

SOCIOLOGY: POPULATION DYNAMICS (PH.D.)

Offered by: Sociology (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Program Description

The Population Dynamics Option (PDO) is open to PhD students in Sociology specializing in Population Dynamics. The purpose of this program is to provide graduate training in demographic methods (including life table analyses) and enhance students' knowledge of critical population issues. As such, students will be required to take a course on demographic methods and an overview substantive course on the key population issues facing societies today. In addition, students will take one complementary course in Sociology; Economics; or Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, which focusses on a particular population issue such as population health, migration, aging, family dynamics, and labour markets and skills acquisition. Students will attend at least five of the seminars given in the Social Statistics and Population Dynamics Seminar series. Dissertation topics must be related to population dynamics and approved by the PDO coordinating committee.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Thesis

A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge. It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner. The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field. Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

Required Courses (6 credits)

A minimum of three years of study is required.

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Course	Title	Credits
SOCI 545	Sociology of Population.	3
SOCI 625D1	Professional Development Seminar in Sociology.	0
SOCI 625D2	Professional Development Seminar in Sociology.	0
SOCI 626	Demographic Methods.	3
SOCI 702	Ph.D. Proposal Approval.	0
SOCI 703	Bibliographic Methods 3.	0
SOCI 704	Bibliographic Methods 4.	0
SOCI 705	PhD Comprehensive Examination.	0

Ph.D. candidates must take a comprehensive examination in two sub-fields within sociology by August of their Ph.D. 3 year. These fields will be chosen from the Department's areas of specialization. In this option, one of these fields must be in Population Dynamics.

Ph.D. candidates are required to submit a thesis on an approved topic. The topic must be approved by a dissertation proposal committee convened by the student's dissertation supervisor. The thesis should be completed within five years after the initial residency period of two to three years.

Further details on the requirements and regulations for the thesis and the fields in which the Department is prepared to direct research may be obtained from the Sociology website at www.mcgill.ca/sociology/faculty and at <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis>.

Complementary Courses (9-21 credits)

3-6 credits must be taken within the Department from the list below:

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Course	Title	Credits
SOCI 502	Sociology of Fertility.	3
SOCI 506	Quantitative Methods 3.	3
SOCI 507	Social Change.	3
SOCI 508	Medical Sociology and Social Psychiatry.	3
SOCI 510	Seminar in Social Stratification.	3
SOCI 512	Ethnicity and Public Policy.	3
SOCI 513	Social Aspects HIV/AIDS in Africa.	3
SOCI 514	Criminology.	3
SOCI 515	Medicine and Society.	3
SOCI 519	Gender and Globalization.	3
SOCI 520	Migration and Immigrant Groups.	3
SOCI 525	Health Care Systems in Comparative Perspective.	3
SOCI 526	Indigenous Women's Health and Healthcare .	3
SOCI 529	Political Sociology 1.	3
SOCI 530	Sex and Gender.	3
SOCI 535	Sociology of the Family.	3
SOCI 538	Selected Topics in Sociology of Biomedical Knowledge.	3
SOCI 550	Developing Societies.	3
SOCI 555	Comparative Historical Sociology.	3
SOCI 571	Deviance and Social Control.	3
SOCI 588	Biosociology/Biodemography.	3
SOCI 590	Social Conflict and Violence.	3
SOCI 601	Qualitative Research Methods 2.	3
SOCI 620	Quantitative Methods 2.	3
SOCI 621	Fixed and Random Effects.	3
SOCI 622	Event History Analysis.	3
SOCI 623	Latent Variable Models.	3

SOCI 624	Social Networks.	3
SOCI 631D1	Informing Social Policy with Canadian Data.	3
SOCI 631D2	Informing Social Policy with Canadian Data.	3
SOCI 720	Reading in Social Theory.	3
SOCI 730	Reading and Research.	3

0-3 credits from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
ECON 634	Economic Development 3.	3
ECON 641	Labour Economics.	3
ECON 734	Economic Development 4.	3
ECON 741	Advanced Labour Economics.	3
ECON 742	Empirical Microeconomics.	3
ECON 744	Health Economics.	3
EPIB 648	Methods in Social Epidemiology.	3
EPIB 681	Global Health: Epidemiological Research.	3
PPHS 501	Population Health and Epidemiology.	3
PPHS 525	Health Care Systems in Comparative Perspective.	3
PPHS 527	Economics for Health Services Research and Policy.	3
PPHS 528	Economic Evaluation of Health Programs.	3
PPHS 529	Global Environmental Health and Burden of Disease.	3
PPHS 615	Introduction to Infectious Disease Epidemiology.	3
SOCI 502	Sociology of Fertility.	3
SOCI 512	Ethnicity and Public Policy.	3
SOCI 513	Social Aspects HIV/AIDS in Africa.	3
SOCI 520	Migration and Immigrant Groups.	3
SOCI 525	Health Care Systems in Comparative Perspective.	3
SOCI 535	Sociology of the Family.	3
SOCI 588	Biosociology/Biodemography.	3

3 credits from the following streams:

Qualitative Stream

3 credits from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
SOCI 601	Qualitative Research Methods 2.	3

Quantitative Stream

3 credits from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
SOCI 620	Quantitative Methods 2.	3
SOCI 621	Fixed and Random Effects.	3

SOCI 622	Event History Analysis.	3
SOCI 623	Latent Variable Models.	3

0-12 credits from the following:

Students who have not taken the courses listed below must make up the deficiencies in addition to the regular coursework:

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Course	Title	Credits
SOCI 504	Quantitative Methods 1.	3
SOCI 580	Social Research Design and Practice.	3
SOCI 600	Qualitative Research Methods 1.	3
SOCI 652	Current Sociological Theory.	3

If you are admitted at the Ph.D. 1 level and an exemption is obtained for one or more of the four courses above, another one must then be substituted in its place.