

# PHD IN SOCIOLOGY



## Why the PhD in Sociology?

A Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sociology provides advanced training in sociological research and teaching, and prepares graduates for careers in university teaching and research, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. Students may enter directly upon completion of an undergraduate degree (earning an M.A. along the way), or with a completed M.A. in sociology or a related field.

## Why the PhD in Sociology at BGSU?

Our program is ranked in the top 20 nationally by the National Research Council, in part because of high research productivity and superior student outcomes. Our faculty include a recent President of the Population Association of America, Sutherland Award winner (highest honor from American Society of Criminology), the Editor of Population Research and Policy Review, a PAA Clifford Clogg award recipient, a Top Contributor in Work-Family research, an expert witness to federal cases on bail reform, author of the ASA's amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges case, among many other faculty acclaimed for their research and teaching.

Our students have been well placed in both academic and non-academic settings, including major research universities (Florida State, Penn State, Nebraska), teaching-oriented and liberal arts colleges, government agencies (Census Bureau), think tanks (Child Trends), research centers (National Opinion Research Center), as well as the private sector (Nielsen).

## Learning outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to evaluate and defend relevant theories and literature related to their research, statistically analyze empirical data from large social survey datasets, and assess the strengths and limitations of analytical methods and defend choices to use some methods over others. They will also be able to argue effectively to technical and non-technical audiences orally and in writing.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Ray Swisher, Program Director,  
College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Sociology  
at [rswishe@bgsu.edu](mailto:rswishe@bgsu.edu) or call 419-372-8054.

## Program strengths and uniqueness

- Opportunities to work closely with faculty as research and teaching apprentices, and to collaborate with faculty and other graduate students on research projects, many of them resulting in conference presentations and co-authored publications.
- Financial support. We provide graduate assistantships for all our students in the form of teaching or research assistantships.
- Small graduate seminars offer advanced training in our four program areas, in addition to cutting-edge and highly marketable research and data analytical skills.
- Students receive formal training in the teaching of sociology, and are afforded the opportunity to teach their own courses.
- Opportunities to affiliate with two major national research centers: the NIH-funded Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR) and the National Center for Family and Marriage Research (NCFMR). The centers provide research opportunities, colloquia series, statistical training, working groups, access to national datasets, and opportunities to network with prominent scholars from around the country.
- Supportive graduate student and departmental culture. The department thrives because of collegial and supportive relationships among faculty, graduate students and staff. An active graduate student association provides opportunities to get involved and further support for graduate students.



*"I found the Sociology Graduate Program at BGSU to be a wonderful place for students to work closely with faculty who are at the top of their respective fields. Whether students are pursuing careers in academia or elsewhere, the Department does an excellent job of preparing graduates for the demands of the job market. Above all, the professors are extremely friendly and outstanding mentors."*

— Christopher Dennison, '17  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
University at Buffalo, SUNY

## Admission requirements

Admission to the PhD program in Sociology is contingent on the completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale. Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted. Applicants are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Applicants must also submit the following materials:

- Résumé.
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from professors familiar with the applicant's academic work.
- Example of your academic writing, such as a class paper. Applicants who are completing or have already completed a master's degree should consider their thesis proposal or completed thesis for submission.
- 500-word personal statement describing the research interests you hope to pursue in graduate school, professional goals and aspirations, and why you believe that Bowling Green's graduate program will help you pursue these interests and achieve these goals. Please include in your statement the names of any faculty with interests similar to your own.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## Financial assistance

All PhD students receive graduate assistantships that include both tuition waivers and stipends. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

**Fall Application Deadline:** Applications and supporting materials should be received by January 15th to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding.

## Curriculum

All doctoral students are required to take six core courses in theory and quantitative methods, as well as a teaching seminar:

- SOC 6010: Classical Sociological Theory
- SOC 6090: Statistical Packages
- SOC 6100: Statistical Techniques and Applications in Sociology
- SOC 6110: Intermediate Methodology
- SOC 6120: Intermediate Statistics
- SOC 7130: Research Design
- SOC 6600: Teaching Introductory Sociology

In addition, students will choose a major in one of our four areas of concentration, and often pursue a minor as well. Required courses are indicated. Other courses are electives.

### **Criminology**

SOC 6460: Theories of Criminality (required)  
SOC 6480: Crime Across the Life Course  
SOC 6490: Neighborhoods and Crime  
SOC 7310: Sociology of Adolescence  
SOC 7410: Social Responses to Crime  
SOC 7430: Sociology of Violence

### **Demography**

SOC 5200: Techniques of Demographic Analysis I (required)  
SOC 6210: Population and Society (required)  
SOC 6560: Family Demography  
SOC 7190: Longitudinal Data Analysis  
SOC 7260: Migration  
SOC 7270: Morbidity and Mortality  
SOC 7280: Human Fertility and Family Planning  
SOC 7310: Sociology of Adolescence

### **Family**

SOC 6540: Family Theory and Research (required)  
SOC 5500: Gender in Families  
SOC 5510: Sociology of Family Violence  
SOC 6530: Social Psychology of the Intimate Dyad  
SOC 6560: Family Demography  
SOC 6580: Sociology of Aging  
SOC 7280: Human Fertility and Family Planning  
SOC 7310: Sociology of Adolescence  
SOC 7530: Socialization

### **Social Psychology**

SOC 6500: Proseminar in Social Psychology (required)  
SOC 6470: Sociology of Mental Illness  
SOC 6530: Social Psychology of the Intimate Dyad  
SOC 7310: Sociology of Adolescence  
SOC 7380: Race and Ethnic Relations  
SOC 7500: Advanced Social Psychology (Theory)  
SOC 7530: Socialization

Students may also choose to minor in Quantitative Methods (see department website for description)

All students will complete a research-based Thesis as part of the Master's degree, and a culminating Doctoral Dissertation.