

AREAS OF GRADUATE STUDY & FACULTY

Crime, Law, and Deviance: Faculty in the area of Crime, Law, and Deviance investigate how sociocultural systems and change influence institutions of social control and social definitions of crime and deviance, and how patterns of crime and deviance affect the structure and functioning of sociocultural systems; how social positions and identities (including those related to changes over the life course) affect crime and deviance, the (dis)continuity of such patterns, and how social inequality (e.g., race/ethnic, social class and gender disparities) influence crime and deviance and is perpetuated by societal responses to these issues.

Faculty: Robert Durán, Holly Foster, Sarah Gatson, Wendy Moore, Heili Pals, Harland Prechel.

Culture: Cultural sociology involves the analysis of cultural phenomena drawing on established concepts in sociology. Sociologists are interested in the effect that social relationships have on cultures and at the same time how culture informs interaction and social structure. Culture is described in terms of intellectual, spiritual and aesthetic achievements of groups and the beliefs, norms, and values and customs of those groups. Subareas include class culture, religion, education, popular culture, science, music, food, and tastes and lifestyles.

Faculty: Sarah Gatson, Joseph Jewell, Robert Mackin, Reuben May, Alex McIntosh, Stjepan G. Meštrović, Defne Over, Kazuko Suzuki.

Demography and Human Ecology: Demography is the study of the basic processes of fertility, mortality, and migration and their consequences for population composition and the spatial distribution of population. Social demography expands this focus to additionally examine the intersection of demographic processes with social, economic, and health-related concerns, particularly population composition and differences in demographic distributions by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Demographic analysis draws on a specialized set of techniques, methods and models including, but not limited to: measurement of demographic rates, ratios, and population composition; decomposition analysis; life table analysis; survival analysis; stable population theory; and mathematical and simulation models..

Faculty: Ernesto Amaral, Mary Campbell, Mark Fossett, Pat Goldsmith, Art Sakamoto.

Organizational, Political, and Economic: The OP&E area of the graduate program focuses on social structure and social change. The program emphasizes theoretically driven empirical research that contributes to the understanding of continuity and change in social structures at the community, organizational, societal, and global levels. Explicit attention is given to how conflict among economic and political-legal arrangements affect social change.

Several of the faculty focus on how power and inequality are rooted in historically contingent gender and class hierarchies and how these relationships are reproduced and contested in communities, corporations, educational systems, the environment, health care, labor markets, prisons, states, and workplaces.

Faculty: Stephanie Canizales, Samuel Cohn, Holly Foster, Sarah Gatson, Pat Goldsmith, Joseph Jewell, Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, Robert Mackin, Theresa Morris, Defne Over, Nancy Plankey Videla, Harland Prechel, Arthur Sakamoto, Kazuko Suzuki, Patricia Thornton.

Race, Class, and Gender: Faculty in the area of race, class, and gender are concerned with the various axes of social relations as well as their intersections. Our faculty investigate a wide variety of social phenomena associated with group relations in different national contexts. We employ various theoretical and methodological perspectives including ethnography, demography, comparative/historical analysis, and mixed methods. Individual faculty specialties include Africana studies, Asian American studies, Latinx sociology, critical race theory, sexualities, international migration, culture, racism and anti-racism. Overall, we share a concern with how people experience inequality at the individual, group and structural levels.

Faculty: Stephanie Canizales, Robert Duran, Joe Feagin, Mark Fossett, Sarah Gatson, Pat Goldsmith, Joseph Jewell, Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, Reuben May, Wendy Moore, Theresa Morris, Art Sakamoto, Nancy Plankey Videla, Kazuko Suzuki.

Social Psychology: Social psychology is an interdisciplinary field of research that emphasizes the interplay among individuals, interactions and macrostructures. Examples of the kinds of issues studied include how individuals' associations and context create the impetus for certain life events; how individuals negotiate their everyday world; how violence might arise; how important characteristics of individuals and groups like gender, age, ethnicity and class structure interactions; how group interactions can increase or challenge inequality; and how social inequality influences mental health, crime, and deviance.

Faculty: Holly Foster, Heili Pals, Jane Sell.

Instructional Faculty: Kathy Dietrich, Alexander Hernandez, Judith Linneman, Robert Mackin, Warren Waren, Tim Woods.

Emeritus Faculty: Jon Alston, Letitia Alston, James Burk, Ben Crouch, Barbara Finlay, Jerry Gaston, Kathryn Henderson, Dudley Poston, Albert Schaffer.

For more detail on the graduate areas of concentration and faculty research, see the Department of Sociology's website: sociology.tamu.edu/.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts

SOCIOLOGY

GRADUATE STUDY AT
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE STATION, TX

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

at Texas A&M University–College Station prepares students for careers in higher education and in the private and public sectors. The department offers a broad-based curriculum with excellent opportunities for advanced training in the following areas: crime, law and deviance; culture; demography and human ecology; law, deviance, and social control; organizational, political, and economic; race, class, and gender; and social psychology. For information on the specific research focus of the faculty, see their webpage on the Department website: sociology.tamu.edu/.

The program, consisting of more than 75 graduate students, has advantages that come with size. With more than 30 graduate faculty, the student-faculty ratio is highly favorable. Thus, students have excellent opportunities to assist faculty on research projects and develop their own research under faculty supervision. For students entering with a bachelor's degree, the graduate program is designed to lead to completion of both the master's and doctoral degrees within five years.

Texas A&M is a large, public, land-grant institution with a diverse student body of approximately 64,000. Founded in 1876, it is the "flagships" campus in one of the two state university systems with a tradition of excellence in scientific research. Growing rapidly since the 1970s, the

College of Liberal Arts is the second largest college in the University and is home to nationally recognized faculty members in the social sciences and humanities. Ongoing growth in the College is due to expanding resources supporting graduate student research and scholarship, the rising prominence of its graduate programs, and expansion of the University's library holdings including several social science digital databases.

GRADUATE DEGREES AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Sociology's doctoral program provides two options.

The 64-credit hour option is for graduate students who enter with a master's degree.

The 96-credit hour program is designed for students who enter with a bachelor's degree. The master's degree may or may not entail completion of a thesis. The thesis option involves a formal thesis and the student earns a Master's Degree. Students pursuing a doctoral degree are better served by taking the master's paper option. The non-thesis option provides good preparation for work in an applied research setting.

All doctoral students are required to fulfill requirements for a major and a minor. The major consists of four courses from an area of concentration. The minor consists of three

courses from an area of concentration.

The program also includes a preliminary examination in the student's specialty areas. The preliminary examination is a written and oral examination administered by the student's committee. The committee gives explicit requirements about the form of the exam to the student.

After passing their area exams, students undertake a dissertation project that is expected to extend the boundaries of their research area. Students must write a dissertation proposal that is approved by their committee and successfully defend it in an oral examination. After a successful proposal defense, the students complete and orally defend a written dissertation, which can be a book length monograph or several separate articles. The dissertation is original research the student accomplishes under the guidance of his or her committee.

Time to completion of the doctoral program varies. However, students who enter the program with a bachelor's degree are expected to finish the PhD in five years and students who enter with a master's degree are expected to finish the PhD in four years.

The Master's Degree: Although our program is designed as a doctoral program, in rare cases we provide a thesis option. This option requires a minimum of 32 credit hours of work. In addition, students must write a research thesis, which entails preparation of a research proposal and a thesis. The thesis is typically of journal article length and potentially publishable in quality, reporting on empirical research or a critical review of literature. Both the proposal and the thesis require an oral defense. The expectation is that the master's degree is completed in two years.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Texas A&M has excellent resources to support graduate student research and training. The university maintains a major research library system. The department maintains a computer lab to augment the substantial computing facilities maintained by the university. The department also houses the Howard Kaplan Secured Data Laboratory of Social Deviance Studies. The university also maintains the Public Policy Research Institute and Texas Research Data Center (TXRDC), which is affiliated with

the U.S. Census Bureau and provides access to Census Bureau, Internal Revenue Service, and other restricted use data.

FINANCIAL AID AND EMPLOYMENT

Many students in the program receive financial assistance in various forms including fellowships, department assistantships, and research assistantships on faculty grants. Department assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. Department assistants work 20 hours per week for the academic year. They also receive out-of-state tuition waivers, tuition supplement payments, and generous University-funded health insurance comparable to that provided to faculty and staff.

TUITION, LIVING EXPENSES, AND HOUSING

Tuition costs at Texas A&M compare favorably with other universities. Students holding assistantships or University fellowships pay resident rates. The cost of living in Bryan-College Station is low compared to most metropolitan areas. On-campus and off-campus housing are available with many options on shuttle routes serving campus. Further information can be found at studentlife.tamu.edu/agoss/.

STUDENT GROUP

The department has a diverse group of about 75 graduate students. Approximately 81% were in residence and enrolled full-time; 69.3% were women, 60% were members of minority groups, and 13% were international students. More than half of the students in the program held master's degrees and were working toward a Ph.D. The typical entry cohort numbers 10-12 students.

RECENT GRADUATES

Recent PhD graduates usually take positions as faculty members in sociology departments in colleges and universities and high-level research positions in government agencies, the private sector, and non-for-profit organizations.

COMMUNITY

Bryan-College Station is located 90 miles northwest of Houston, 150 miles south of Dallas-Fort Worth, and 100 miles east of Austin. It is easily accessible by jet service on American or United airlines. With a steady population growth over the last two decades, Bryan-College station has more than 200,000 residents with a diversity of racial and ethnic and religious communities that support a range of cultural activities. Community and University organizations provide a variety of entertainment venues including summer concerts in city parks and nearby Lake Bryan, music festivals, community theater, art galleries, professional productions of theatre, music and dance, and college athletics. Located in the Brazos River Valley, the city is easy to negotiate by car, the University bus system, and an expanding bicycle lane system. Using a range of measurements including commute time, entertainment establishments, and housing costs as percent of income, College Station was listed as #11 in the 2018. "Least-Stressed Cities in America."

QUALIFICATIONS

The program is selective. Successful applicants usually present multiple indications of strong potential to perform at a high level in graduate education. No single indicator predicts acceptance into the program. But successful applicants typically have an A or high B average in previous coursework – and especially coursework relating to sociological theory and research methods, and score in the upper ranges of the GRE General Test. There are no hard and fast minimums on grade point ratio or GRE scores. Instead, admissions are based on the entire range of credentials in

the applicant's file.

For further information, please visit the Department website at: sociology.tamu.edu/ and follow the links for "Graduate" and "Application and Admissions."

APPLYING

Applications for fall semester admission are welcomed from those with bachelor's degrees or higher and should be submitted as early as possible. Apply online at applytexas.org. The name on your application must match your name as it appears in your passport or other official government documents. The department application deadline for full consideration for funding is January 5.

All applications are evaluated on an individual basis. The evaluation considers the full range of information in the applicant's file which includes the following:

- Application Fee
- Official GRE Scores
- Online Application
- Official Transcripts
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) / Resume
- Writing Sample
- Statement of Purpose
- Official TOEFL Scores (International Students Only)

Additional details on the Sociology Department Graduate Program can be accessed on the department website: sociology.tamu.edu

