

## **Curriculum Map**

A: Required graduate core course in theory (611 or 612) with undergraduate theory course (321 or equivalent) as prerequisite; required basic statistics course (476/L, with 605 optional), and required methods course (Soc. 475, 478, 604, 606, 608, 609, or 691 )

B: Detailed thesis proposal, which must be approved by student's thesis committee.

C: Soc. 606 includes certification in human subjects protection for investigators; students must obtain human subjects committee approval for all thesis research involving human subjects or data on living humans. Consideration of human subjects protection is concurrent with development of an acceptable thesis proposal.

D: Thesis data collection, data analysis, and write-up

E: Thesis write-up and oral defense.

Note; This sequence represents one fairly typical way, but not the only way, in which the program requirements for the MA Plan A degree can be satisfied within two years. In general, it is highly recommended that the theory, methods, and statistics courses be taken by the end of the first year, as well as any substantive courses that are directly relevant to the topic on which the student plans to write his/her thesis. The thesis proposal should be completed as early as possible in the third semester, so that sufficient time remains to write the thesis.

## **MA Plan A**

<b><u>Semester 1</u></b>	<b><u>Semester 2</u></b>
<b>Year I</b>	
Theory Course Methods Course Substantive Course	Statistics Course Substantive Course Substantive Course <b>Form Thesis Committee</b>
<b>Year II</b>	

Substantive Course SOC 700 Thesis Proposal	Substantive Course SOC 700 Thesis Defense
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### MA Plan B

The Plan B is intended as a terminal degree for students who have no intention of transferring into the PhD, but who have interest in using sociological skills in an applied setting.

The requirements for the Plan B are generally similar to the Plan A, but do not involve a thesis or two semesters of SOC 700. Instead, a student must take one additional 600-level course in theory, methods, or statistics, as well as three units of SOC 699. Students will write an applied research report under the supervision of a MA guidance committee. Please see the requirements for the Plan A MA before reading the following sections.

By the end of the first semester, the student should decide whether s/he is pursuing a Plan A or B. In general, it is much easier to transfer from Plan A to Plan B than in the other direction, so a student should follow the Plan A requirements if there is any chance s/he would like to pursue this option. If the student is planning to pursue a Plan B, s/he simply needs to submit a memo to that effect to the graduate secretary. By the end of the second semester, the students should form a research report guidance committee, using the department MA Thesis or Guidance Committee Form. The committee should have three or more members, of which the majority should be from the sociology department, with one member serving as the chair.

Prior to the semester when s/he intends to graduate, the student should begin to make proper arrangements for graduation.

In the final semester in the program, the student should enroll in SOC 699 under his/her guidance committee chair. While taking this course, the student should write a professional-quality research report analyzing a real-world social problem specific to a particular community or organizational setting, using knowledge gained from her or his sociology coursework. The topic should be determined by mutual agreement between student and committee chair. The report should summarize the nature of the problem, and propose a solution from a sociological perspective. When the chair deems that the report draft is ready, it is presented to the entire committee, who may either approve or suggest further revisions. The requirements for the final report are met when the committee by consensus approves it.