) (3 hrs)
[SOCI 7301: Thesis II](#) (3 hrs)

B. Non-Thesis Option

- [SOCI 6300: Statistics](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6301: Social Theory](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6302: Research Methods](#) (3 hrs)
- [SOCI 6304: Research Capstone](#) (3 hrs)
- [Designated Electives](#) (24 hrs)
- **Capstone Requirement:**
[Completion of Research Project from SOCI 6304](#)

Sociology Courses

- [SOCI 6303: Multiple Regression Analysis](#)
- [SOCI 6310: Social Change](#)
- [SOCI 6315: Special Topics](#)
- [SOCI 6325: Sociology of Sport](#)
- [SOCI 6326: Health Research & Policy](#)
- [SOCI 6327: Aging & the Life Course](#)
- [SOCI 6328: Sociology of Globalization](#)
- [SOCI 6329: Mass Communication](#)
- [SOCI 6330: Social Psychology](#)
- [SOCI 6331: Disasters & Society](#)
- [SOCI 6344: Demography](#)
- [SOCI 6345: Social Stratification](#)
- [SOCI 6350: Sociology of Education](#)
- [SOCI 6353: Sociology of Deviance](#)
- [SOCI 6354: Family & Society](#)
- [SOCI 6358: Sociology of the Economy](#)
- [SOCI 6361: Race & Ethnic Relations](#)
- [SOCI 6362: Mexican American Society](#)
- [SOCI 6363: Border Studies](#)
- [SOCI 6364: Gender & Society](#)
- [SOCI 6365: Society & Culture of Latin America](#)
- [SOCI 6376: Directed Study](#)



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

(THESIS OPTION)

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 36

REQUIRED COURSES: 12 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 6300 | STATISTICS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6301 | SOCIAL THEORY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6302 | RESEARCH METHODS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6303 | MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS | 3.0 | | |

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT: 6 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 7300 | THESIS I | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 7301 | THESIS II | 3.0 | | |

DESIGNATED ELECTIVES: 18 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 6310 | SOCIAL CHANGE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6312 | TEACHING SOCIOLOGY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6315 | SPECIAL TOPICS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6325 | SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6326 | HEALTH RESEARCH & POLICY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6327 | AGING & THE LIFE COURSE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6328 | SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6329 | MASS COMMUNICATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6330 | SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6331 | DISASTERS & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6344 | SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6345 | SOCIAL STRATIFICATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6350 | SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6353 | SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6354 | FAMILY & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6358 | SOCIOLOGY OF THE ECONOMY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6361 | RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6362 | MEXICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6363 | BORDER STUDIES | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6364 | GENDER & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6365 | LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE/SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6376 | DIRECTED STUDY | 3.0 | | |



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

(NON-THESIS OPTION)

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 36

REQUIRED COURSES: 9 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 6300 | STATISTICS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6301 | SOCIAL THEORY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6302 | RESEARCH METHODS | 3.0 | | |

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT: 3 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 6304 | RESEARCH CAPSTONE | 3.0 | | |

DESIGNATED ELECTIVES: 24 hours

| COURSE # | COURSE TITLE | CREDIT | GRADE | SEMESTER COMPLETED |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| SOCI 6303 | MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6310 | SOCIAL CHANGE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6312 | TEACHING SOCIOLOGY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6315 | SPECIAL TOPICS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6325 | SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6326 | HEALTH RESEARCH & POLICY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6327 | AGING & THE LIFE COURSE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6328 | SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6329 | MASS COMMUNICATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6330 | SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6331 | DISASTERS & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6344 | SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6345 | SOCIAL STRATIFICATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6350 | SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6353 | SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6354 | FAMILY & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6358 | SOCIOLOGY OF THE ECONOMY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6361 | RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6362 | MEXICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6363 | BORDER STUDIES | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6364 | GENDER & SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6365 | LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE/SOCIETY | 3.0 | | |
| SOCI 6376 | DIRECTED STUDY | 3.0 | | |

SOCIOLOGY M.S. (SAMPLE SCHEDULE)
36 TOTAL GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS

THESIS OPTION

| YEAR 1 | | FALL | | SPRING | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|---------|--------------|
| COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS |
| SOCI 6300: Statistics (Required) | 3 | SOCI 6302: Research Methods (Required) | 3 | | |
| SOCI 6301: Social Theory (Required) | 3 | SOCI 6303: Multiple Regression (Required) | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI 6312: Teaching Sociology <i>or</i> Elective | 3 | | |

| Year 2 | | FALL | | SPRING | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS |
| SOCI 7300: Thesis I (Required) | 3 | SOCI 7300: Thesis II (Required) | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI Elective | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI Elective | 3 | | |

NON-THESIS OPTION

| YEAR 1 | | FALL | | SPRING | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|---------|--------------|
| COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS |
| SOCI 6300: Statistics (Required) | 3 | SOCI 6302: Research Methods (Required) | 3 | | |
| SOCI 6301: Social Theory (Required) | 3 | SOCI 6312: Teaching Sociology <i>or</i> Elective | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI Elective | 3 | | |

| Year 2 | | FALL | | SPRING | |
|---------------|--------------|---|--------------|---------|--------------|
| COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS | COURSES | CREDIT HOURS |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI 6304: Research Capstone (Required) | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI Elective | 3 | | |
| SOCI Elective | 3 | SOCI Elective | 3 | | |

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it necessary to have majored in sociology as an undergraduate in order to apply to the program?

No. However, applicants' preparedness will be evaluated to determine whether they will require any additional remedial courses to succeed in the program. The possible three required undergraduate courses are Social Theory, Sociological Research Methods, and Statistics.

Will students who take a Methods or Statistics course in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Political Science or Math be required to take these courses again in Sociology?

No, these courses would not need to be repeated. However, it would be highly recommended to review Social Theory. It is possible to apply and discuss these courses in detail with the Program Advisor to evaluate what courses would be required.

I am a graduating sociology major and would like to enter the master's program the following academic year. What do I do?

Students are required to [apply](#) for Graduate Admission and submit all program requirements. After the Graduate College has processed your application, an Admissions Specialist will send your application over to the program where they will review and make a decision on your application.

Do I need to talk to the Graduate Advisor before applying?

No, you will have to first apply, declare your major as Sociology, and then make an appointment to talk to the Graduate Advisor.

Do I need to take the GRE?

Yes. Student's GRE test scores are valid for 5 years.

What will I need to submit along with my application to the program?

Yes, students will need to provide an official bachelor's degree transcript with a minimum 3.0 GPA, a letter of intent including professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree, GRE test scores, and two letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.

Will I have to write a master's thesis?

No. However, students are encouraged to complete a thesis if they wish to pursue a doctorate as many doctoral programs require its completion for admission. Otherwise, students are able to select the non-thesis option, which includes completing research within the Capstone course.

How many total hours are students required to complete before graduation?

Students are required to complete 36 graduate credit hours.

What are the required courses?

The four required graduate courses are Statistics, Social Theory, Research Methods, and Research Capstone.

Does the program have specializations or tracks?

While there are no designated areas of specialization or official tracks, students may focus on self-selected topics from amongst the designated electives.

Local Non-Profit Organizations

- Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas
www.bhsst.org
- Palms Behavioral Health
www.palmsbh.com
- Family Crisis Center
www.familycrisisctr.org
- Friendship of Women
www.fowinc.com
- The Purple Door
www.purpledoortx.org
- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
www.ttbh.org
- South Texas Civil Rights Project
<https://texascivilrightsproject.org/>

Community Coalitions

- UNIDAD Coalition (Hidalgo Co.)
- SCAN Coalition (Starr Co.)
- TPCC Coalition (Cameron Co.)

Some Positions

- Academic Counselor
- Case Manager
- Coalition Coordinator
- Compliance Reviewer
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Data Coordinator
- Family Support Specialist
- Market Research Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Prevention Specialist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Racial/Economic Justice Outreach Coordinator
- Youth Care Manager