Master of Science (M.S.), Major in Applied Sociology

Major Program

The master of science (M.S.) with a major in applied sociology is designed to prepare students for careers in state and federal government agencies, large and small businesses and non-profit organizations. Graduates of this program will have the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in a rapidly changing job market, having mastered the techniques of both qualitative and quantitative research, general statistical analysis, and impact analysis.

Admission Policy

For information regarding admission application requirements and deadlines, please visit The Graduate College website at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apsoc.html.

Degree Requirements

This applied option has degree requirements of 37 semester hours, including:

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Total Hours: 37

No minor is required, but students may choose a minor.

The course work for the applied sociology major culminates in the two-course practicum, SOCI 5398A/SOCI 5398B. Each student will initiate a site-based research project to collect impact analysis or assessment data of interest to site administrators. During a subsequent term, the student will complete a professional research paper based on the data. Students will be required to have a practicum proposal approved by their committee prior to beginning the research paper. Although students’ research projects will vary, each will combine the emphases of the program — sociological methods and statistics, needs assessment, impact analysis, and grant writing — with the collection and analysis of quantitative and/or qualitative data.

All students earning the M.S. with a major in applied sociology must pass one or more comprehensive examinations, either written, oral, or both at the end of their course work. Defense of the professional research paper, as well as knowledge of course work, will be the foci of this comprehensive examination.

Master’s level courses in Sociology: SOCI

Courses Offered

Sociology (SOCl)

SOCI 5105. Practicum in Teaching Sociology.
An introduction to key concepts and practices in the teaching of college course in Sociology. Provides regular in-service training and planned periodic evaluations of instructional responsibilities. Required for first-year teaching and instructional assistants in the Sociology Department. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Repeatable with different emphasis. Graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis. Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships about Practicum in Teaching Sociology

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship Exclude from Graduate GPA

SOCI 5110. Proseminar in Sociology.
This course will orient new graduate students to the department and the profession. Topics include presentations at professional meetings, academic writing and publishing, and putting together curriculum vitae. about Proseminar in Sociology

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter about Proseminar in Sociology

SOCI 5110. Proseminar in Sociology.

This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis. about Thesis

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit about Thesis

SOCI 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis. about Thesis

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit about Thesis
SOCI 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Thesis

This course provides prerequisite knowledge required for success in graduate-level coursework in Sociology. Course content varies depending on academic preparation. This course does not earn graduate credit. Repeatable up to 12 hours with different emphasis. Prerequisite:
Approval of graduate advisor in Sociology.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from Graduate GPA|Leveling
about Foundation Studies in Sociology

SOCI 5306. Sociological Theory Seminar.
This graduate theory course examines the role of social theory in the historical and contemporary quest for knowledge and understanding of society. The first half of the course emphasizes the European Classics. The second half of the course is devoted to contemporary theory. Emphasis throughout will be on using theory to better understand current events and everyday life experiences.
about Sociological Theory Seminar

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Sociological Theory Seminar

Application of advanced statistical theory and methods to the analysis of social data. Prerequisites: Sociology 3307 or equivalent with grade of “B” or better.
about Advanced Statistics for the Social Sciences

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Advanced Statistics for the Social Sciences

SOCI 5308. Seminar in Research Methods.
The application of research methods to social science with emphasis on direct, practical experience in research. Departmental approval needed for non-majors.
about Seminar in Research Methods

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Research Methods

SOCI 5309. Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods.
This course examines qualitative methods in Sociology. Topics include examples of classical and modern qualitative research, and issues related to qualitative research. Students critique qualitative studies and conduct and defend a qualitative project. Departmental approval needed for non-majors.
about Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods

SOCI 5310. Teaching Sociology.
Objectives, methods, and materials of instruction in the sociology curriculum. Relation of sociology to other disciplines.
about Teaching Sociology

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Teaching Sociology

SOCI 5316. Seminar in Deviation and Social Problems.
A systematic analysis of contemporary social problems and various types of social deviation. Emphasis is on the socialization process as it relates to social problems and human deviation. The sociological explanation of underlying factors will be stressed.
about Seminar in Deviation and Social Problems

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Deviation and Social Problems

SOCI 5318. Seminar in Advanced Data Applications.
This course will cover the application of various statistical techniques, such as chi-square, correlation, and regression while introducing statistical analysis to students using software such as SPSS and STATA. This course will use epidemiological data for application purposes. Prerequisite: SOCI 5307.
about Seminar in Advanced Data Applications

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Advanced Data Applications

SOCI 5319. Seminar in Social Psychology.
A critical appraisal of the major theories and theorists found in Social Psychology with emphasis on their application to contemporary social and psychological issues.
about Seminar in Social Psychology

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Social Psychology

SOCI 5320. Seminar in Demography.
A seminar in the study of population with emphasis on sources of demographic data, techniques of demographic analysis, and population composition and forecasts.
about Seminar in Demography

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Demography

SOCI 5322. Impact Analysis Research.
This course is designed to introduce students to the assessment of organizational impact. It addresses both the historical development and social functions of evaluation, as well as practical application of assessment research. Emphasis will be on appropriate research design, implementing the design, and analysis of data.
about Impact Analysis Research

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Impact Analysis Research
SOCI 5323. Grant Writing for the Social Sciences.
This course offers an applied approach to developing grant-writing skills for the social scientist. It will cover all aspects of proposal development including idea generation, funding source identification, project description, project plan, project management, evaluation methods, and budget preparation strategies.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5337. Seminar in the Family.
An analysis of selected topics with respect to contemporary family structure and processes.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5343. Seminar in Criminology.
An analysis of theories and research related to the crime problem with particular emphasis on the United States. Emphasis will include a study of the role of punishment, corrections, and the reform of offenders. Special consideration will be given to influential social conditions that play a part in crime causation and prevention.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5347. Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency.
This seminar will examine juvenile delinquency from a sociological perspective. Many topics, including an historical examination of delinquency, theories of delinquency, the social context of delinquency, and social policy issues involving the juvenile justice system and youth-related social problems will be explored.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5350. Seminar on the Sociology of Gender.
This course is a graduate level seminar on the study of gender in sociology with a focus on issues of race, ethnicity, social class, and sexuality. We will examine the major contemporary scholarly debates about gender and explore how gender issues are embedded in different institutions and organizations.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5351. Introduction to Dementia Studies.
This course is an introduction to the social-scientific study of the causes and consequences of dementia, as well as to issues related to the care of persons with dementia.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5352. Dementia and Caregiving.
This course for the Dementia and Aging Studies degree covers current research on policy and support for caregivers of persons with dementia, with an emphasis on the applied sociological focus of caregiver training and education. The course also addresses broader public sociology issues of caregiving and healthcare.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5353. Seminar in the Community.
A study of contemporary urban society with emphasis on understanding the social structure as a prerequisite to planning and problem solving at the community level.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5354. Theoretical Perspectives in Aging and Dementia.
This course discusses theories of aging from biological, psychological, and social science perspectives. The course also demonstrates how these theories can be applied to analyzing various aging issues, particularly the social care of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5355. The Social Psychology of Dementia.
This course analyzes the social construction of dementia and salient social psychological theories, concepts, and research in dementia studies. It investigates the social psychology of dementia in relation to mind, identity, stereotypes, prejudice, attributions, socialization, emotions, social interaction and the impact of institutions on the self.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5356. End of Life Care.
This course focuses on issues of dying and death. Topics covered include symptom management, palliative care, hospice, pain control, life-sustaining treatment and spiritual, legal and ethical issues related to dying and death. Also covered will be different religious views on euthanasia, dying, death, and funerals.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter
SOCI 5357. Gender and Aging in Society.
This course is a seminar on the study of gender and aging. This seminar will examine issues of aging identities, the aging body, sexuality, health and medicine, and caregiving among older adults. This course emphasizes the aging experience in our culture as a fundamentally gendered phenomenon.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course will explore the organization, experience, and meaning of work in modern societies. Students will analyze the context and structure of different industries and occupations, how and why inequalities in the workplace occur, the balance between work and family, and the effects of globalization.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5359. Seminar in Drugs and Society.
A sociological examination of the use of legal and illegal drugs in society, with emphasis on topics such as the “war on drugs,” the pharmaceutical industry, and drugs as technologies of medicalization, as well as incentives to social change.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5361. Aging and Dementia: Racial and Ethnic Minorities.
This course provides an analysis of how race and ethnicity affect aging and dementia, with particular emphasis on the United States. The course examines health and quality of life of racial and ethnic minorities in later life, social factors that influence these differences, and means of intervention.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5362. Rural Aging and Dementia.
This graduate course examines aging and dementia issues in rural America. Demographic trends, cultural and economic changes, and intervention strategies will be examined.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5363. Seminar in Medical Sociology.
A seminar on selected topics of human health and health care organizations. Topics to be stressed include: social causes and consequences of morbidity and mortality, professionalization and socialization of health care practitioners, organization of health institutions, and demographic changes in health problems and needs.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5365. Seminar in Political Sociology.
This course applies sociological theory and research to explore the exercise of power in its social context. Particular topics may include but are not limited to civil society, power outside of government, the relationship of the state to other social institutions, and the nature of elites.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5366. Seminar in Environmental Sociology.
This course situates societies within their ecological context and vice versa. Focusing upon social and environmental interactions, including the interactions of social organization, inequality, and policy, provides a comprehensive understanding of the physical and social milieu.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5370. Seminar in Multi-Cultural Relations.
Examines the dynamics of dominant subordinate social groups. Focuses on racial, ethnic, and class differences.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5371. Directed Study.
Course of independent study open to individual students only at the invitation of the faculty member with the approval of the department chair and the graduate advisor. Repeatable for credit.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOCI 5380. Sociological Essay.
Directed study of a specific sociological topic requiring the student to apply skills and knowledge gained in course work. For those students electing to complete a thesis the essay will constitute a thesis research proposal.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

SOCI 5383. Seminar on Aging.
This course provides graduate students with an opportunity to examine national and global issues involved with the aging process and population aging from a social scientific and multicultural perspective.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
SOCI 5388A. Bureaucrats and Terrorists.
This course explores two contradictory trends in contemporary societies. The first is greater emphasis on bureaucratic rationality. The second is mobilizing people in terms of passions such as nationalism and spirituality. Students will explore the complex relationships between these two trends.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Bureaucrats and Terrorists

SOCI 5388B. Social Inequality: Race, Class, and Gender in the United States.
This course will investigate the topic of social inequality. The intersections of class, race and gender as they produce inequality will be explored, along with theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence informing the study of social inequality.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Social Inequality: Race, Class, and Gender in the United States

SOCI 5388D. How Society Works.
This course examines how societies are created and maintained. Emphasis is on the functional prerequisites and the common social patterns that emerge in response to meeting the functional prerequisites.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about How Society Works

SOCI 5388F. Seminar in Poverty.
This course is a graduate seminar on the sociological study of US poverty and social mobility. We will examine poverty measurement and trends, poverty-related social policies, theories for explaining poverty and mobility, and the intersection of poverty and social mobility with issues of gender, race, family structure, and place.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Poverty

SOCI 5388G. Seminar in Food and Society.
This graduate course focuses on the sociological study of food. It examines the current food system and its interactions with macro-level social institutions, as well as individual identity and well-being.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Food and Society

SOCI 5388H. Advanced Statistical Analysis II.
The focus of this course is advanced data analysis. This course will cover topics such as regression, limited dependent variables analysis, and time series analysis. A secondary aim is to demonstrate data analyses using popular software packages. Prerequisite: SOCI 5307 with a grade of “B” or higher.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Advanced Statistical Analysis II

SOCI 5388I. Clinical Sociology: Counseling the Elderly.
This course takes a clinical sociology perspective in studying the issues of the aged and persons with dementia. The approach is humanistic and multidisciplinary, seeking to improve the quality of older persons’ lives by assessing situations and reducing problems using analysis and intervention.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Clinical Sociology: Counseling the Elderly

SOCI 5390. Seminar in Globalization and Development.
This seminar explores issues related to socioeconomic development and change, particularly in the “Global south.” The course will focus on factors affecting development and underdevelopment around the world.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Globalization and Development

SOCI 5398A. Applied Research Practicum.
Directed impact analysis project in a government agency, business, or non-profit organization requiring the student to apply skills and demonstrate knowledge gained in course work. The project topic will be determined jointly by the faculty supervisor, the student, and the research site. Departmental approval required. Graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 10 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Applied Research Practicum

Directed impact analysis project in a government agency, business, or non-profit organization requiring the student to apply skills and demonstrate knowledge gained in course work. The project topic will be determined jointly by the faculty supervisor, the student, and the research site. Departmental approval required. Graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 10 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Applied Research Practicum
SOCI 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until the student has completed the thesis in Sociology 5399B. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

about Thesis

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

about Thesis

SOCI 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

about Thesis

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

about Thesis

SOCI 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

about Thesis

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

about Thesis

SOCI 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

about Thesis

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

about Thesis