SOCIOLGY, PHD

The department's primary educational goal is to train first-class sociology Ph.D.'s. The sociology graduate experience at Johns Hopkins is best characterized as a research apprenticeship—a careful blend of formal instruction, faculty-directed individual study, and supervised as well as self-initiated research. The department's small size and specific concentrations yield a personalized course of study and close relationships with faculty members and fellow graduate students. The social climate is informal, and the mix of students and faculty, drawn from a wide variety of geographic and social backgrounds, constitutes a rewarding intellectual community. For more details, please visit http://soc.jhu.edu/graduate/.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit an application fee, personal statement, GRE scores, all college transcripts, at least two (preferably three) letters of recommendation, and a sample of written work. International applicants must also submit a TOEFL score and a financial statement (FS-1G Form: Graduate International Student Notification [F-1/J-1]). Applicants should have a broad background in social science, especially sociology, economics, and psychology. Training in mathematics is encouraged. The department gives greatest weight to an applicant's demonstrated ability and past performance. For more details, please visit http://soc.jhu.edu/graduate/admissions/.

Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.230.600</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS.230.602</td>
<td>Theories of Society</td>
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<td>AS.230.603</td>
<td>Contemporary Social Theory</td>
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<td>AS.230.604</td>
<td>Linear Models for the Social Sciences</td>
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<td>AS.230.608</td>
<td>Proseminar in Sociology 1</td>
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<td>AS.230.643</td>
<td>Sociological Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS.230.649</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods: Domestic and International Fieldwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AS.230.650</td>
<td>Macro-Comparative Research</td>
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1. This fall semester course is taken during the first year. Faculty presentations introduce students to the substantive interests, research and professional background of the sociology faculty. It is graded pass/fail.

To count toward degree requirements, core curriculum courses other than the Trial Paper Research series of courses must be passed with a grade of B- or higher. After the core course requirement is satisfied, additional methods courses from the list above may be used to fulfill the seven-elective course requirement.

Electives

In addition to the core curriculum, graduate students must enroll in seven additional graduate-level courses. At least four of the seven electives must be JHU Sociology department courses. Up to four of the seven electives may be fulfilled by a combination of:

1. credit awarded for previous graduate coursework that predates matriculation at JHU;
2. courses taken outside the department that are permissible under the Handbook rules and with the Departmental advisor's approval;
3. and one directed research and independent study courses within the Department.

All must be passed with a grade of B- or higher. While students are free to select these courses, the department strongly recommends that they be taken from diverse fields of specializations so as to maximize the breadth of exposure to core areas of sociology and other disciplines.

Teaching Assistantships

As part of their preparation for future academic work, graduate students are required to register for AS.230.811 Teaching Assistantship and serve as a teaching assistant for at least one semester.

Foreign Language

The Sociology Department no longer requires certification of fluency in a foreign language as part of the Ph.D. requirements. Students should be proactive in gaining the language skills necessary to conduct their TRP and dissertation research, and should work closely with their advisor to determine whether additional language education is needed.

Residence

A minimum of two consecutive semesters of full-time residence is mandatory for all degrees. However, at least six semesters of full-time residence is recommended by the department for completion of the core curriculum, electives, and completion of a research apprenticeship and a trial research paper. By the end of the fourth year in the program, the student is expected to have written a dissertation proposal and have defended it successfully before the appropriate examining committees.

Research Assistantship/Apprenticeship

AS.230.801 Research Assistantship and AS.230.804 Research Apprenticeship

Students are required to develop practical research expertise through professional-level participation (data analysis, literature searches/reviews, non-routine data processing or coding, preparation and refinement of research instruments, and data/file management). This requirement is fulfilled by satisfactorily completing a Research Apprenticeship, which is required during the student’s first year of full-time graduate study in the department. The standard for certification is substantial research accomplishment as judged by the faculty supervisor.

Trial Research Paper


Students begin working on a Trial Research Paper (TRP) no later than the spring semester of their second year. The TRP affords students the experience of planning and executing a research project that leads to a publishable quality paper. The TRP is expected to be a serious, complete work of scholarship, suitable for conference presentation or journal submission. Whether or not the topic of the TRP is similar to that of the eventual dissertation, we believe all students will benefit from going through this exercise before planning for the dissertation.

By the end of the fall semester of their second year, students should invite a faculty TRP advisor to supervise the design and execution of the TRP project. Regular or adjunct faculty members whose positions entitle them to serve as dissertation advisors are eligible to serve as faculty TRP advisors. The additional research and professionalism that the TRP requires will help students to make informed dissertation choices.
advisors. Work on the TRP generally will be done over three semesters. 
In order to facilitate progress on the TRP, students register for courses 
that are meant to consist of one-on-one meetings with their TRP advisor 
(TRP I, AS.230.815 Trial Research Paper I in the spring of your second 
year, TRP II, AS.230.816 Trial Research Paper II in the fall of your third 
year, and TRP III, AS.230.817 Trial Research Paper III in the spring of your 
third year.)

In order to facilitate student progress on the TRP, the department has also 
introduced two required TRP seminars, for which all students register 
in the spring of their second and third year. These are: AS.230.685 
TRP PROPOSAL SEMINAR (spring of second year) & AS.230.690 TRP 
PRESENTATION SEMINAR (spring of third year). These courses will be 
graded pass/fail and will not count toward the fulfillment of the elective 
courses required for the Ph.D.

A TRP proposal must be approved by the faculty TRP advisor by the end 
of the spring semester of the second year. By the end of the fall semester 
of the third year, the TRP advisor must approve a draft of the paper which 
will then be reviewed by another department faculty member. The TRP 
advisor, at her or his discretion, may extend this deadline to the end of the 
intersession period following the fall semester. The faculty reviewer will 
evaluate the paper and, if necessary, recommend revisions that should 
be made before the paper is certified. The TRP advisor will determine 
required revisions and must certify a final TRP by the end of the spring 
semester of the third year.

**Dissertation**

The student must propose and conduct original research presented in 
a dissertation suitable for publication. The department administers an 
oral examination which must be passed before the student is allowed to 
defend before a university board. The dissertation must then be defended 
either at a Graduate Board preliminary oral examination, based on the 
dissertation proposal, or at a Graduate Board final oral examination, 
based on the completed dissertation.

**Special Programs**

The department offers two special programs that coordinate activities in 
its two areas of concentration. Doctoral students may affiliate with one 
or both of these programs at their discretion. These programs function as 
fields of doctoral specialization within the Department of Sociology.

**Program on Global Social Change (PGSC)**

This concentration of graduate study focuses on cross-national, 
comparative research and long-term, world-scale social change. The goal 
of the program is to give students knowledge of the various theoretical 
perspectives in these areas, experience in data collection and analysis, 
and expertise in one or more substantive fields.

The program does not focus on a particular geographic area, although 
faculty members have conducted extensive research on Latin America, 
Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern and Southeastern Europe. 
Instead of a geographical approach, the emphasis is on issues of 
development and social change that cut across different countries and 
world regions. Examples are globalization and regionalization, labor and 
development, city systems and urban primacy, social movements and 
revolutions, state violence, migration and labor force formation, family 
structure and change, social structure and personality, and national and 
international stratification. Students enroll in a sequence of courses and 
seminars and participate actively in ongoing faculty projects dealing with 
one or more of the above issues.

In addition, the interdisciplinary character of graduate education 
at Johns Hopkins offers students ample opportunity to enroll in 
courses or collaborate in research of faculty in other departments. 
Faculty associates of the program include distinguished scholars in 
anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and public 
health.

A graduate concentration is not required of Ph.D. students.

**Program on Social Inequality (PSI)**

This concentration of graduate study focuses on the causes and 
consequences of social inequality, the social processes that sustain it, 
and how social policies can reduce it. These questions are addressed in 
terms of class, gender, race, ethnicity, and immigration status/citizenship.

The program is designed to train students in the sociological analysis of 
social inequality among individuals and groups. This training includes 
course work in areas such as social stratification, the sociology of the 
family, the sociology of education, sociology of immigration, social 
structure and personality, social policy, and research design and methods. 
Students in the PSI program enroll in a sequence of courses and 
seminars and participate actively in ongoing faculty projects dealing with 
one or more of the above issues.

In addition, the interdisciplinary character of graduate education 
at Johns Hopkins offers students ample opportunity to enroll in 
courses or collaborate in research with faculty in other departments. 
Faculty associates of the program include distinguished scholars in 
anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and public 
health.

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