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## S O C I O L O G Y

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The **Department of Sociology** at Texas Southern University offers the Master of Arts Degree with an emphasis on Social Inequality. Consistent with the University's focus on "urban programming," the Master of Arts Degree in Sociology emphasizes research into the complex social problems experienced by diverse urban populations, public responses to these problems in America and elsewhere, and the practical application of data in ameliorating or improving the condition of urban populations. While students are trained with an emphasis on sociological theory and methods, this program intensely addresses substantive topics such as inequality in education, employment and health as well as poverty, discrimination, and the role of media in these conversations. In addition to coursework in Social Inequality, optional coursework is offered which emphasizes the training of students who will apply their sociological skills in non academic professions on the local, state, and national levels. Ultimately, the Master of Arts Degree in Sociology at Texas Southern University emphasizes research in urban environments which produce data to be used in understanding and addressing the lived condition of varied urban populations. Toward that end, this program seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Prepare graduates for successful transition into doctoral programs.
2. Prepare graduates for careers in applied sociology professions.
3. Provide graduates with the requisite skills to conduct sociological research in urban areas.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School (*see the General Information section of this catalog*), applicants for admission to the Master of Arts program in Sociology are expected to have completed an undergraduate major or minor in sociology or a related discipline. Students who do not meet these criteria may be required to enroll in undergraduate Sociology courses before being fully admitted into the program. All application materials should be submitted to the **Texas Southern University Graduate School, not to the Department of Sociology**. The Department of Sociology Graduate Program Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate School.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. Degree requirements for a M.A. in Sociology:
  - A. **Thesis option:** Completion of thirty (36) semester hours of graduate work which includes twelve (12) semester credit hours of required courses with a grade point average of at least 3.0; twelve (18) semester credit hours of electives, with a grade point average of at least 3.0; successful completion of six (6) thesis hours; demonstration of competency in functional English; and the successful defense of a thesis.
  - B. **Non-Thesis Option:** Completion of thirty-six (36) semester credit hours of graduate work which includes twelve (12) semester credit hours of required courses with a grade point average of at least 3.0; twenty-four (18) semester credit hours of electives, with a grade point average of at least 3.0; successful completion of six (6) internship hours; demonstration of competency in functional English; successful completion of a written comprehensive exam; and successful completion of an oral comprehensive.

**CURRICULUM SUMMARY**  
**Allocation of Thirty Semester Hours**  
**Thesis Option**

**1. Core Courses (Required).....18 SCH**  
SOC 525 (3)    SOC 554 (3)    SOC 557 (3)    SOC 559 (3)  
SOC 899 (6)

**2. Electives.....18 SCH**

**Non-Thesis Option**

**1. Core Courses (Required).....18 SCH**  
SOC 525 (3)    SOC 554 (3)    SOC 557 (3)    SOC 559 (3)  
SOC 655 (6)

**2. Electives.....18 SCH**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**SOC 525 FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY (3)** Introduction to central concepts, methods, and professional practices in sociology; development of basic skills used in theoretical and empirical work; and orientation to the discipline and this department of sociology.

**SOC 530 TOPICAL SEMINAR (3)** An analysis of contemporary sociological issues affecting individuals and groups in a rapidly changing Society.

**SOC 532 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (3)** Examination of social dimensions of religion, the relationship between religion and society, sociological theories of religion, religious organization and behavior, religion and social change, secularization and the future of religion.

**SOC 539 URBAN SOCIOLOGY (3)** Social and demographic characterization and organization of urban communities with emphasis on techniques of identifying structures, institutions, systems and leadership.

**SOC 545 SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY (3)** Key concepts and processes of family sociology with application to sexuality, partner selection, transition to parenthood, parenting and children, housework and paid work, domestic violence and child abuse, divorce and marriage, grandparenting, care giving, and alternative families.

**SOC 554 SOCIOLOGICAL STATISTICS (3)** Advanced statistical methods with emphasis on multiple regression techniques.

**SOC 557 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (3)** Examination of the major theoretical orientations in sociology, with special attention given to the early history of conflict theory, functionalism, and symbolic interaction.

**SOC 559 URBAN RESEARCH METHODS (3)** Examination of urban indicators, research design, and field problems in urban research.

**SOC 623 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)** Examination of selected social psychological theories

and their current role and status.

**SOC 632 BLACK SOCIOLOGY (3)** Examination of African and African American contributions to the development of social scientific knowledge.

**SOC 634 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE URBAN COMMUNITY (3)** Critical analysis of the subsystems of the criminal justice system and their impact on the urban community.

**SOC 639 URBAN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (3)** The application of sociological theory and analysis to political processes and systems in urban settings.

**SOC 655A INTERNSHIP (3)** Supervised work and instruction in formal organizations relevant to the student's area of specialization. **Must take part A & B for credit.**

**SOC 655B INTERNSHIP (3)** Supervised work and instruction in formal organizations relevant to the student's area of specialization. **Must complete part A & B for credit**

**SOC 710 SOCIAL STRATIFICATION (3)** Theoretical analysis of how social class, status, and power shape social relations, determine life chances, and affect attitudes, opinions, and political choices of individuals and groups; processes that perpetuate systems of class, gender, and race inequality, and degree of social mobility in societies.

**SOC 715 SEXUALITY AND SOCIETY (3)** Social construction of sexuality examines the ways in which human groups attach meaning to emotions, desires, and relationships; Sexuality across the life course, including dating, varieties of sexual relationships, birth control and procreative technologies, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS.

**SOC 720 CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY (3)** Presentation and analysis of the creation of sociological knowledge and the clinical application of that knowledge to various settings of group life.

**SOC 739 PUBLIC AND SOCIAL POLICY (3)** Policy analysis, design and implementation issues related.

**SOC 750 RACE & ETHNICITY (3)** Analysis of social factors affecting racial and ethnic groups.

**SOC 820 FAMILY THERAPY AND FAMILY RELATIONS (3)** Analysis of various issues in family relations and of the various therapeutic approaches in marital and family therapy.

**SOC 840 GERONTOLOGY (3)** Examination of sociological theories and analyses relevant to various socio-cultural components of aging.

**SOC 857 ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (3)** Advanced analysis of recent developments in sociological theory, including the relationship of theory to empirical research.

**SOC 859 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS (3)** Research and project problem definition, research and project design, with a focus on qualitative data.

**SOC 880 SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE (3)** The analysis of present and emerging sociological conceptualizations designed to understand the development, functions, organization and processes involved in contemporary systems of health and medicine.

**SOC 893 ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY (3)** Critical analysis of the relationships between various modes and patterns of Social organization and man environment relations.

**SOC 896 INDUSTRIAL SOCIOLOGY (3)** Planning, organizational, and infrastructural

development for effective Analysis of industrial planning, organizational and infrastructural development at the macro level and application and application of Sociological principles of resource acquisition, processing, and product distribution.

**SOC 899A THESIS I (3)** Project development, data collection and analysis.

**SOC 899B THESIS II (3)** Project development, data collection and analysis.

**SOC 930 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION (3)** Mainstream and critical theories of how society shapes the purposes, processes, and organization of schools; current policy issues and sources of national education data, with primary focus on United States elementary, secondary schools, and post secondary schools.

**SOC 950 WOMEN IN SOCIETY (3)** A social science examination of women's social, economic, political, and physical condition in contemporary society.