

Department of Sociology Graduate Program Handbook

Welcome

UNLV Sociology faculty and students combine innovative research with teaching and community service to address questions of social change, diversity, social justice, and sustainability in urban environments. UNLV Sociology enjoys an international research reputation in interpretive sociology, gender/sexuality, environment and urban sociology. Our award-winning research and teaching and our emphasis on public sociology and civic engagement provide students with skills necessary for personal intellectual growth, active citizenship, and professional success.

"UNLV has achieved the rare feat of combining research into local issues - gambling, the environment, and tourism to mention just three areas - with the development of theory in the grand pragmatic tradition of John Dewey."

Dr. Michael Burawoy, President, International Sociological Association 2010-2014; Past President, American Sociological Association, 2006

Las Vegas is a barometer of contemporary urban, regional, and global trends. UNLV sociologists analyze the dynamics of 21st century urban communities and the social forces that both integrate and fragment them. Specifically, our research investigates topics ranging from individual and group experiences within urban communities, community adaptation to change, and urban problems as diverse as poverty, health disparities, aging, workforce experiences, urban politics, gambling and addictions, family dynamics, sex industry and sex trafficking, crime and deviance, environmental degradation, and urban sustainability. Our teaching draws directly from our research to nurture critical intellectual thinking and rigorous methodological training. We also sustain a vibrant, inclusive, and collegial atmosphere focused on discovery and learning.

Our Ph.D. students receive extensive training in both classical and cutting edge theory and methods in order to pursue interesting and important research topics in creative and innovative ways. Faculty members engage in active mentoring of Ph.D. students by providing intensive research and teaching opportunities. Our award-winning research and teaching, as well as our emphasis on public sociology and civic engagement, provide students with skills necessary for personal intellectual growth, active citizenship, and professional success.

UNLV's Department of Sociology is energetic, exciting, and growing. There are few better places than Las Vegas and UNLV's Department of Sociology to study a wide array of contemporary sociological questions. We invite you to become a part of our sociological experience.

Department Mission Statement

Sociology provides scholars with the intellectual tools to analyze social phenomena, uncover injustices, and unfetter the social awareness of its practitioners and the larger public. In order to provide valid and reliable explanations, sociologists study social life theoretically and empirically, both quantitatively and qualitatively. From the ecological to the psychological, no aspect of social life is trivial or unimportant to the sociologist who seeks to understand and improve our social worlds.

We work to enhance academic excellence through our commitment to a program that integrates quality teaching with original research. The Sociology Department seeks to strengthen its academic reputation locally, nationally and internationally and grow selectively by attracting superior students and faculty to its undergraduate and graduate programs. The Sociology Department is committed to a philosophy of education that promotes understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity in teaching, research, and community service and that champions equality and free

expression. The department communicates and collaborates effectively with the university as well as with Las Vegas, Southern Nevada, and the Intermountain West Region.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or GradAssociateDean@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in the Sociology Department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).

Program Information

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology (Ph.D.)

- Post- Bachelor's Track
- Post- Master's Track

Contact Information

<http://www.unlv.edu/sociology>

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Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding **admission, coursework and culminating experience** are found in the Graduate Catalog.

Advisory Committee Guidelines

The student's Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding students through the graduate program, assisting the student with her/his professional paper, thesis, or dissertation, and administering a final exam. All departmental members of the committee should have expertise in the student's research area. The Advisory Committee consists of four graduate faculty members: three from the student's department and one professor who has full graduate faculty status from another department to serve as the Graduate College representative. Further information regarding advisory committee members can be found in the Graduate Catalog.

At the time of admission into the graduate program the Graduate Coordinator will serve as a student's informal advisor. During the first year, students should choose a Faculty Advisor from the Sociology Department's Graduate Faculty. The Faculty Advisor assists students in shaping their intellectual project and course of study. Students, in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, then select two additional departmental members and one outside committee member to constitute the Advisory Committee. Students may use the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#) to find an outside committee member. These members should have expertise in the student's research area.

By the end of the second semester of enrollment, students should submit to the Department of Sociology and the Graduate College an Appointment of Advisory Committee Form and a Master/Doctoral Proposed Degree Program Form, these forms can be found at <http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/forms> - p

The Graduate College must approve all advisory committee members listed on the Appointment of Advisory Committee Form, before students proceed to work with their Advisory Committee, sit for exams, defend a prospectus, or otherwise participate in any milestone event.

If a student needs to make changes to his/her advisory committee after submission of the initial appointment form, they may do so with the Change in Advisory Committee form. Students have a right to change their committees as they see fit, however all ethical and professional rules and guidelines governing research data, creative activities, funded projects, must be considered and followed. Also, please note that when a student requests a change of advisory committee immediately after a failed exam or defense, and prior to the retaking of said exam or defense, the department and/or Dean may not allow the committee change until the current milestone exam or defense is completed.

The Department of Sociology requires all students to provide a copy of the above-mentioned forms to the main office and recommends that students also keep a copy for their own file.

Graduate Classes Sequence

Regardless of chosen track (listed above); all graduate students must enroll in the required core courses in the following sequence:

Year I-Fall

SOC 701 - Logic of Social Inquiry	(3 credits)
SOC 702 - Quantitative methods	(3 credits)
SOC 707 - Proseminar I	(1 credit)

Year I-Spring

SOC 705 - Qualitative Methods	(3 credits)
SOC 723- Classical Sociological Theory	(3 credits)

Year II- Fall

SOC 724 - Contemporary Sociological Theory	(3 credits)
SOC 704 - Advanced Analytical Techniques	(4 credits)

Degree Program Benchmarks

Thesis/Pro-Paper Defense

BA-PhD students must author and defend an original piece of research or theory that is then approved by committee members and submitted for peer-review to a reputable sociology journal. The paper need not be accepted for publication for the student to continue matriculating in the program, but the manuscript must make a significant scholarly contribution and be of a high enough quality to merit peer review.

- Students must first hold a professional paper/thesis prospectus committee meeting and successfully defend their prospectus. This meeting should only take place after the student

- has submitted the prospectus to his/her committee. Students should submit the prospectus at least two working weeks before scheduling the prospectus defense.
- After the meeting, students then develop their professional paper/thesis. They must submit a complete and final draft to their committee, which will have two working weeks to decide whether the professional paper/thesis is ready to be formally defended.
 - If the committee agrees that the paper is ready, a defense date will be scheduled.
 - If the committee decides that the paper is not ready to be defended, a meeting will be scheduled with the student. The purpose of this meeting is to indicate to the student what s/he needs to accomplish in order to formally defend the paper. Students must then submit a complete and final draft to their committee, which will have two working weeks to decide whether the professional paper/thesis is ready to be formally defended.
 - The committee will hold a meeting at which students will defend their professional paper/thesis. Students must receive majority approval. There are five possible outcomes for the defense: Pass with Distinction; Pass; Conditional Pass with Rewrites (to be completed within two weeks of notification); Terminal Pass (pass but separated from program after graduation); or Fail.
 - After a successful defense of the professional paper/thesis, students must receive signatures of support from their Committee Chair and a majority of other Committee members prior to submitting their manuscript to an approved peer-review sociology journal.
 - Students may complete this stage of the program only after successfully completing all 20 required core course credits, as well as a minimum of six credits of 700-level Sociology classes. Students must complete this before completing 40 credits.

Comprehensive Exam Guidelines

The Department of Sociology has ten distinct Areas of Specialization (AOS) for research and teaching. These areas are: (1) Family, Aging, & the Life Course; (2) Culture; (3) Deviance & Criminology; (4) Environment & Health; (5) Race & Ethnic Studies; (6) Gender & Sexuality; (7) Politics & Social Movements; (8) Social Psychology & Theory; (9) Urban & Community Studies; and (10) Demography & Population Studies. The department regularly offers designated courses, directed studies, and special topics courses in each of these areas.

Doctoral students must declare two areas of specialization and complete at least two three-credit 600 or 700-level courses taught by a graduate faculty member in each area. Three out of the six credits can be taken as a Directed Reading or Independent Study if no AOS-relevant course has been offered within the past two semesters. Even though some courses are listed under more than one AOS, each course can only count toward meeting one AOS requirement. (See course list below.)

Students are eligible to take their first AOS exam after they have successfully completed all of their required coursework and the two courses in their area of specialization. Students may enroll in the second course during the same semester in which they will take the exam.

Students generally complete both AOS exams during the third year of graduate study. Students who do not complete both comprehensive exams by the end of their fourth year of study may be placed on probation. Students can take only one comprehensive exam per semester.

Students who fail an AOS comprehensive exam on their first attempt must retake the exam the following semester. Students failing an AOS comprehensive exam on the second attempt will be separated from the PhD program.

Students receiving funding from the Sociology Department who fail a comprehensive exam, or who are placed on probation, may lose funding. The Graduate Studies Committee will make funding decisions. The Committee will use performance on comprehensive exams as *one* criterion when making funding decisions.

Probation

If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, their department/school will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the **Probation and Separation** section of the Graduate Catalog for more information.

Sociology Department Courses and Areas of Specialization

Family, Aging, & the Life Course

- SOC 610: Sociology of Aging
- SOC 682: Aging and Social Policy
- SOC 745: The Family-Work Nexus
- SOC 779: Seminar in Sociology of Aging
- SOC 647: Marriage and the Family
- SOC 684: Sociology of Death and Dying
- SOC 747: Seminar in Marriage and the Family
- SOC 780: Aging and Social Policy

Culture

- SOC 602: Sociology and Literature
- SOC 612: Sociology of Art
- SOC 614: Popular Culture
- SOC 652: Sociology of Youth Cultures
- SOC 674: Sociology of Religion
- SOC 766: Sociology of Culture
- SOC 795: Seminar on Postmodernism
- SOC 611: Films, Self, and Society
- SOC 613: Sociology of Sport
- SOC 617: Sociology and Leisure
- SOC 662: Mass Communications
- SOC 713: Seminar in Sport and Leisure
- SOC 767: Visual Sociology: Image, Media, Culture
- SOC 795: Seminar on Critical Theory

Deviance & Criminology

- SOC 631: Crime and Criminal Behavior
- SOC 642: Sociology of Gambling
- SOC 697: Prisons and Society
- SOC 737: Seminar in Criminological Theories
- SOC 773: Seminar in Drug Use and Abuse
- SOC 633: Juvenile Delinquency
- SOC 670: Sociology of Deviance
- SOC 719: Seminar in Deviance and Disorganization
- SOC 742: Sociology of Gambling

Environment & Health

- SOC 666: Sociology of Medicine
- SOC 673: Sociology of Mental Illness
- SOC 768: Environmental Sociology
- SOC 773: Seminar in Drug Use and Abuse
- SOC 775: Seminar in the Sociology of Mental Illness
- SOC 607: Environment and Society
- SOC 667: Sociology of Science
- SOC 681: Sociology of Substance Use, Abuse, & Addiction
- SOC 769: Ecology, Culture, Social Psychology

Race & Ethnic Studies

- SOC 627: Comparative Racial and Ethnic Relations
- SOC 753: Racial Justice and Latina/os
- SOC 671: Racial and Ethnic Conflict in the US
- SOC 770: Racial and Ethnic Relations

Gender & Sexuality

- SOC 645: Men in Society
- SOC 653: Gender and Society
- SOC 748: Gender, Sex, Society
- SOC 750: Seminar in the Sociology of Sex
- SOC 774: Seminar in Feminist Theories and Research
- SOC 649: Sex and Social Arrangements
- SOC 678: Women and Society
- SOC 749: Sociology of Gender and Work
- SOC 751: International Issues: Gender, Sex, Globalization

Politics & Social Movements

- SOC 644: Sociology of Occupations and Professions
- SOC 655: Social Movements and Social Change
- SOC 675: Political Sociology
- SOC 746: Seminar in Organizational Theory and Problems
- SOC 776: Seminar in Political Sociology
- SOC 785: Seminar in Social Policy & Evaluation Research
- SOC 616: Sociology of Work and Occupations
- SOC 651: Russian Society
- SOC 665: Collective Behavior
- SOC 714: Seminar in Work and Occupations
- SOC 755: Social Movements and Social Change

Social Psychology & Theory

- SOC 661: Self and Society
- SOC 763: Symbolic Interaction
- SOC 769: Ecology, Culture, Social Psychology
- SOC 725: Seminar in Pragmatist Hermeneutics
- SOC 764: Seminar in Social Psychology
- SOC 795: Seminar on Postmodernism

SOC 795: Seminar on Critical Theory

Urban, Community, & Population Studies

SOC 629: Globalization: Economic, Political, and Cultural Perspectives

SOC 688: Architectural Sociology

SOC 752: Global Migration

SOC 756: Urban Theory: Culture and Community

SOC 758: Urban Demography and Population Studies

SOC 615: World Population Problems

SOC 643: Urban Sociology

SOC 743: Seminar in Urbanism and Urbanization

SOC 754: Seminar in Population and Equity

SOC 757: Urban Field Methods

Process for Declaring Areas of Specialization, Preparing for, and Completing Exams

Students are expected to prepare for AOS exams by enrolling in and passing courses or directed studies with faculty members. AOS exams are designed, administered, and evaluated by students' Advisory Committees, with at least one committee member, though preferably more, listed as an expert in the AOS.

In order to declare an AOS and set up an AOS comprehensive examination, students must complete the following sequence for EACH of their areas of specialization:

1. The students' Advisory Committee functions as the evaluating body of for each AOS. Students should select appropriate faculty members who are experts in one or both of their Areas of Specialization to be on the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee must remain intact throughout the exam process. That is, students who fail an exam cannot switch the members of their committee for their second attempt at that exam, except in the case of unforeseen circumstances (i.e. serious injury, illness, or other such incapacitation of a faculty member presently serving on the Advisory Committee). In such cases, students must submit a petition to change committee members to the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who fail their AOS exam on the first attempt are permitted to change Advisory Committee members after they successfully pass the AOS exam on the second attempt. This policy applies to the exam process for both Areas of Specialization.

While students cannot declare an AOS until after they have completed all required coursework, they should start thinking about the AOS and the composition of their committee during their first and second years of study.

2. Obtain approval for the AOS by completing the *Area of Specialization Exam Form* at least 30 days prior to the exam date. Students must also obtain approval from the chairperson of their Advisory Committee and the Graduate Program Coordinator.
3. Prepare a plan of study that includes coursework and independent study in the AOS. With the help of the approved Advisory Committee, students must develop an extended reading list in the AOS. Each AOS will have a master list of readings created by the faculty area specialists. AOS reading lists consist of articles, book chapters, books, and other media. All lists will be organized into categories denoting required core texts and more specialized topics. Students are expected to add readings of special interest to them that will assist them in preparing their dissertation. The student's Advisory Committee Chair must approve added readings. As a guideline, well-developed reading lists generally include about 80-100 items. Students should begin working on and through their AOS reading list well before the semester in which they plan to take the AOS comp exam. Students must supply their final reading list to their Advisory committee at least two weeks prior to the exam date.

Complete the AOS Exam as described below:

(1) Written Examination.

Using only their reading list and previously prepared notes, students will complete an eight-hour in-class Written Exam (prepared by their Advisory Committee and Graduate College representative). Exams will be administered in a designated computer lab. Students may NOT bring portable storage devices, books, or articles into the examination room. Students may not access their email while in the

examination room. There will be four total questions; two in theory and two in methods. Students will choose one theory and one methods question to answer. Exams will be administered once per semester at an approximate middle point in the semester, as designated by the Graduate Studies Committee. Exams will begin at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm with a mandatory one hour break from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm. Students will submit their exam (in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format) to a designated Department official on a flash drive provided by the department.

The exam is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of key issues and debates as well as the broad, conceptual history of the AOS. Students are expected to know the central arguments of the articles and books included on the core AOS reading list and their supplemental sections. The answer to each question on the exam should be about 10-15 typed pages, for a total of about 20-30 typed pages.

(2) Oral Defense.

The Advisory Committee will conduct an Oral Defense within approximately two weeks after the student has taken the Written Exam. The student's Graduate College representative will observe the Oral Defense. In cases where an Advisory Committee member or Graduate College representative is unable to attend the oral defense, that member will provide his or her comments about the exam to the Advisory Committee prior to the Oral Defense. The Oral Defense affords students an opportunity to clarify specific questions the committee has about the Written Exam. While it will also involve questions about expanded and peripheral ideas, its main goal is to ensure that students can adequately address the committee's questions and concerns about the exam.

Prior to the Oral Defense, students should review their exam to identify areas for additional clarification and to anticipate questions the committee may ask during the Oral Defense. Students' performance in the Oral Defense will be used as one of the criterion in determining the overall grade on the Comprehensive Exam. The Advisory Committee will not give students any comments about the Written Exam prior to the Oral Defense.

Evaluation

After students have completed the Oral Defense, the student's Advisory committee will recommend a grade. This grade will be one of the following: Pass with honors, pass, conditional pass, major revision, and fail.

Pass with Distinction: The student has answered both questions and performed an Oral Defense in a manner that significantly exceeds the committee's expectations.

Pass: The student has answered both questions and performed an Oral Defense in a manner that satisfies the committee's expectations.

Conditional Pass with Rewrites: The committee has identified omissions, errors, or inconsistencies with at least one of the answers on the exam that the student is unable to clear up during the Oral Defense. The student must correct those flaws and resubmit the Written Exam for reevaluation. All revisions must be completed within two weeks of the Oral Defense. A second Oral Defense will not be conducted. Students who are unable to adequately correct the flaws in the revision will fail the comprehensive exam and be required to retake the exam the following semester.

Fail: The committee has identified significant omissions, errors, or inconsistencies with both answers on the exam that the student has been unable to adequately address during the Oral Defense. The committee also deems these flaws egregious enough that the student could not possibly correct them in a revision. Students receiving a grade of Fail will be required to retake the exam no later than the following semester. Students who fail the exam cannot switch the members of the Advisory Committee for their second attempt, except in the case of unforeseen circumstances (i.e. serious injury, illness, or other such incapacitation of the faculty member presently serving on the Advisory Committee). Students who fail their AOS exam on the first attempt are permitted to change Advisory Committee members after they successfully pass the AOS exam on the second attempt. Students failing the same AOS exam twice will be separated from the program.

Enrolling in dissertation credits

Doctoral students may enroll in dissertation credits, SOC 799, after they have advanced to candidacy. A student’s advisory committee chair may petition the graduate committee to allow a student to enroll in dissertation credits during the semester that they advance to candidacy if they can demonstrate that paperwork will be filed in the first month of the semester. The petition email should specify the date of the proposal defense. If a student fails to advance, they may be put on probation.

Program Timeline

Semester/Classes	BA to PhD Goals	MA to PhD Goals
First Year		
<i>Fall Semester</i>		
SOC 701: Logic of Social Inquiry (3 credits)	Develop ideas for professional paper in consultation with various faculty members. Identify your Faculty Advisor. Investigate any desired Graduate Certificate programs.	Develop ideas for dissertation in consultation with various faculty members. Identify your Faculty Advisor. Investigate any desired Graduate Certificate programs.
SOC 702: Quantitative Methods (3 credits)		
SOC 707: Proseminar I (1 credit)		
Elective (AOS1) (3 credits)		
<i>Spring Semester</i>		
SOC 704: Analytical Techniques (4 credits)	Select Faculty Advisor and Advisory Committee. Submit the Appointment of Advisory Committee Form. Begin pro paper prospectus. If entered with an MA, develop publications from your thesis.	Select Faculty Advisor and Advisory Committee. Submit the Appointment of Advisory Committee Form. Submit presentations and begin publications from your thesis.
SOC 705: Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)		
SOC 723: Classical Theory (3 credits)		
Second Year		
<i>Fall Semester</i>		
SOC 724: Contemporary Theory (3 credits)	Defend pro paper prospectus and submit Prospectus Approval Form and Proposed Degree Form Parts I & II. Select areas of specialization with Advisory Committee. Prepare reading list for AOS1 Comprehensive Exam.	Select areas of specialization with Advisory Committee. Prepare reading list for AOS1 Comprehensive Exam. Submit publications from your thesis.
Electives (AOS1) (6 credits)		
SOC 709: Teaching SOC (3 credits)		
<i>Spring Semester</i>		
Electives (AOS1 and/or 2) (9 credits)	Complete and defend pro paper and submit Culminating Experience Result Form. Submit Doctoral Advisory Committee Form. Prepare for and/or take AOS1 Comp Exam.	Take AOS1 Comp Exam. Prepare for AOS2 Comp Exam
Third Year		
<i>Fall Semester</i>		
Electives (AOS2) (6 credits)	Take AOS1 Comp Exam. Prepare for and/or take AOS2 Comp Exam.	Take AOS2 Comp Exam. Prepare dissertation prospectus. Submit Proposed Degree Form I & II.
Advanced Theory or Methods (3 credits)		
<i>Spring Semester</i>		
Advanced Theory or Methods (3 credits)	Take AOS2 Comp Exam. Prepare dissertation prospectus. Submit Proposed Doctoral Degree Form I & II.	Defend Dissertation Prospectus. Submit Prospectus Approval Form and Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy Form.
SOC 708: Proseminar II (1 credit)		
Electives (3 credits)		
Fourth Year		
Dissertation Hours (6 credits)	Defend Dissertation Prospectus. Submit Prospectus Approval Form and Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy Form. Work on publications.	Job applications. Submit publications. Complete and defend dissertation.

Fifth Year		
Dissertation Hours (6 credits)	Job applications. Submit publications. Complete and defend dissertation.	

Continuous Enrollment and Time Limits

To adhere to Department and Graduate College enrollment guidelines, students must be registered for a minimum of six semester hours of graduate credit each calendar year. The expectation of the Department is that the full time graduate student will be able to complete the PhD program in three to four years. The Graduate College has a six-year and eight-year policy which can be found in the Graduate Catalog.

It is a student’s responsibility to maintain continuous enrollment and meet program benchmarks as described in the previous sections. If a student has exceeded the time lines limits as described by the Graduate College, the student may request an additional year by submitting a One Year Extension Request Form (this form can be obtained from the main office or the Graduate Coordinator). The Graduate Studies Committee in consultation with a student’s Advisory Committee will make a decision on the request.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the Graduate Catalog. The American Sociological Association Code of Ethics (<http://www.asanet.org/about/ethics.cfm>) outlines the principles and ethical standards that underlie the sociologist’s professional responsibilities and conduct.

All graduate students are encouraged to be active participants in the University and Department culture.

For conflicts, problems, or concerns about any matter related to the graduate program or the Sociology Department, please contact the Graduate Coordinator immediately.

Annual Review Procedures

Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey will be sent by the Graduate College to the student’s Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

In addition, all students submit an annual evaluation to the Sociology Department. Students will meet with their Faculty Advisor to review the information, discuss progress, make comments, and the signed form will be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator and placed in the students file.

Students who have not made satisfactory progress during the academic year will be placed on academic probation. Failure to meet the terms of probation will result in separation from the Graduate College.

Professional Development

Taking advantage of professional development opportunities outside of regular coursework is a critical component of graduate education. Students should participate in as many sociological activities as possible to improve their knowledge and expand their network of friends and acquaintances within the profession. Professional development opportunities may include:

Attending Sociology Department and University events including retreats, trainings, brown bag lunches, special seminars, special presentations by visiting scholars and job candidates, graduate student conferences and practice paper presentations.

Joining regional and national sociological or specialty associations These give access to many professional activities and helps the development of a professional library because subscriptions to professional journals are included in many memberships as part of the dues.

Conference Attendance and presentations Attend and present papers at as many conferences as possible, both regional (for example, the Pacific Sociological Association, the Southwest Social Science Association) and national conferences (for example, the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problem). Conferences expose students to ideas that may not yet have appeared in print and allow students to interact with professionals with shared interests. This helps improve research as well as job opportunities. Collaborating with faculty is another good way to get experience.

Grants and Awards More and more jobs require grant-writing experience. There are plenty of opportunities to fund graduate student research. Common sources of funding are internal (UNLV) and external (National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Social Science Research Council; regional and national organizations). Start early. No award is too small and even small grants are gateways to larger opportunities. Students should speak with Faculty Advisors and check UNLV, graduate college and professional organization websites for opportunities.

Publishing Publishing research is critical for graduate students. Collaborate with Faculty Advisors, graduate student colleagues and colleagues in other universities. Develop course papers. Share drafts with other students, colleagues and faculty. Students can also take advantage of less formal writing to develop ideas, including writing for blogs and op eds. Talk with advisors about opportunities.

Professional and community service Sharing research and skills are critical to the profession, and the Department of Sociology values public sociology. Students should become active in departmental, university and professional organizations and committees. Find ways to share research with public audiences that are most important to the student's interests.

Graduate Assistantship Program

Students must apply for the Graduate Assistantship Program through the Graduate Colleges Apply Yourself system. Graduate Assistants who are on the BA-PHD track generally assist faculty members in their teaching duties for up to 20 hours per week.

Graduate assistants who are on the MA-PHD track and have completed the necessary teacher training may be required to teach a maximum of two autonomous courses per semester. Graduate students receiving a Graduate Assistantship may be eligible for up to five years for students on the BA-PHD track, and four years for those on the MA-PHD track, contingent upon satisfactory execution of all duties and responsibilities, as well as timely progress toward degree completion.

Graduate Assistantship students are selected and assigned by the Graduate Studies. **Students must re-apply for a Graduate Assistantship every Fall semester through the Grad Rebel Gateway system.**

Graduate Assistant Instructor Teaching Requirements

Students who teach courses in the Department should hold a Master's degree or equivalent, enroll in and pass a three-credit teaching seminar (SOC 709 Teaching Sociology), and successfully complete a comprehensive exam in the area they want to teach. Students teaching autonomous classes are required to take the teaching practicum (SOC 710) when offered.

As a general rule, graduate students teach only 300 level or lower undergraduate courses and these are usually capped at a maximum of 75 students. The Graduate Coordinator, in conjunction with the Department Chair, will review graduate assistantship requests for teaching each semester. All decisions are based on Department needs, promise of or evidence of quality teaching, and the Department's desire to give Ph.D. students the opportunity to gain teaching experience.

The Graduate College also offers a Graduate College Teaching Certificate Program. This program offers important information on teaching strategies, using technology and creating teaching portfolios. The Department strongly encourages graduate students to participate in this program. Please

understand however, that participation in this program should not interfere with progress in the PhD program and is not a substitute for any of the PhD requirements. [UNLV Graduate College Teaching Certificate Program](#).

Graduate Instructor:

Graduate Instructors are responsible for autonomously teaching up to two courses (six credits) as assigned by the Department of Sociology. Graduate Instructors must communicate any scheduling conflicts to the Graduate Coordinator within one week of receiving their assignments. Additional instructional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Attending all assigned class meetings consistent with the course schedule.
- Informing students and the Department Chair of any unavoidable class absences due to professional activities, illness, or other extenuating circumstances.
- Detailing in the syllabus any planned absences for known professional activities. Planned absences should not exceed more than two class periods.
- Being punctual to all class meetings and other meetings with students.
- Attending all mandatory trainings and meetings required by the Department, College, and University.
- Completing and submitting syllabi to the Sociology Department office during first week of semester.
- Scheduling and attending regular office hours.
- Professionally communicating with students on course matters in a timely manner.
- Exhibiting professionalism in all interactions with students.
- Returning graded assignments in a timely manner.
- Demonstrating an overall professional, respectful, and positive demeanor as a representative of UNLV Sociology.

Teaching Assistant:

Teaching Assistants are responsible for assisting the primary course instructor. Teaching Assistants must communicate any scheduling conflicts to the Graduate Coordinator within one week of receiving their assignments. Related responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Performing tasks assigned by primary class instructor with skill and precision.
- Exhibiting professionalism and respect when working with the primary class instructor.
- Completing assigned tasks in a timely fashion.
- Attending all assigned classes and scheduled meetings.
- Attending to appropriate duties as defined by the primary class instructor.
- Holding regular office hours.
- Exhibiting professionalism and respect when working with undergraduate students.
- Demonstrating initiative, which may include suggesting ideas for class projects, lectures, and/or research projects and requesting additional work when assigned tasks are completed, etc.
- Demonstrating an overall professional, respectful, and positive demeanor as a representative of UNLV Sociology.

Offices, Keys and Department Resources (specific to GA/TA Students)

Office Space

Graduate Assistants may be assigned a shared office space; a typical office has three occupants. Room assignments are determined by the Department and are subject to change depending on University space needs. Office assignments are final unless extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the Department. It is the students' responsibility to keep these areas clean and free of safety hazards.

Keys

Graduate Assistants will be given keys to their assigned office space, a work room, and a break room; it is the students' responsibility to ensure that keys are used only by the graduate student. Graduate

Assistants will also be given access to the building after hours, to classrooms, and the computer lab located in CBC B-220. If any key is lost or stolen report this to the Department administrative assistant immediately so a new card/key can be ordered. If a student habitually misplaces or loses keys/cards the Department may charge a fee for replacements.

Work Room

Copying and printing activities done in the workroom or with Department resources are reserved for work directly related to GA/TA assignments or for projects for which the graduate assistant has received approval for copying. No other personal or professional copying/printing is allowed using Department resources. All Graduate Assistants will be assigned a mailbox; it is the student's responsibility to check these boxes on a regular basis.

Graduate Assistant Participation Requirements

Graduate Assistants are strongly encouraged to participate in Sociology Department activities including Department retreats/trainings, brown bag lunches, special seminars, Department committees, special presentations by visiting scholars and job candidates, graduate student conferences and practice paper presentations.

Department Conference Travel Policy

Graduate Students who are presenting a paper at a professional conference and are listed in the conference program may apply for a maximum amount of \$180 per fiscal year of Department travel support. A Department Travel Request form must be completed and returned to the Sociology Department administrative assistant a minimum of two weeks prior to the conference date. The student will be reimbursed according to the UNLV travel policies and reimbursement guidelines. Additional travel funds are available from the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Please notify the Department if you are awarded any funds from any other sources.

University Resources

Academic Success Center

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association

With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Registrar's Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment.* This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services,

and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services

The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
May 27, 2016	Barb Brents	Dissertation credit policy, AOS courses, revised Program Timeline
March 30, 2017	Barb Brents	Change in required course sequence