

Non-Thesis Option: Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 33 hours of coursework in sociology, including core courses in theory, methods, and statistics, plus SOCI 5385.

Non-Thesis option students should select three faculty members for their Advisory Committee, with one identified as the chair. The committee must be constituted prior to registering for SOCI 5385. The student is responsible for submitting the committee composition form to the Sociology Graduate Advisor before registration. Once the form is filed, the student will be allowed to register for the section of SOCI 5385 assigned to their supervising professor.

The Sociology M.A. Non-Thesis Option requires students to prepare a written essay and an oral presentation synthesizing their coursework in response to *one* of the following prompts.

- (1) Describe how the knowledge you have acquired from courses you have taken for your M.A. in sociology has prepared you for your current occupation or career of choice. Include specific examples of sociological concepts, theories and/or methods that have been or will be particularly useful, and explain in what ways.
- (2) Select a social or cultural issue and describe how courses you have taken for your M.A. in sociology have informed your understanding of the issue. Include specific examples of concepts, theories and/or methods in explaining how your coursework has influenced your understanding of the issue.

The essay and presentation should be broadly integrative, drawing from the range of sociology courses completed. This project is *not* a formal literature review, but proper citation of sources used is expected. Written essays should be as long as needed to adequately respond to the questions posed, on average 12-15 pages. The oral presentation should be 20 minutes in length and accompanied by a handout or Powerpoint slides designed to summarize key points. Students will be asked to respond to questions from their committee members at the end of the presentation.

The student's written essay and the presentation handout or slides should be turned in to the supervising professor by mid-semester. With committee approval, the oral presentation can then be scheduled in timely fashion. After the oral presentation, students will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. Students who do not pass on their first attempt will be given feedback for revision by their supervising professor and allowed to schedule a second presentation, up until the graduate school deadline for holding M.A. examinations. A grade of Pass is required for the M.A. degree to be awarded.

If a student fails to successfully pass after the second attempt, the student may re-enroll in SOCI 5385 another fall, spring, or summer semester and make one additional attempt to satisfy the requirements.