

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

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Graduate Handbook

Department of Sociology



Southern Connecticut State
University

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STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for fulfilling the requirements for their individual degree programs, as well as the general requirements of the Graduate School for obtaining the Master's Degree. In addition, our department abides by the "Student Bill of Rights" and the "Student Code of Conduct" printed in SCSU'S Student Handbook.

Students are encouraged to obtain a copy of this handbook from the Office of Student Affairs, or acquire one online at: <http://www.southernct.edu/services/staffairs/>

You furthermore are expected to familiarize yourself with the Graduate Catalog for additional graduate-level policies and requirements.

Please let us know if there are other things you would like to know about our M.S. program, or about our university community. Again, our Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jon P. Bloch, can be reached at 203-392-5685, or at: blochj1@southernct.edu.

You can also write to him at:

Dr. Jon P. Bloch
 Department of Sociology
 Southern Connecticut State University
 501 Crescent Street
 New Haven, Connecticut 06515

STUDENT HOUSING

The Department of Residence Life offers several housing options for graduate students.

The Townhouses offer comfort and conveniences for graduate students. They are spacious and fully equipped for modern adult living.

There is also the North Campus Mid-Rise, which offers the same level of comfort and convenience as the Townhouses.

All students in either residence receive a \$250 declining balance card, which is good at all food service outlets on campus.

Space is limited, so the sooner you apply, the better. For more information, call: 203-392-5870 or 203-392-5869.

You can also go online at:
<http://www.southernct.edu/services/reslife/>

WELCOME

We welcome you to SCSU's Masters of Science Program in Sociology. Our program features an applied approach to sociology, aimed at understanding key social issues. Our areas of concentration include criminal justice, gender and family, social inequality, deviance, and social institutions—all highly topical areas in today's challenging world.

We furthermore require all students to excel in rigorous courses in research methods and social theory. Students are permitted to take upwards of six credits outside of sociology. However, we expect our students to be committed to the sociological imagination—learning how individual problems reflect larger social issues.

Some of our graduates go on to Ph.D. programs. Other students seek advancement in professional fields such as public service, or teaching at the community college level. Whatever your future plans may be, we hope that you find your understanding of the social world—and yourself—enriched through our program.

Our Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jon P. Bloch, can tell you more about us. He can be reached at 203-392-5685, or at: blochj1@southernct.edu.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted unconditionally into the Masters program, you must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. We also require you to submit:

°A one-page statement of purpose, explaining why you are interested in pursuing a Masters in sociology.

°A writing sample from a previously taken course.

°Two to three letters attesting to your professional promise and your academic ability.

°GRE scores.

If you have less than a 3.0 but at least a 2.5 GPA, you can be given conditional acceptance into the program. You must also have a complete and satisfactory file. If you complete three courses with a grade of B or better, you can be given full and unconditional acceptance into the program.

If you have less than a 2.5 but at least a 2.0 GPA, you can take classes as a non-matriculated student. If you complete three courses with a grade of B or better, and have a complete and satisfactory file, you can apply for admittance into the program. If accepted, your three courses will count toward completion of your degree.

COUNSELING AND CAREER SERVICES

Counseling services are available to help students with study skills, time management strategies, personal support, and other adjustments to graduate school life. For more information call 203-392-5475.

You also might be interested in the following student services:

The Disability Resource Center
<http://www.southernct.edu/departments/dro/>

The Multicultural Center
<http://www.SouthernCT.edu/departments/mcc/>

The Women's Center
<http://www.southernct.edu/departments/womenscenter/index.htm>

Career services are available to offer counseling and other job assistance to graduate students. This office may be contacted at 203-392- 6536.

If you seek further advise regarding career opportunities, feel free to consult with the graduate coordinator, and the various faculty in the department. Additionally, your professional affiliations can alert you to career developments and provide you with important opportunities for networking. Furthermore, your overall academic excellence should help you to succeed in your future goals.

OUTSIDE GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

°U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate
<http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/>

°Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
<http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org>

°The Fulbright Program
www.iie.org/fulbright/

°Ford Foundation Fellowship for Minorities
<http://national-academies.org/fellowships>

°The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/learning/ed/scholarships/default.htm>

°The James Madison Foundation
<http://www.jamesmadison.com/>

°The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships
<http://www.pdsoros.org/>

°The Graduate FAF Program
http://www.woodrow.org/public-policy/graduate_foreign_affairs_fello.html

°The Connecticut Environmental Health Association
<http://www.cteha.org/>

HOW TO APPLY

Your **statement of purpose, writing sample, letters of reference, and GRE scores** should be sent to the Sociology Graduate Coordinator:

Dr. Jon P. Bloch
 Department of Sociology
 Southern Connecticut State University
 501 Crescent Street
 New Haven, Connecticut 06515

Additionally, all candidates must fill out an application for admittance into the School of Graduate Studies. Applications are available through Dr. Bloch, or through contacting the Graduate School at 203-392-5240. You can also acquire an application by going online at: <http://www.southernct.edu/grad/>

As part of this application, you will be required to provide copies of all of your college transcripts. **Your application and transcripts are sent to the address shown on the application, not to Dr. Bloch.** Once the Graduate Studies office has processed these materials, copies are sent to Dr. Bloch, who then reviews your transcript.

Once your file is complete, it is reviewed by the Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee, and you are informed of our decision in a timely manner.

You can apply for admission year-round, and you can begin taking classes in the fall or spring semesters.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

You are required to complete the following:

- °SOC 500 (Individual and Society)
- °SOC 502 (Community Sociology)
- °SOC 570 (Research Methods in Sociology)
- °SOC 571 (Qualitative Research in Sociology)
- °SOC 572 (Quantitative Research in Sociology)
- °SOC 580 (Applied Sociological Theory)

Your methods and theory courses are aimed at helping to prepare you for your exit requirement. You will select one of three options to fulfill this requirement:

- °A Master's Thesis, OR
- °A Comprehensive Exam, OR
- °A Special Project

Before starting classes, you will need to meet with the Graduate Coordinator to determine your Planned Program. You will indicate which of the three options you will pursue, and which classes you will be taking. (If you later change your mind about your classes or exit requirement, you will need to contact the Graduate Coordinator.) You have six years to complete your program from the time you first took a class that would count toward your degree, even if you were non-matriculated at the time you took the class.

FINANCIAL AID AND FUNDING

Financial aid such as Stafford Loans and work-study positions are available to matriculated graduate students. You can contact the financial aid office at 203-392-5222.

You can also go online at:
<http://www.southernct.edu/services/finaid>

International students are not eligible for financial aid.

Funding at the graduate level is highly competitive. There are a limited number of Graduate Assistantships and Research Fellowships awarded through the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Arts and Sciences.

Additionally, students conducting research or presenting a paper at a professional meeting may apply for funding from the Graduate Student Affairs Committee.

There also are a number of outside providers of grants, scholarships and fellowships, including those listed on the following page.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

As a Master's candidate, you are encouraged to join one or more professional sociological associations. Typically, these groups offer reduced student rates and provide you with occasions to present papers, participate in conferences, and network with peers.

American Sociological Association
<http://www.asanet.org/>

Eastern Sociological Society
<http://www.essnet.org/>

New England Sociological Association
<http://web.bryant.edu/~nesa/>

American Society of Criminology
<http://www.asc41.com/>

The Society for Applied Sociology
<http://www.appliedsoc.org/>

Association for Humanist Sociology
<http://www.humanistsoc.org/>

Sociological Practice Association
<http://www.socpractice.org/>

Society for the Study of Social Problems
<http://www.sssp1.org/>

International Sociological Association
<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/cs.htm>

Sociologists for Women in Society
<http://newmedia.Colorado.EDU/~socwomen/>

MASTER'S THESIS

If you want to maximize your marketability, the thesis is the best option to pursue. It provides concrete evidence of your mastery to employers as well as Ph.D. granting institutions. In addition, you can draw upon your original research to present papers at professional meetings, and also publish articles.

We have a separate Handbook on how to write a thesis. You can acquire a copy from the Graduate Coordinator or from your Thesis Advisor.

The thesis option requires 36 credits, three of which are SOC 590 (Thesis Proposal), and three of which are SOC 591 (Thesis Research). Thus, six of your 36 credits total are spent outside of the classroom.

Enrolling in SOC 590 and SOC 591 requires departmental permission. For 590, you must demonstrate that you have settled on a topic, and that your Thesis Committee is in place. (Typically, this consists of a Thesis Advisor plus two readers, one of whom may be from outside the Sociology Department.) To enroll in 591, your thesis proposal must be approved by your Committee and the School of Graduate Studies.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The comprehensive exam usually is recommended for students who are pursuing a Masters solely for their own edification, and are certain that they do not need the professional benefits of writing a thesis.

This option requires 36 credits of coursework. Thus, while the exam itself takes less time than the preparation of a thesis, more in-class time is required. Furthermore, your classes must conform to specific areas of concentration.

The comprehensive exam covers three such areas of concentration. These include the sociological core (required), and two areas of your choice. To pass your exam, you must receive grade of B (82%) or better in each area. If you do not pass in one or more areas, you may take the exam a second time in the area(s) needed.

You will be advised to complete courses in each area prior to taking the comprehensive exam. The faculty who taught these courses usually will be responsible for providing and grading relevant exam questions.

On the next page are the areas of concentration. (Note: Cross-listed courses may not be used twice.)

OTHER COURSES

You may also take up to 6 credits in upper level undergraduate courses. However, you cannot take an undergraduate course for graduate credit if there is a graduate course on the same topic. For example, you should take Soc 556 (Juvenile Delinquency) instead of Soc 338 (Juvenile Delinquency). You also cannot take an undergraduate course for graduate credit if you already took this undergraduate course for a Bachelor's degree from SCSU. Upper level courses acceptable for graduate credit are:

- SOC 302 (Social Organizations)
- SOC 312 (The African American Experience)
- SOC 314 (The Irish American Experience)
- SOC 316 (Women of the Third World)
- SOC 317 (Women of Color in the U. S.)
- SOC 318 (Global Race Relations)
- SOC 345 (Aging and the Aged)
- SOC 360 (Social Change)
- SOC 363 (Social Inequality in the U.S.)
- SOC 368 (Sociology of Law)
- SOC 415 (Contemporary Feminist Theories)

You can also take six graduate-level credits from other graduate programs at SCSU, as well as up to nine transfer graduate credits from other institutions. **The graduate coordinator must approve any courses you wish to use that are outside the sociology graduate program.**

SOC 572: Quantitative Research in Sociology. Current quantitative methods applied to survey construction, interview strategy, data collection, analysis and interpretation. Discussion of ethical and philosophical issues surrounding quantitative analysis, as well as general protocol and practices. Quantitative study of attitudes, events or cultural meanings. 3 credits.

SOC 580: Applied Sociological Theory. Sociological theories applied to one or more social issues consequential to life in the U.S., such as discrimination, gang violence, corporate crime, global inequality and emerging current events. The Paradigms covered include functionalist, conflict, interpretive, post-modernist and feminist sociologies. Emphasis is placed on contrasting pedagogues and the different research considerations implied in each. 3 credits.

SOC 582: Sociology of Education. Examination of the nature of knowledge as transmitted by educational and related institutions. How education and knowledge are enacted with a socio-cultural system, and influenced by social class, politics, religion and ethnicity. Topics include the school as an agent of socialization and stratification, as well as school organization and reform.

SOC 590: Thesis Proposal in Sociology. For thesis students only. Development of thesis proposal. Prerequisite: departmental permission. 3 credits.

SOC 591: Thesis Research in Sociology. For thesis students only. Implementation of research design from approved thesis proposal and written presentation of findings. Prerequisite: departmental permission. 3 credits.

SOC 600: Directed Independent Study and Research

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Sociological Core:

SOC 580 (Applied Sociological Theory)

SOC 570 (Research Methods)

AND ONE of the following:

SOC 571 (Qualitative Research in Sociology)

SOC 572 (Quantitative Research in Sociology)

Applied Sociology:

SOC 500 (Society and the Individual)

SOC 502 (Community Sociology)

Criminal Justice (TWO of the following):

SOC 555 (Criminal Justice and Minorities)

SOC 556 (Juvenile Delinquency)

SOC 557 (Correctional Policies and Agencies)

SOC 566 (Crime and the Criminal)

Deviance:

SOC 569 (Deviant Behavior)

AND one course from the criminal justice specialization

Gender and Family (TWO of the following):

SOC 504 (Gender and Law)

SOC 515 (Sociology of Gender)

SOC 529 (Race, Class and Gender)

SOC 565 (The Changing Family)

Social Inequality:

SOC 510 (Ethnic And Racial Relations)

SOC 529 (Race, Class and Gender)

Social Institutions (TWO of the following):

SOC 551 (Sociology of Religion)

SOC 565 (The Changing Family)

SOC 582 (Sociology of Education)

SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM

Prior to taking the exam, you should contact the graduate coordinator to make sure all your course requirements have been met. Once you have a list of which courses from which areas you will be using, you may contact the instructor who will be giving the exam, and ask if there is anything in particular you need to review.

Exams are given ONCE per semester: on the FIRST FRIDAY OF DECEMBER, and the FIRST FRIDAY OF MAY. The exams are take-home. Upon picking up the exam from the department secretary, you have 72 hours to complete it, and turn it back in to the secretary on Monday.

Exams must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around, and use 10- or 12-point type. As it is a take-home exam, standards regarding accuracy, breadth and clarity must be of the highest caliber.

Upon its completion, the exam will be distributed among appropriate faculty for grading. Students should allow two to four weeks for grading. The graduate coordinator will notify the student in writing of his/her passing or failure. After you have passed the comprehensive exam, you must notify and petition for your Masters degree at the Graduate Office.

SOC 565: The Changing Family. Contemporary families and problems relating to poverty, minority status, illness, rapid social change. Alternative family life styles and the future of the family. 3 credits.

SOC 566: Crime and the Criminal. Sociological theory and data on the causes, persistence and possible prevention of crime, the changing social dimensions of crime, legal and political agendas, and the socialization and role enactment of being a criminal. 3 credits.

SOC 569: Sociology of Deviant Behavior. Explanations of deviance: mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual deviations, family disruptions, suicide, crime and delinquency, and discrimination. 3 credits.

SOC 570: Research Methods in Sociology. Analysis of the logic of scientific investigation of social phenomena; theory construction, and the relation between theory and research with examples from studies in sociology and anthropology. Survey of major procedures and principle techniques of empirical work, and practical familiarity with some phases of the research process. 3 credits.

SOC 571: Qualitative Research in Sociology. The design and execution of qualitative research. Topics include observational and interviewing techniques, analytic induction, analysis of material culture and ethics in social research. Students will complete an ethnographic study of a public setting. 3 credits.

SOC 529: Race, Class, and Gender. Explores the intersection of race, class, and gender in social relations. Uses a wide variety of theoretical perspectives to investigate the ways that race, class, and gender are intersected and the impact this interrelationship has on the experiences and opportunities of individuals and their social location. 3 credits.

SOC 551: Sociology of Religion. Explores sociological perspectives on religion as a source of both social change and resistance to social change. Religious influences on policy and discourse nationally and globally are examined, along with sociological models of religious experience, identity, affiliation and structure. 3 credits.

SOC 555: Criminal Justice and Minorities. Sociological investigation of disparities in rates of minority status persons as victims and convicted perpetrators of crime. Biases of police, courts, correctional agencies. Possible preemptive measures on both community and socio-economic levels. 3 credits.

SOC 556: Juvenile Delinquency: Definition of delinquency, classifications of delinquents, and theories of causation. The juvenile justice system and the current controversies surrounding the treatment and control of delinquency. 3 credits.

SOC 557: Correctional Policies and Agencies. Current practices in the treatment of criminals. Historical as well as contemporary overview of penal institutions, halfway houses, probation, parole, and alternative programs. Evaluation of punitive and rehabilitative approaches. 3 credits.

SPECIAL PROJECT

The special project might be recommended for students with an extremely specific career focus. Under the rigorous supervision of a full-time member of the sociology graduate faculty, you will construct an original and highly professional presentation or report that documents a project you have completed. Examples of such projects include but are not limited to:

- °Volunteering at a community service organization
- °Developing online materials of a sociological nature
- °Editing a sociologically relevant newsletter or journal

While the special project does not require thesis research or courses within specific areas of concentration, it does require 39 credits to graduate, instead of 36, which included three credits of independent study (SOC 600). Thus, on balance, each of the three exit options is equally challenging, albeit in different ways.

HOW TO GRADUATE

After completing all degree requirements, you must file for the Master's of Science Degree in Sociology at the Office of Graduate Studies.

If you are a thesis or special project student and you wish to participate in the May Commencement, you must at minimum provide the graduate coordinator with proof that by the end of June your thesis will be defended, or special project will be completed. Comprehensive exam students must have taken and successfully passed their exams either in December or May. When you finish your exit requirement shortly after the commencement, your degree will be conferred in August.

Upon acceptance into the program, you would have filled out a Planned Program of study with the graduate coordinator, documenting the courses you intended to take and the exit requirement you intended to complete. If there were any changes to this Planned Program once you started taking classes, you will need to fill out a Planned Program Change Form, noting these changes. This normally is done shortly after applying for graduation. The graduate coordinator will help you with this form as needed.

SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE COURSES

SOC 500: Society and the Individual. Micro sociological analysis of contemporary societies, with emphasis on interactionist and phenomenological viewpoints. Topics for analysis include culture, race, small group behavior, socialization, and various forms of social interaction. 3 credits.

SOC 502: Community Sociology. Sociological principles and concepts used in the study and analysis of the community. The social, economic and political issues and challenges faced in fostering and maintaining community spirit and organization. 3 credits.

SOC 504: Gender and the Law. An analysis of the American legal system as it has affected women from the 18th century to the present. Course content is applicable for any student with an interest in the law. Topics include constitutional protections for equality, Title VII (including sexual harassment and sex discrimination), reproductive rights, domestic violence, and Title IX (educational and sports equity). 3 credits.

SOC 510: Ethnic and Racial Relations. Intergroup relations involving races, religious groups, and nationalities. Societal impact of prejudice, discrimination and segregation. 3 credits.

SOC 515: Sociology of Gender. Theory and data on the social construction of gender. Advanced exploration of identity formation, social change and persistence, interactive patterns and inequalities. Impact of gender on individual and society. 3 credits.

