The Master of Arts (MA) Degree Program in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee offers a flexible and varied program of study to students who wish to specialize in one of the discipline’s subfields. The program provides students with balanced and comprehensive training in sociological theory, research methodology and social statistics, which will prepare students for a variety of careers as well as continued study leading to the PhD degree.

**Admission**

New graduate students are admitted to the MA Program in Sociology only for the fall semester. Completed applications should be received by the department no later than January 10th of the year the applicant intends to start.

All applicants must meet the UWM Graduate School’s requirements for admission to the MA program in Sociology. In addition, applicants to the MA program must:

1. Provide three letters of recommendation from persons, preferably faculty, familiar with the applicant’s scholastic achievement and potential.
2. Submit a sample of scholarly writing, a minimum of five pages in length.
3. Submit GRE (http://uw.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre) scores.

**Financial Aid**

The major source of financial assistance for graduate students in sociology is employment as a teaching assistant. Assistantships are awarded every academic year on a competitive basis and may be renewed for an additional year; they include a stipend, full tuition remission and eligibility for low-cost health insurance. To apply for a teaching assistantship, students should complete a Teaching Assistantship Interest Form and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies. The deadline for receipt of that form is January 10th.

Graduate students also are eligible for fellowships awarded by the Graduate School on a competitive basis. Additional information on the types and availability of fellowships may be obtained directly from the Graduate School.

**Advising Procedures**

Upon admission, the Director of Graduate Studies will serve as the student’s advisor. An initial advisor will be assigned in the student’s first semester in residence. The initial advisor assists students in planning their course programs, and in scheduling other degree requirements. When the MA student begins to formulate a topic for a thesis, a master’s paper, or MA examination, the student selects a member of the Sociology Graduate faculty as her/his committee chair. This person then becomes the student’s main curriculum advisor for the remainder of the time in the program.

**Application Deadlines**

If at any time you are unsure about a published date or deadline (http://uw.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines), call the Registrar’s Office at (414) 229-3800 or submit a contact form (http://uw.edu/registrar/contact-us) online.

**Credits and Courses**

The MA in Sociology requires a minimum of 30 graduate credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOL 701</td>
<td>Professional Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOL 715</td>
<td>Systematic Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOL 750</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOL 760</td>
<td>Advanced Statistical Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select a 900-level sociology seminar course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Select 17 elective credits in consultation with advisor</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Good Standing**

To retain good standing in the Department of Sociology, an enrolled graduate student must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and demonstrate progress toward completion of the course and/or thesis requirements each semester.

**Thesis, Master’s Paper, or the MA Examination Options**

The student must write and defend an acceptable thesis, a master’s paper, or write an examination in fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Sociology.

**Thesis or Master’s Paper**

The thesis or master’s paper is intended to be a relatively limited research exercise, focused on a manageable topic. It does not necessarily have to involve original research. It is completed through enrollment in SOCIOL 790. Acceptable thesis or master’s paper options include, but are not limited to, collection of data for hypothesis testing or exploratory research, secondary analysis of available data, theoretical critique, conceptual analysis and library research on a clearly defined problem. In general, students are encouraged to utilize existing data rather than collect new data unless they are confident that they have adequate resources (including time) to collect data sufficient for their purposes.

By the end of the third semester, students should complete a proposal for the MA thesis or paper. The proposal will reflect the formulation of a research problem and the development of a plan for its empirical investigation. Once a proposal is successfully defended, it constitutes an agreement between the student and the MA committee.

Students must prepare the thesis or master’s paper under the direction of their committee, receive approval that it meets professional standards, and defend it at an oral examination. The master’s paper is normally the length of a journal article (about 30 pp.). Students who choose to write
a thesis should consult the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation
Formatting (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/thesis-dissertation-
formatting) page. The thesis must be prepared according to these format
requirements.

MA Examination
The Master of Arts examination option is based on a bibliography
developed by the student in consultation with his/her committee.
The bibliography will represent both classical statements and recent
debates in at least one area of sociological specialization. Students are
encouraged to develop the bibliography by the end of the third semester
of residence.

The examination itself will be a set of three questions developed by the
MA committee, from which the student must choose two. The student
will have two weeks to write a take-home examination. The advisor
and two other faculty members will grade the examination. Within two
weeks of the completion of the written examination, there will be an oral
examination on the same material.

Time Limit
The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of
initial enrollment.