

DEPARTMENT OF
Sociology

GRADUATE PROGRAM

815 Zulauf Hall
DeKalb IL 60115

sociology.niu.edu



Northern Illinois
University

Faculty

Abu B. Bah (New School for Social Research)
Political and Historical Sociology

Keri B. Burchfield (Penn State Univ)
Communities and Crime, Sex Offenders

Michael C. Campbell (UC-Irvine)
Criminology, Punishment

Charles L. Cappell (University of Chicago)
Violence, Quantitative Methods

Cassandra Crawford (UC-San Francisco)
Health and Illness

Michael Ezell (Duke University)
Crime/Delinquency, Methods, Demography

Kerry O. Ferris (UCLA)
Cultural Sociology; Symbolic Interaction

Jeffrey Kidder (UC-San Diego)
Culture, Urban

Fred E. Markowitz (SUNY-Albany)
Criminology, Mental Illness

Kirk Miller (NC State Univ)
Policing, Gender and Crime

Robin D. Moremen (Yale)
Medical Sociology, Aging, Life Course

Kristen Myers (NC State Univ)
Race, Gender, Sexuality

Kristopher Robison (Ohio State Univ)
Terrorism, Globalization and Development

Diane M. Rodgers (Univ of Missouri)
Theory, Science, Social Movements

Shane Sharp (Univ of Wisconsin)
Social Psychology; Religion

Carol Walther (Texas A&M)
Gender, Demography

How To Apply

1. You will need to take the **GRE**. We prefer applicants with minimum combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE.
2. The Graduate School at NIU requires a minimum **2.75 GPA** for admission.
3. You will need **three letters of recommendation**.
4. You will need to craft a **statement of interest**--this serves as a writing sample as well as a measure of your sociological abilities.
5. Applicants for admission to the program should have a background equivalent to 3 semester hours in sociological theory, sociological methods, and statistics. Students with deficiencies in these areas may be required to take appropriate course work to remove these deficiencies as soon as possible after enrollment.

For more information or to apply,
contact the Graduate School at
grad.niu.edu/grad/index.shtml

Or contact Sociology directly at

BUSINESS CARD STAPLE LOCATION

About The Program

The MA program in Sociology provides graduates with the core tools required by the 21st century economy: critical thinking, research and analysis skills and the ability to be an independent thinker.

We do this through our core courses in social theory and quantitative and qualitative research methods. We offer broad specializations in General Sociology and Criminology, providing diverse subject area courses that allows you to focus on your own interests.

Recent graduates have gone on to earn the PhD at prestigious universities, college teaching positions, careers in government and private research, social service agencies, law enforcement, and corrections.

Program Requirements

Core courses:

Students must earn an overall GPA of 3.00 or better and a grade of A or B in:

SOCI 675 (Sociological Statistics), SOCI 676 (Advanced Research Methodology)
SOCI 677 (Qualitative Research Methodology)
SOCI 670 (Classical Sociological Theory), and
SOCI 671 (Contemporary Sociological Theory).

Comprehensive Examinations

All students are required to take a comprehensive examination. This exam will cover the core areas of sociological theory and research methodologies.

Thesis

Evidence of mastery in the student's area of substantive specialization comes from their thesis, with close faculty supervision. A thesis is intended to provide the student with the opportunity to grapple with a significant sociological problem.

Unique Opportunities For Students

Methodological Diversity

Our faculty are nationally recognized in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. We provide the ability for you to pursue your own methodological calling. The research skills you will develop are largely applicable to many advanced careers.

Computing Resources and Support

SOCQRL- The Sociology Quantitative Research Lab offers students advanced training in highly desirable quantitative research skills and software packages. Our students have exclusive access to this computing lab, housed and run by department faculty.

Student/Faculty Contact

We offer small classes and an accessible faculty dedicated to excellence. Many recent graduate students have worked with faculty on research projects. Several students have published with faculty in academic journals.

Sample Courses

Graduate courses are classified into six fields: theory, research methods and statistics, social organization and institutions, social psychology, sociology of health and aging, and criminology.

Recent course offerings include:

Social Inequality
Gender and Crime
Criminal Justice in Society
Proseminar - Women's Health Issues
Proseminar - Everyday Life
Proseminar - Sexualities
Classical Sociological Theory
Sociological Statistics
Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology
Internship
Independent Study
Master's Thesis

Satisfied Alumni

"The time I spent getting my Master's degree from NIU is what made it possible for me to get into a well respected PhD program. The program at NIU allowed me to gain valuable insights, showcase my writing, and engage in meaningful research that enhanced my PhD application. Because the graduate program is grounded in theory and methods, I was able to hit the ground running as I transitioned to a PhD program."

"Both the courses and the dedicated professors who teach them are second to none... Thanks to [my professors] in the department, I've been able to obtain the career in probation as a court services officer I always dreamed of."

Funding Your Graduate Education

There are several sources of aid to support your graduate education at NIU.

Graduate Assistantships

Assistantships provide stipends for the nine-month academic year and are awarded on a competitive basis. Several types of assistantships are available within the department or in other units of the university:

- Teaching assistantships with the department.
- Research assistantships on funded research projects.
- Administrative and research assistantships in other units of the university.
- Graduate school fellowships are also available on a competitive basis.

Full Tuition Waivers

- A tuition waiver typically accompanies an assistantship offer, though tuition waiver scholarships may be available for students not on assistantship as well.
- Grants-in-aid and loans are also available through the Student Financial Aid Office.