

SOCIOLOGY

About Sociology

The Department offers training leading to the following degrees:

- Master of Arts in Medical Sociology (Thesis and Non-Thesis) with the Social Studies of Medicine Department
- Master of Arts in Sociology (Thesis and Non-Thesis)
- Master of Arts in Sociology – Development Studies Option (Thesis and Non-Thesis)
- Master of Arts in Sociology – Gender and Women's Studies Option (Thesis and Non-Thesis)
- Master of Arts in Sociology – Population Dynamics Option (Non-Thesis)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology – Gender and Women's Studies Option
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology – Population Dynamics Option

The Department of Sociology has very high standards and an excellent record of placing students in both academic and non-academic careers in institutions ranging from the University of Chicago and Berkeley to StatsCan and CEGEPs. The Department has a stellar record of research publications and a lively graduate program, and we benefit from many new faculty appointments allowing us to be at the forefront of current issues. M.A. programs are offered, as well as a few at the Ph.D. level (see below). The Department has full access to the resources of StatsCan, with additional training for students.

We have particular strength in the following fields:

- comparative political sociology and development
- diversity and inequalities
- population and health

Availability of Funding

The Department offers a limited number of teaching assistantships. A full teaching assistantship consists of a maximum of 180 hours of work per term. Appointments for a full teaching assistantship span 15 weeks and involve an average of 12 hours per week.

Sociology Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

Admission Requirements

Applicants—whether for an M.A. or Ph.D. program—should ideally have a bachelor's degree with a standing equivalent to a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0. The degree may be in sociology or another relevant social science. In the latter case, applicants may be required to take additional sociology courses to fill gaps in their background.

The strength of an applicant's academic record is of key importance in considering their application for admission. The Graduate Admissions Committee assesses applications to both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs on the basis of the following **required materials**:

1. transcripts for all coursework pursued at the post-secondary level (including those involving transfer credits);
2. two reference letters;
3. proof of English language proficiency (e.g., TOEFL) only in certain cases;
4. a personal statement (maximum of 1,000 words, double-spaced);
5. a writing sample (maximum 30 pages); and
6. a CV. Please note that the GRE is no longer required for admission to the Sociology program.

The department's acceptance rate (approximately 10% of the applicant pool) means that admission to our program is quite competitive.

All applicants are required to submit a personal statement (maximum 1,000 words, double-spaced). That statement should: (1) outline the applicant's areas of academic interest (e.g., proposed research topic); (2) identify faculty members of interest (e.g., possible supervisors) and with whom the applicant's research interests align; and (3) discuss future academic and/or career plans. All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact faculty members with whom they may wish to work—in advance of applying—to ascertain their availability (e.g., ensure they will not be on leave, are available to take on more students).

Applicants whose mother tongue is not English and who have not completed a degree from a recognized institution where English is the main language of instruction are required to provide proof of English language proficiency. For further information, see McGill's requirements on English language proficiency. International students may also contact McGill's International Student Services at 514-398-4349 for more information.

Applicants who are missing most of the prerequisite courses can be admitted to a Qualifying semester or year, during which they can take the prerequisite courses. During the Qualifying period, students must take a minimum of 12 credits (4 courses) per semester. No more than one Qualifying year is permitted. Each course must be passed with a grade of B+ or higher to be considered for admission to the M.A. program. Admission to the Qualifying semester or year does not mean automatic admission to the graduate program afterwards. Applicants admitted for a Qualifying semester or year must reapply for the M.A. program; chances for admission depend on performance during the Qualifying period and the quality of the overall application compared with other applicants at that time. No funding is available for students taking a Qualifying semester or year.

Applicants are expected to have taken courses in statistics, research methods, and sociological theory at the undergraduate level.

The program of study aims to provide students with an in-depth comprehension of a major field in sociology, current sociological research methodologies, and some of the fundamental theoretical issues in the discipline. Three terms of residence study is the minimum requirement for a master's degree. For the doctoral program, three years is the minimum residency requirement for students entering at the Ph.D. 1 level (those students without an M.A.) and two years for students entering at the Ph.D. 2 level (those with an M.A.).

Application Procedures

The department only offers admission in the fall. The online application process for admission to our M.A. and Ph.D. programs opens annually in September (for the following fall) through McGill's online graduate

admissions system. The deadline to apply for the Fall term is January 7th.

Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that ALL supporting documents are received **by the January 7th** deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application Dates and Deadlines

Application opening dates are set by Enrolment Services in consultation with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), while application deadlines are set by the Sociology Department and may be revised at any time. Applicants must verify all deadlines and documentation requirements well in advance on the appropriate McGill departmental website; please consult the list at mcgill.ca/gps/contact/graduate-program.

Information on application deadlines is available at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/application-steps/application-deadlines.

Admission to graduate studies is competitive; accordingly, late and/or incomplete applications are considered only as time and space permit.

Note: The Department Admissions Committee announces its selections by mid-March and the end of April.

Available Programs

- Medical Sociology (Non-Thesis) (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Medical Sociology (Thesis) (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Non-Thesis) (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Non-Thesis): Development Studies (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Non-Thesis): Gender and Women's Studies (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Non-Thesis): Population Dynamics (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Ph.D.)
- Sociology (Thesis) (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Thesis): Development Studies (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Thesis): Gender and Women's Studies (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology (Thesis): Population Dynamics (M.A.) (45 credits)
- Sociology: Gender and Women's Studies (Ph.D.)
- Sociology: Population Dynamics (Ph.D.)

Program Overview

M.A. Program Options

Master of Arts (M.A.) Medical Sociology (Thesis)

The Department contributes to knowledge at the forefront of current issues—in particular, those dealing with health systems and with policies concerning HIV/AIDS. This program is a cooperative effort of the Department of Sociology and the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Many students who have chosen this option have gone on to do further research, and others to personnel work in the health services. Researching and writing a thesis takes considerable time, and this program typically takes two years to complete.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Thesis)

This program provides excellent methodological training, but is principally designed for students who wish to gain a first experience doing original research. Some students have stopped at this stage; more have gone on to higher degree work. Researching and writing a

thesis requires considerable effort, and this program typically takes two years to complete.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Thesis): Development Studies

This program is for students with a particular interest in development—an area in which McGill is very strong. Researching and writing a thesis takes considerable time, and this program typically takes two years to complete. Students enter through one of the participating departments and must meet the M.A. requirements of that unit. Students will take an interdisciplinary seminar and a variety of graduate-level courses on international development issues. The M.A. thesis must be on a topic relating to development studies, approved by the Development Studies Option Coordinating Committee.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Thesis): Gender and Women's Studies

This interdisciplinary program is for students who meet the requirements in Sociology and who wish to earn 6 credits of approved coursework focusing on gender and women's studies, and in issues in feminist research and methods. The student's thesis must be on a topic centrally relating to issues of gender and/or women's studies. Researching and writing a thesis takes considerable time, and this program typically takes two years to complete.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Medical Sociology (Non-Thesis)

The Department contributes to knowledge at the forefront of current issues—in particular, those dealing with health systems and with policies concerning HIV/AIDS. This program is a cooperative effort of the Department of Sociology and the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Many students who have chosen this option have gone on to do further research and others to personnel work in the health services. The program is designed to be completed within 12 months.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Non-Thesis)

This program is both for students who wish to continue from an undergraduate degree in Sociology, and those who wish to enter sociology for the first time. McGill is an excellent venue because the program involves rigorous training in methodology. Academically inclined students have gone on to higher degrees, some at McGill and others at other universities; the training offered has allowed others to go to varied careers, not least as teachers in CEGEPs. This program is designed to be completed within 12 months.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Non-Thesis): Development Studies

This program is for students with a particular interest in development—an area in which McGill is very strong. Many students from this program have gone on to further research, but several have entered the world of non-governmental organizations—with some going on to work for the U.N. Students enter through one of the participating departments and must meet the M.A. requirements of that unit. Students will take an interdisciplinary seminar and a variety of graduate-level courses on international development issues. The research paper must be on a topic related to development studies, approved by the Development Studies Option Coordinating Committee. This program is designed to be completed within 12 months.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Sociology (Non-Thesis): Gender and Women's Studies

This interdisciplinary program is for students who meet the degree requirements in Sociology and who wish to earn 6 credits of approved coursework focusing on gender and women's studies, and in issues in

feminist research and methods. The student's research paper must be on a topic centrally relating to issues of gender and/or women's studies. The program is designed to be completed within 12 months.

Ph.D. Program Options

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Sociology

There are two ways to enter the Ph.D. program. Some students are fast-tracked (i.e., from a B.A. degree without having to complete an M.A. in Sociology), as Ph.D. 1 students; they take 12 substantive courses, in addition to various thesis requirements, and are trained in qualitative and quantitative research methods and in research design. Other students, typically those with an M.A. in Sociology, are considered as Ph.D. 2 students; they typically take six substantive courses, in addition to various thesis requirements—although further courses may be required if their methodological skills do not meet the standards required by the Department. Our Social Statistics Laboratory allows students to make systematic use of quantitative data sources. All students must pass two area exams and present a thesis proposal before turning to the thesis itself, which may take the form of a single piece of research, or a set of articles on a particular theme.

Location

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Graduate Program and Admission Information:

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