

SOCIOLOGY (PHD)

Visit program website. (<https://sociology.ucsf.edu/>)

Degree Offered: PhD

Program Leadership:

Kristen Harknett, PhD, Program Director

Admissions Inquiries:

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Program Description

The Sociology PhD program at UCSF offers an exceptionally deep curriculum focused on the sociology of health, illness, biomedicine, and health care systems. The program is one of the most highly ranked graduate programs in sociology nationwide: the National Research Council in 2010 ranked the UCSF program 6th-20th out of a field of 118 sociology doctoral programs. The program features extensive training in both general sociological theory and the sociology of health, illness, and medicine; it also provides rigorous methodological training in both quantitative and qualitative research methods, including hands-on learning through the conduct of original research. Commitments to social justice and reducing health inequalities pervade the curriculum and the research of faculty and students.

Faculty

Faculty for the Sociology program include five core Sociology faculty as well as more than 35 Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) faculty members, including emerita, adjunct professors and volunteer faculty.

The Sociology Program is part of a network of social science communities at UCSF, including the Institute for Health & Aging (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/academics/departments/institute-health-aging/>), the Emancipatory Sciences Lab (<https://emancipatorysciences.ucsf.edu/>), the Center for Transdisciplinary ELSI Research in Translational Genomics (<http://www.ct2g.org/>) (CT2G), the Center for Health and Community (<https://chc.ucsf.edu/>) (CHC), and the Social and Population Health Sciences Research Consortium (SocPop). (<http://socpop.ucsf.edu/>) Moreover, we have key relationships with such Bay Area intellectual communities as the Science & Justice Center (University of California, Santa Cruz), (<http://scijust.ucsc.edu/>) and the Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society (University of California, Berkeley). (<http://cstms.berkeley.edu/>)

Specializations

- Race, class, gender and health
- Social policy and health policy
- Social determinants of health, including community and individual exposures to violence, incarceration, and work conditions

Additionally, faculty have expertise in aging, science and technology studies, mental health, and health disparities. The program has commitments to social justice and reducing health inequalities that pervade the curriculum and the research of faculty and students. The theoretical bases of the program focus on classical, interactionist, and contemporary sociological perspectives, and the program has a dual orientation toward qualitative and quantitative research methods.

The Sociology program office is located at the Mission Bay campus. Visit the program website (<https://sociology.ucsf.edu/>) for more information.

The Sociology program is offered by the UCSF Graduate Division, administered by the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) in the UCSF School of Nursing, and delivered by faculty members in the UCSF School of Nursing.

Admission Requirements

Post baccalaureate students with backgrounds in the social sciences, in certain humanities such as history or philosophy, and in the health professions such as public health, nursing, psychology, or social work.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop a broad understanding of and capacity to apply sociological theories to empirical questions and disciplinary debates.
2. Students will develop in-depth understanding and knowledge of the sociological dimensions of health, illness, medicine, health care, and health policy.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding of and ability to use qualitative and quantitative research methods, at a basic level in either qualitative or quantitative methods and at a more advanced level in the other.
4. Students will demonstrate the capacity to conduct independent and original research, in an ethical and responsible manner.
5. Students will develop the oral and written communication skills to convey sociological arguments and the findings of research to a variety of audiences.

Additional Information

Program Faculty

- Find a program faculty list (<https://sociology.ucsf.edu/faculty/>) on the program website.

Career Outcomes

- Find career outcomes and other data on PhD programs (<https://graduate.ucsf.edu/program-statistics/#career>) on the Graduate Division website.

Degree Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- All core courses and required activities taken and passed
- Six quarters in residence including a minimum of three registered quarters after advancement to candidacy
- Pass qualifying examinations
- Completion and submission of the dissertation
- For additional details, please see: graduate.ucsf.edu/phd-degree (<https://graduate.ucsf.edu/phd-degree/>)

Core Courses

Coursework to be completed in first two years:

Code	Title	Units
Social Theory Sequence (offered in odd academic years)		
SOCIOLOGY 212A	Sociological Theory: Classical	5
SOCIOLOGY 212B	Sociological Theory: Contemporary	5
SOCIOLOGY 212C	Sociological Theory: Symbolic Interactionism	5

Medical Sociology Sequence (offered in even academic years)

SOCIOLOGY 207	Sociology of Health & Medicine	5
SOCIOLOGY 208	Constructionist & Interactionist Persp. on Health & Illness	5
SOCIOLOGY 260	Policy and Politics of Health	5
Quantitative Methodology Sequence (in a student's first year)		
SOCIOLOGY 289A	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods I	4
SOCIOLOGY 289B	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods II	5
Qualitative Methodology Sequence (in a student's first & second year)		
NURSING 212A	Qualitative Data Collection & Ethics (Spring of first year)	2
SOCIOLOGY 285A	Qualitative Methods I (Fall of second year)	5
SOCIOLOGY 285B	Qualitative Methods II (Winter of second year)	5
Total Units		51

Area of Emphasis - Electives by Advisement

Code	Title	Units
Professional Development Seminar (required year 1 if on offer; optional in subsequent years)		
SOCIOLOGY 251	Professional Development Seminar	1
Optional but Recommended		
SOCIOLOGY 237	Proposal Preparation Seminar (year 1)	1
SOCIOLOGY 215	Dissertation Proposal Seminar (year 2)	1

Non-course Core Requirements

Pass qualifying exams. Dissertation proposal and defense. Dissertation and dissertation defense.