

Master's in Sociology

Master's in Criminology

Department of Sociology

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Director of Graduate Studies

Fall 2023

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC



Department of Sociology at GWU

Two MA programs in Sociology and Criminology

- Strong grounding in research methodology, theory, substantive topics, and excellent training in writing and independent research through a thesis
- Small classes
- Devoted [faculty](#)
- Strong Community
- Excellent placements after the degree

Department of Sociology at GWU

- Core department foci – inequalities, criminology, urban sociology
- Department ethos – equity, social justice, inclusivity, caring, academic rigor

MA in Sociology: Core

Research Methods, Quantitative Methods, and Qualitative Methods

(3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory

(2 classes x 3 credits = 6 credits)

Five substantive electives (5 classes x 3 credits = 15 credits)

- Department foci – Inequalities, Criminology, Urban Sociology
- Option to take classes outside the Department

Two thesis independent studies with thesis director

(2 'classes' x 3 credits = 6 credits)

MA in Criminology: Core (Thesis Track)

Research Methods, Quantitative Methods, and Qualitative Methods

(3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

Classical OR Contemporary Sociological Theory

(1 class x 3 credits = 3 credits)

Criminology, Deviance and Control, Criminal Law

(3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

Three substantive electives (3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

- Option to take classes outside the Department

Two thesis independent studies with thesis director

(2 'classes' x 3 credits = 6 credits)

MA in Criminology: Core (Comprehensive Exam Track)

Research Methods, Quantitative Methods, and Qualitative Methods

(3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

Classical OR Contemporary Sociological Theory

(1 class x 3 credits = 3 credits)

Criminology, Deviance and Control, Criminal Law (3 classes x 3 credits = 9 credits)

Five substantive electives

(5 classes x 3 credits = 15 credits)

- Option to take classes outside the Department

Comprehensive Exam

Full Time, Part Time, Accelerated Options

- Most MA students are full time, i.e. 9 credits per semester over 4 semesters, Fall and Spring
- Part time (3-6 credits a semester) and accelerated (12 credits each during Fall and Spring, plus Summer classes) an option
- All Sociology Department classes are late afternoons and evenings, with the exception of one statistics lab

Applications: Requirements I

- Undergraduate degree with transcripts
 - Our applicants usually have Bachelor's degrees in Sociology or Criminology/Criminal Justice.
 - We have accepted students with Bachelor's degrees in a wide variety of fields, including Business, Neuroscience, and History, for example.
 - As noted below, SOP must connect previous training and future goals.
- International/ESL candidates need TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English Test
- GRE - optional

Applications: Requirements II

- Statement of purpose (SOP)
 - Fit: Why YOU want to pursue this degree
 - Your career/academic 'story'/goals, not only a personal story
 - Why you want to come to GW's Sociology Department
 - What classes or professors interest you?
- Resume
- Academic letters of recommendation (three preferred, two minimum)
 - Professors > employers (or non-academics)

Applications: Requirements III

- Writing sample
 - The writing sample should be a minimum of 5 pages and typically not exceed 30 pages. It is very important to choose a sample that demonstrates the student's ability to write according to academic standards. Where possible, the substance and topic of the sample should overlap with the substance of the degree being sought and should reflect academic conventions, including citations and references.

Applications: Requirements IV & Holistic Review

- Details and quality (writing, grammar, etc.) matter
- **February 1 deadline for funding consideration**
- Holistic review

Costs

Tuition

- \$1,950 per credit, or \$35,100 per year for 18 credit for 2023-2024

Fees

- The student account may include a variety of small fees and charges depending on the student's registration and GW activity.

International Student Tuition

- Estimates for the 2-year program, including tuition & fees, living expenses, and book & insurance: \$118,588

Funding and Financial Transparency

Various forms of merit funding available and can be combined

- Tuition stipends (partial)
 - NO full funding available
- Graduate teaching assistantship (salaried; \$5,000 per semester, up to 20 hours per week)
 - Office of Graduate Student Assistantships and Fellowships
- International students
 - Financial requirement to obtain a US visa
 - Additional funding stream for international students from select countries

Outcomes

Our graduates aim for and achieve in three main paths:

- Policy research; government, nonprofits, for profits
- Policy advocacy; government, nonprofits, for profits
- PhDs (and JDs)

Recent alumni placements range from working as an investigative analyst with the Manhattan DA to data analysts with the DOJ Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section. Other alumni are now working on PhDs at Boston College, UC-Davis, and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, among others.

Many of our older alumni have risen to top positions in the advocacy and nonprofit sectors, as well as great success in other arenas.

Contact and questions

The best person to contact for substantive questions about applications or the program is the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Fran Buntman

Email gradsoc@gwu.edu

Calendly calendly.com/fbuntman

We look forward to answering your questions and helping you with your applications.

Thank you.

