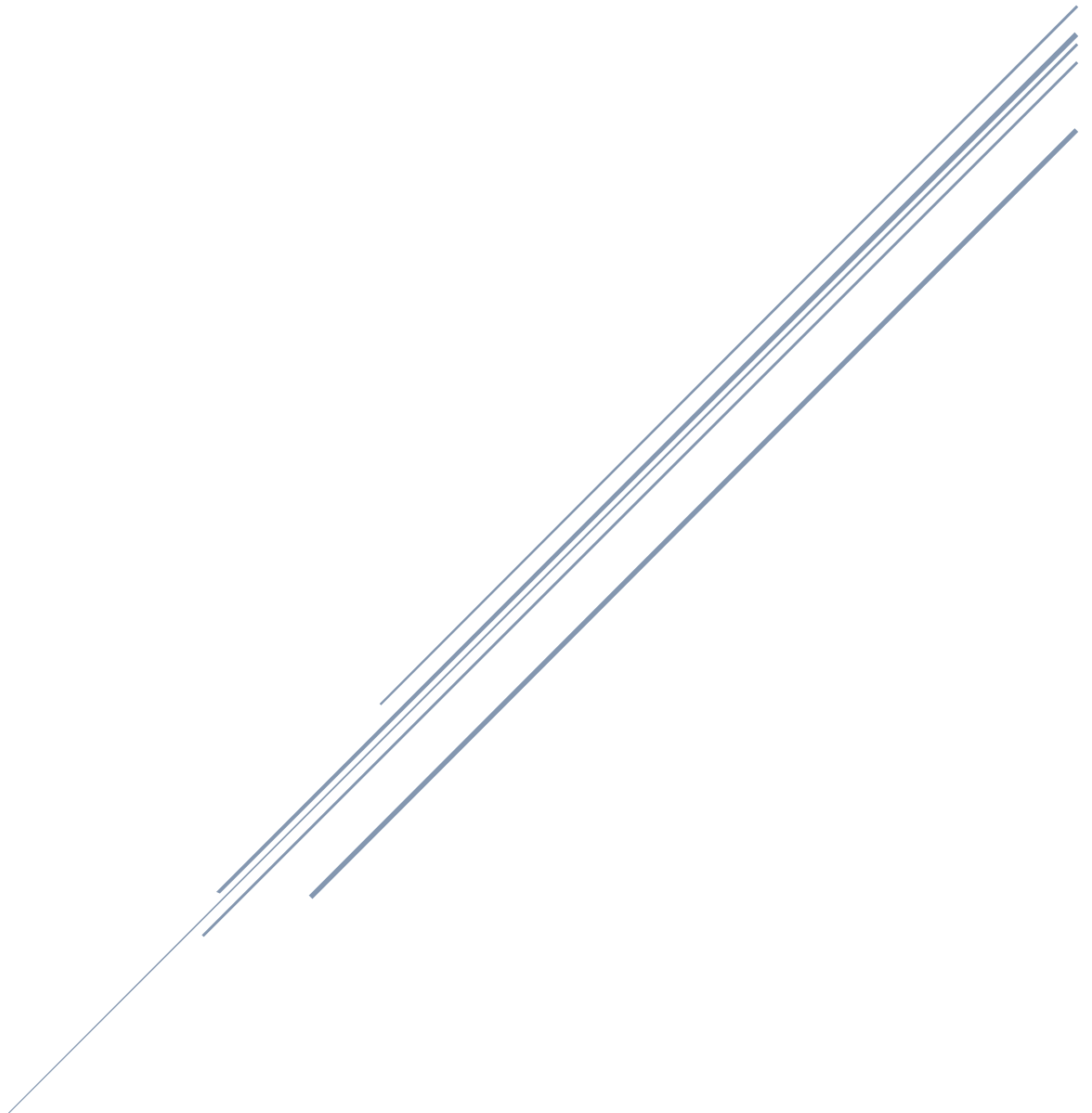


GRADUATE HANDBOOK

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice



Iowa State University
August 2022

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Chapter 1: Welcome

“We all agree, I think, that our job is to study society. If you ask why and to what end, I would answer: because it is there....

“For myself I believe that human social life is ours to study naturalistically....From the perspective of the physical and biological sciences, human social life is only a small irregular scab on the face of nature, not particularly amenable to deep systematic analysis. And so it is. But it’s ours. With few exceptions, only students in our century have managed to hold it steadily in view this way, without piety or the necessity to treat traditional issues. Only in modern times have university students been systematically trained to examine all levels of social life meticulously. I’m not one to think that so far our claims can be based on magnificent accomplishment. Indeed I’ve heard it said that we should be glad to trade what we’ve so far produced for a few really good conceptual distinctions and a cold beer. But there’s nothing in the world we should trade for what we do have: the bent to sustain in regard to all elements of social life a spirit of unfettered, unsponsored inquiry.... That is our inheritance and that so far is what we have to bequeath.”

—Erving Goffman

1982 American Sociological Association Presidential Address

As Erving Goffman put it in his ASA Presidential Address, sociology—and its “spirit of unfettered, unsponsored inquiry” to social life—is our inheritance. The process by which we bequeath it to the next generation of sociologists is graduate education.

As a graduate student in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Iowa State University, you will have an opportunity to learn practical knowledge about how to practice the trade of sociology—about how to master a body of scholarly literature; how to design and carry out research; how to communicate your findings to other scholars, to students, and to the public; and how to make policy recommendations—as you work toward a master’s degree or Ph.D.

You will also be invited into a community of scholars committed to developing what C. Wright Mills called a “sociological imagination”: “the quality of mind essential to grasp the interplay of individuals and society, of biography and history, of self and world.”

As Mills suggests, sociologists ask big, challenging questions: questions about how social institutions work (or don’t work); about how things change (or stay the same); about how people compete with or cooperate with each other; about the advantages some people enjoy over others; about heroism and villainy; about crime and violence and suffering; about love and charity and beauty; about how individuals can be both cause and consequence of society; about what it means to be a human being at a particular time and place.

The faculty and staff of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice are committed to fostering a supportive, collaborative environment where you can develop your sociological imagination, pursue answers to questions related to your sociological interests, and complete the degree requirements of your sociological education. This handbook is intended to help you to better understand those requirements.

Chapter 2: Admissions

2.1 Application Process

The Sociology and Criminal Justice Department admits applicants for graduate study during the fall semester only. The deadline for all applications (internal ISU applications and external applicants) is January 10th. The [ISU Graduate College](#) website contains further information about graduate study at ISU, including online application procedures.

Admission to Master's or PhD program

1. **Accredited degree.** BA\BS or Master's degree from an accredited university with a minimum GPA of 3.0 *is required* for admission.
2. **Standardized test scores.** We consider GRE scores and an applicant's GPA along with other qualifications and achievements, including fit with our program strengths and faculty research areas, letters of recommendation, and additional student skills and abilities. *For international students:* Minimum TOEFL 100 (IBT); 600 (PBT); IELTS 6.5
3. **Writing sample.** Applicants to the doctoral program must submit a writing sample, typically a thesis. In the absence of a completed graduate thesis, applicants should submit a published paper, research report, honors thesis, or similar original writing sample that helps the committee to evaluate the applicant's writing ability, analytic thinking, and approach to scholarly activities. Writing samples are optional for applicants to the master's program.
4. **Statement of purpose.** The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice requires all applicants to submit a brief essay (no more than two pages) describing their research interests, academic and professional goals, preferred faculty mentor(s) and any other information, including prior professional, academic, or service experiences, that will help the admissions committee to objectively evaluate the applicant's fit with our program.
5. **Two letters of recommendation.** The department requires applicants to submit two letters of recommendation, though applicants may submit three letters.
6. **SEVIS:** International students must register with SEVIS. The [International Students & Scholars](#) website has detailed information.

For more information regarding admission to graduate studies in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, please contact:

Director of Graduate Education
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Iowa State University
103 East Hall
510 Farm House Lane
Ames, IA 50010-1054, USA
Tel: (515) 294-6480

2.2 Financing Graduate School

Information on employment opportunities, graduate assistantships, health and dental insurance, housing and living expenses, scholarships, grants and loans, and tuition fees can be found in the application materials from the university. That information and other ways ISU provides assistance with educational expenses are also detailed on the Graduate College website ([Financing a Graduate Degree](#)). For estimates on the cost of attending Iowa State University, please visit the Office of Student Financial Aid for more information.

Graduate Student Cost of Attendance

A limited number of paid teaching assistantships (TAs) and research assistantships (RAs) are available through the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Additionally, graduate students are often supported by assistantships available from other units around the university. Teaching assistantships typically involve assisting a professor in handling duties associated with teaching large classes. Duties of a teaching assistant may include lecturing, grading assignments, recording grades, preparing class materials, administering examinations, and other duties. The student works directly for the professor or professors directing the class and is evaluated by that professor at the end of each term. In some cases, teaching assistants may also be the instructor of record and teach a course under the supervision of a professor. The latter teaching assistantships are typically reserved for advanced Ph.D. students who have accumulated a body of knowledge in topical areas related to the course and have a master's degree.

Research assistantships are often obtained from faculty members who write competitive grants that are funded through the university from internal or external sources. Students receiving these assistantships are selected by the professor receiving the grant and report directly to that professor, who assigns their duties and supervises their work. While professors allocating these assistantships commonly consult with the Director of Graduate Education (hereafter referred to as the DOGE), the final selection decision rests with the professor who has received the research funding. A typical research assistantship will involve working directly with a supervising professor on their research. Activities might include conducting a literature review, assisting in the design of observational or experimental research, collecting primary or secondary data, and cleaning, coding and, analyzing quantitative or qualitative data.

Teaching assistantships are awarded for either a semester, or an academic year (nine months from August through the end of the semester in May). Depending on the needs of the faculty member, research assistantships may also be assigned during the summer term. Depending on the needs of the department, a limited number of students may receive a summer teaching assistantship. Teaching assistantships vary depending on teaching needs and the availability of funding. The point of contact is the supervising professor. In cases of teaching a course as the instructor of record, TAs will also work closely with either the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, depending on the course being taught.

The department has only a limited number of assistantships to offer in any given semester, so it is the department's policy to match TA and RA funding to student ability and to give preference to students making acceptable progress in their degree program. Most assistantships involve work that builds directly upon professional experience, so students with superior work experience will have priority in the selection process. In addition, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be on full admission status to be considered for an assistantship. If you are employed as a graduate assistant you need to be available on campus as required. Any extended absences must be approved by the DOGE.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS: Graduate students are encouraged to apply for [internal scholarships](#) and external grants and scholarships to fund their graduate education and research activities. External grants, such as the [National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant](#) and the [USDA NIFA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program](#), are particularly valuable to students interested in careers at a research university.

SUPPORT IN OTHER UNIVERSITY UNITS: It is possible for students to receive assistantship support from other units on campus. In these cases, the salary level is determined by the hiring unit. In cases where the student receives an appointment from another unit, an individual in that unit will supervise the assistantship and make all decisions concerning its extension or termination. Graduate students at the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice are eligible to apply for a number of these opportunities.

Chapter 3: Major Professor and Program of Study Committee Guidelines

3.1 Definitions and Functions

A graduate student's major professor is the student's advisor. The major professor must be a member of the graduate faculty and serves as chair of the student's Program of Study Committee (POSC). The Program of Study (POS) is a listing of courses and research credits required for the individual's degree. The POS delineates, in conjunction with existing department and Graduate College regulations, the requirements for a graduate degree. The POS committee, which consists of a major professor and other graduate faculty, assures that department and Graduate College requirements are met by the proposed program before the official POS form is signed by the committee and submitted to the Graduate College. Thus, selection of a POS committee and, in particular, a major professor, are important decisions for the student, as these faculty members greatly influence the student's progress towards a degree. It is the major professor who likely will have the most direct and continuous contact with the student. In general, the major professor is an expert in the area of specialization in which the student is enrolled.

Students may change their major professor, or other members of the committee, during the program; such a change is best made early in the program rather than later. A student who is considering changing major professors should consult with the DOGE and should have an alternative major professor in mind. The student is responsible for contacting and obtaining approval from the new major professor to make the switch. The new major professor becomes the student's POS chair, and a modification to the electronic POSC must be submitted to the Graduate College through AccessPlus. Members of the committee, including the major professor, may choose to leave the committee.

The POS committee guides and evaluates the student during graduate study. Among the committee's duties are periodically reviewing the progress of the student, advising the student during the development of the program of study and research program, and considering any major changes in the student's program of study. The committee administers the oral preliminary examination for PhD candidates, reads the thesis or dissertation, and oversees the oral defense.

The POS committee form should be filed with the Graduate College during the first or second semester of graduate study. (This is strongly recommended for students who enter with a Master's degree, but it is not required). See the information here about filing the POSC electronically on AccessPlus: [Program of Study and Committee - Graduate College](#). In no case can the committee be formed later than the semester before the preliminary oral examination (doctoral candidates) or final oral examination (master's candidates). A student may declare a minor after consulting with their major professor. If a minor is being declared, a graduate faculty member from the minor field must serve on the POS committee. The major professor and the representative from the minor field may not be the same person.

3.2 Procedures for Changing POSC Form

The POSC form described above is also used to indicate the coursework that will be taken for the degree; the course list should be submitted together with the names of committee members. Changes to the POSC are permitted with appropriate approval. Such changes may include course substitutions, change of area of study, change of major professor, change of committee members, and deletion or addition of a minor. Modifications to the POSC shall have the written concurrence of the student, the major professor, all other committee members, and the department's DOGE. The approved changes will be processed by modifying the electronic POSC on AccessPlus. [Program of Study and Committee Help](#)

3.3 Formation of Master's Degree POSC

The master's committee consists of at least three members of the graduate faculty, one of whom must be from a different field of emphasis so as to ensure diversity of perspectives. A term faculty member may be a co-chair but not a sole chair of a POSC. All members of the POSC must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The committee should be officially formed and a POS should be developed and filed with the Graduate College by the second semester of graduate study. In no case can the committee be formed later than the term before the final oral examination for the masters. Guidelines for adding committee members from outside the university can be found in [Section 6.2.3](#) and [Appendix G](#) of the Graduate College Handbook.

3.4 Formation of Doctoral Degree POSC

The Ph.D. committee consists of at least five members of the graduate faculty, one of whom must be from a different field of emphasis so as to ensure diversity of perspectives. A term faculty member may be a co-chair but not a sole chair of a POSC. All members of the POSC must be members of the Graduate Faculty. Guidelines for adding committee members from outside the university can be found in [Section 6.2.3](#) and [Appendix G](#) of the Graduate College Handbook. The committee should be officially formed and a POS should be developed and filed with the Graduate College by the second semester of graduate study. The POS committee must be approved by the Graduate College at least three calendar months before the preliminary oral examination.

Chapter 4: Graduate Degrees in Sociology or Rural Sociology

4.1 The Master's Degree in Sociology or Rural Sociology

Students seeking the sociology or rural sociology master's degree receive a broad background in sociology, encompassing the major research and theoretical concerns of the discipline. Departmental requirements for the degrees emphasize general competence in sociology as well as expertise in an area of concentration. In addition to formal course work, students demonstrate intellectual independence and the capacity for original research through the completion of a thesis.

4.1.1 Curriculum and Course Requirements

Theory (3 cr)

- 1 course in sociological theory: Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
OR Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (10 cr)

- Stat 587 (4 cr) Statistical Methods for Research Workers (Section for Social Science discipline)
- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- 1 course in advanced methods: Stat 582 (3 cr) Regression for Social and Behavioral Research OR Soc 513 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Methods

Electives (12 cr)

- 4 three-credit courses as specified on POS

Thesis and Other Required (7 cr)

- Soc 591 (1 cr) Orientation to Sociology (required first semester)
- Soc 699 (6 cr) Research
- Sociology graduate faculty member as Major Professor
- A thesis that reflects the student's sociological competence
- Successful final oral exam (student receives a "pass" from POS committee)

Other Information

- A minimum of 32 credits is required for the M.S. degree
- At least 22 graduate credits must be earned at ISU. Two master's degrees require 22 non-overlapping credits.
- No more than 6 credits of 590 (Special Topics or Independent Studies) may be applied toward the M.S. degree.
- Courses may be waived for students who have taken a similar course at the graduate level at ISU or elsewhere (B or better). Decisions about waiving a required course will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students must submit the syllabus for the course for review by the DOGE, faculty in that research area, and the student's POS committee.
- Students declare a major in Sociology or Rural Sociology on the Program of Study form.
- A written proposal for thesis research must be accepted by the POS committee before the candidate begins their research work.
- Students must adhere to the requirements of the Graduate College. See the [Graduate College Handbook](#) and [Graduate College Forms](#) for detailed information.

4.1.2 Guidelines for the Master's Oral Examination

Students must take an oral examination after the thesis is completed that focuses on, but is not limited to, a defense of the thesis. The final oral exam is conducted in accordance with Graduate College requirements described in [Section 7.1.2 Final Oral Examinations](#) in the Grad College Handbook.

- The request for Final Oral exam must be **submitted AND approved** by the Graduate College a minimum of three weeks prior to the oral defense date. The Final Oral Exam Request form is found on the [Graduate College Student Forms](#) webpage. See the Graduate College [Master's Final Oral Exam Checklist](#) for helpful information.
- The final oral defense of the thesis is divided into two parts. In the first part of the defense, the student presents their research. This is open to the public. The advisor will announce the date and time to the department and other interested parties. The second half of the defense is a question and answer period between the student and the committee. The decision about whether or not to formally invite the public to the latter part of the oral examination is decided by the committee.

4.2 M.S. Minor in Sociology or Rural Sociology (12 course minimum)

Theory (3 cr)

- 1 course in sociological theory: Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
OR Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (3 cr)

- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences

Electives (6 cr)

- 2 three-credit graduate-level courses in Sociology

Thesis and Other Requirements

- Sociology graduate faculty member on POS Committee
- Final oral exam must include sociological content

4.3 The Ph.D. in Sociology or Rural Sociology

Department requirements for the Ph.D. degree in sociology or rural sociology emphasize advanced competence in sociology as well as special expertise within an area of concentration. While in the program, Ph.D. students develop the capacity for original research through completion of the Ph.D. dissertation.

4.3.1 Curriculum and Course Requirements

Theory (6 cr)

- Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
- Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (12 cr)

- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- Soc 512 (3 cr) Applied Multivariate Statistics for Social and Behavioral Research
- Soc 513 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Methods
- Stat 582 (3 cr) Regression for Social and Behavioral Research

Electives (42 cr)

- 14 three-credit courses as specified on POS
- Up to 36 elective credits from the master's program can be applied to the Ph.D. as approved by the POSC
- See [Section 6.3.8](#) of the Graduate College Handbook for information on transfer credits from institutions other than ISU

Dissertation and Other Required (12 cr)

- Soc 591 (1 cr) Orientation to Sociology
- Soc 534 (3 cr) Race, Class and Gender Inequality
- Soc 699 (8 cr) Research
- Successful completion and oral defense of the written preliminary exam (a "pass")
- A dissertation that reflects the student's sociological competence
- Successful final oral defense of the dissertation (student receives a "pass")
- A minimum of 72 credits is required for the doctoral degree
- No more than 12 credits of 590 (Special Topics or Independent Studies) may be applied toward the Ph.D. degree.

- Courses may be waived for students who have taken a similar course at the graduate level at ISU or elsewhere (B or better). Decisions about waiving a required course will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students must submit the syllabus for the course for review by the DOGE, faculty in that research area, and the student's POS committee.
- Students declare a major in Sociology versus Rural Sociology on the Program of Study form.
- Students must adhere to the requirements of the Graduate College. See the [Graduate College Handbook](#) and [Graduate College Forms](#) for detailed information.

4.3.2 Guidelines for the Written Ph.D. Examinations

The written preliminary examination is conducted to assure that each student has achieved a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of their primary research area. The major professor will supervise the student's preparation for the examination. The student's POS committee will create the preliminary examination based on this subject area.

Guidelines:

- Students are encouraged to complete the course work relevant to their subject area prior to taking the written preliminary examination.
- The Committee Appointment and POS form must be approved by the Graduate College before the department will allow students to take the preliminary examination. If appropriate, the student should meet with the major professor and contact the Disability Resources Office to arrange for accommodations permitted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The DOGE, in conjunction with the Disability Resources Office, arranges accommodations.
- Students will receive an overall grade of Pass or Fail on the examination.
- Students will have two opportunities to pass the written examination. Should a student fail twice, they may appeal to their POS committee to remain in the program and retake the examination a third time, but it is expected that the student will offer compelling evidence that they are better prepared for a third attempt. The POS committee will substantiate in writing to the DOGE and department chair its recommendation to allow or refuse a third examination. The department chair and DOGE will decide if the student will be allowed to take the exam a third time. Should the student fail the third time, they will be dismissed from the program.

Procedure:

- The student will write a paper of no more than 30 pages (not including references) prepared in accordance with the American Sociological Association Style Guide.
- The paper will be of high quality in writing and organization as expected within the standards of a professional publication. The POS committee, in collaboration with the student, will prepare an assignment for a written paper to be evaluated by the POS committee. The selection of the topic or problem should be a joint decision between the student and the POS Committee. The intent of the paper requirement is to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of the subject matter they will profess as they enter their careers with a Ph.D. in sociology. As such, the focus of the paper is on the dissertation. It is expected that the paper will serve as an example of the student's ability to logically present an argument, review relevant empirical evidence, and identify the importance of the argument and evidence for the discipline of sociology.
- The paper must address theories, methods, and/or applications appropriate to their subject area regardless of the methodological approaches, quantitative or qualitative.

- The assignment will be provided to the student after the student's POS committee and the DOGE reviews and approves the exam.
- The student will have eight weeks to complete the paper in the Fall or Spring semester in which the paper will be given and evaluated (the student may take their exam in the summer with POS committee approval). Upon receipt of the exam paper topic, students will have a two working day grace period to ask questions, get clarification and feedback on issues and concerns related to the paper topic. At the end of the grace period, students are expected to work independently to complete the exam paper. Students are not allowed to receive outside help with the writing of their exam (including editing), from the ISU Writing Center or any other source.
- During the writing of the examination students are expected to follow the [Professional Code of Ethics](#) as outlined in the bylaws of the [American Sociological Association](#).
- A formal statement of the student's exam paper assignment will be filed with the DOGE and Graduate Support Staff following the two-working day grace period in which the student receives the assignment.
- The student will submit the paper to the POS committee at the end of the eighth week in which it was assigned. The POS Committee will notify the Graduate Secretary and DOGE on the day that the student submits the paper for evaluation.
- The POS committee will have two weeks from the time it receives the student's paper to determine whether it will receive a grade of pass or fail and prepare comments to the student including strengths and weaknesses along with suggestions on how the paper can be improved. Failure to submit a paper, or a paper deemed unacceptable by the POS Committee, will constitute a failure.
- A copy of the paper and the POS committee's evaluation should be submitted to the Graduate Support Staff for retention in the student's academic file.

Format:

The following elements must be included within the paper: (1) Introduction and Justification, (2) Theory, Concepts, and Previous Research, and (3) Operationalization and Methodology. The POS committee will decide if additional information is required. Below are guidelines for the content of each section.

Part I. Introduction and Justification (about 5 pages)

In this section, describe the topic you intend to explore in your dissertation. Present your research objectives and justify your approach to a sociological examination of your topic. Clearly describe the sociological issue you intend to study in your dissertation. Present the rationale or need to conduct a sociological study of this topic, specifically articulate how your research will make a unique contribution to sociological knowledge. Some questions to consider: What aspect of this issue will you study? What are their sociological elements? What objectives do you hope to achieve in your dissertation? Why is your dissertation topic important to the discipline? What gaps does it address in existing literature? What are the policy implications?

Part II. Theory, Concepts, and Previous Research (about 12 pages)

In this section, draw upon relevant theories and evaluate previous empirical work related to this topic.

1. Present and discuss major theories or frameworks explaining related to this topic, identifying key concepts related to your dissertation in each theory.
2. Provide a critical review of the research related to this topic. Identify and evaluate the core findings from this body of work that are relevant to your dissertation.

3. Utilizing previous theories discussed above and findings from previous research, present and elaborate a possible conceptual model that could be used to address the research objectives of your dissertation.

Part III. Operationalization and Methodology (about 12 pages)

In this section, discuss how concepts related to this topic can be operationalized and analyzed in context of the research questions your dissertation addresses.

1. Discuss how your concepts of interest are defined in the literature and how you intend to define the concepts in your study. What are the advantages and limitations of each?
2. Identify and discuss a potential data source or sample that could be used to answer your research question.
3. If a quantitative study, what hypotheses are you proposing to test? What are the indicators (i.e., questions) you will use to represent your conceptual definitions? If a qualitative study, what questions will you ask and/or what procedures will you use to gather your information?
4. If a quantitative study, describe a potential empirical model that relates your dependent and independent variables. Explain how you are going to validate your model choice.
5. If a qualitative study, explain and justify your data analysis technique. Provide some advantages and disadvantages of this technique.
6. If your paper is entirely conceptual, perhaps one that advances theory but with no implied empirical component to the paper itself, then describe how the theory might be evaluated either through a quantitative or qualitative methodology. Describe methodological procedures appropriate for evaluating your contribution to theory. Describe how key concepts might be measured, either with quantitative or qualitative data.

4.3.3 Guidelines for the Oral Ph.D. Examinations

4.3.3.1 Preliminary Oral Examination

- This is a two to three-hour oral examination that focuses upon, but need not be limited to, a defense of the student's preliminary exam and is conducted in accordance with Graduate College requirements described in [Section 4.4.2 Examinations](#) in the Grad College Handbook.
- Once the written examination has been passed, the oral examination will be held within six weeks.
- The request for Preliminary Oral exam must be **submitted AND approved** by the Graduate College a minimum of two weeks prior to the examination date. The Preliminary Oral Exam Request form is found on the [Graduate College Student Forms](#) webpage. See the Graduate College [Prelim Oral Exam Checklist](#) for helpful information.
- The oral examination must be satisfactorily completed at least six months before the defense of the dissertation.
- If a student fails the preliminary oral examination, the Graduate College requires six months to pass before the student may retake this examination. For more information, see [Section 4.4.2 Examinations](#) in the Grad College Handbook.

4.3.3.2 Final Oral Defense of the Dissertation

- This is a two to three-hour oral examination that focuses upon, but need not be limited to, a defense of the student's dissertation and is conducted in accordance with Graduate College requirements described in [Section 7.1.2 Final Oral Examinations](#) in the Grad College Handbook.
- The request for Final Oral exam must be **submitted AND approved** by the Graduate College a minimum of three weeks prior to the oral defense date. The Final Oral Exam Request form is found on

the [Graduate College Student Forms](#) webpage. See the Graduate College [PhD Final Oral Exam Checklist](#) for helpful information.

- The final oral defense of the thesis is divided into two parts. In the first part of the defense, the student presents their research. This is open to the public. The advisor will announce the date and time to the department and other interested parties. The second half of the defense is a question and answer period in which the student responds to the questions of the committee. The decision about whether or not to formally invite the public to the latter part of the oral examination is decided by the committee.

4.4 Ph.D. Minor in Sociology or Rural Sociology (15 credit minimum)

Theory (3 cr)

- 1 course in sociological theory: Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
OR Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (6 cr)

- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- 1 course in advanced methods: Soc 512 (3 cr) Applied Multivariate Statistics
OR Soc 513 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Methods

Electives (6 cr)

- 2 three-credit graduate-level courses in Sociology

Dissertation and Other Requirements

- Sociology graduate faculty member on POS Committee
- Preliminary and Final oral exam must test for sociological content

4.5 M.S. and Ph.D. Co-Major in Sociology or Rural Sociology

- Admission requirements to the co-major program are the same as for the major.
- Students receive a single degree but must satisfy the curricular requirements established for both academic majors, but may apply some common course work to both majors.
- Take one preliminary oral exam (Ph.D.) and one final exam (M.S. and Ph.D.) that incorporates disciplinary questions from both majors.
- Must select a POS Committee that includes either co-chairs (i.e. two major professors, each of whom represents one of the academic majors), or a single chair who is a member of the graduate faculty of both majors.
- Although responsibility for determining the student's coursework resides with the POS committee, the Sociology Department has core courses that must be taken by all students.

4.5.1 Requirements for the M.S. Co-Major

Theory (3 cr)

- 1 course in sociological theory: Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
OR Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (10 cr)

- Stat 587 (4 cr) Statistical Methods for Research Workers
- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- 1 course in advanced methods: Stat 582 (3 cr) Regression for Social and Behavioral Research
OR Soc 513 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Methods

Thesis and Other Required (1 cr)

- Soc 591 (R 1 cr) Orientation to Sociology (required first semester)
- Sociology graduate faculty member as Major Professor
- Final oral exam must test for sociology major
- A thesis that reflects the student's sociological competence

Electives (6 cr)

- 2 additional 3-credit graduate-level courses in Sociology

TOTAL (20 cr)

- A minimum of 20 semester credits is required for the M.S. co-major

4.5.2 Requirements for the Ph.D. Co-Major

Theory (6 cr)

- Soc 506 (3 cr) Classical Sociological Theory
- Soc 607 (3 cr) Contemporary Sociological Theory

Methods (9 cr)

- Stat 582 (3 cr) Regression for Social and Behavioral Research
- Soc 511 (3 cr) Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- 1 course in advanced methods: Soc 512 (3 cr) Applied Multivariate Statistics
OR Soc 513 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Methods

Dissertation and Other Required (4 cr)

- Soc 534 (3 cr) Race, Class, and Gender Inequality
- Soc 591 (R 1 cr) Orientation to Sociology
- Sociology graduate faculty member on POS Committee
- Preliminary and final oral exams must test for sociology major
- A dissertation that reflects the student's sociological competence

Electives (9 cr)

- 3 additional 3-credit graduate-level courses in Sociology

TOTAL (28 cr)

- A minimum of 28 semester credits is required for the Ph.D. co-major

4.6 Criminal Justice Graduate Minor

The graduate minor in Criminal Justice includes four courses (12 credits). This minor requires students to take three core courses: SOC 582 (Criminological Theories), SOC 584 (Current Issues in Crime and Justice), and SOC 534 (Race, Class and Gender Inequality). Students will also take one additional elective course (3 credits) from a list of several designated graduate level CJ/SOC courses. These electives include SOC 511 (Research Methodology for the Social Sciences) and PSYCH 595E (Psychology and Law), and existing CJ undergraduate courses that would be dual-listed as 500 level courses: CJ 404 (Criminal Justice Policies) and CJ 470 (Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice).

Core Courses (9 credits)

- SOC 582 Criminological Theories
- SOC 584 Current Issues in Crime and Justice
- SOC 534 Race, Class and Gender Inequality

Electives (3 credits)

- SOC 511 Research Methodology for the Social Sciences
- PSYCH 595E Seminar in Social Psychology: Psychology and Law
- CJ 404/504 Criminal Justice Policies
- CJ 470/570 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice

TOTAL (12 cr)

- A minimum of 12 semester credits is required for the Criminal Justice Graduate Minor

Chapter 5: Student Progress and Evaluation

5.1 Guidelines Recommended Timeline for Progress (TBD)

5.2 Annual Student Performance Evaluation

To ensure consistent and timely progress through the graduate program, faculty periodically evaluate students' performance and accomplishments. The philosophy regarding such evaluations is based on an interactive model. That is, there is an on-going communication between students and faculty (POS committee and graduate faculty). This model assumes that there is mutual input and involvement of the student and faculty in the evaluation process. As a result, a student should be fully informed of any evaluative information. These evaluations are meant to allow both the faculty and student to assess and acknowledge performance in terms of quality and progress. Clear indications of excellence or deficiency need to be noted. Ideally, evaluations should provide students with an informed commentary on their progress so as to allow students to optimize their approach to graduate education.

5.2.1 Procedure for Annual Performance Evaluation

Each year, students will complete a survey in which they report relevant background information, a chronological record of graduate study "milestones," a listing of core courses completed and grades earned, core course GPA, cumulative GPA, a summary of research activity, and a summary of practical and other professional experience. The student's major professor and faculty assistantship supervisor (if applicable) will also complete an evaluation of the student's performance. The data will be compiled by the graduate program assistant and will be forwarded to the DOGE.

The DOGE will use the information provided in the surveys and supporting information to identify students who have not met benchmarks or whose faculty advisor or supervisor has concerns about their progress. The information will be presented to the faculty. After receiving feedback from the faculty, the DOGE will draft a letter to the student that provides an evaluation (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) and the reason(s). Letters with an unsatisfactory evaluation will include a deadline for rectifying any deficiencies and the penalty for failing to do so. Any individual receiving consecutive "unsatisfactory" evaluations in the annual review process will be dismissed from the program.

5.2.2 Expected Minimum Criteria for Annual Review Evaluation for Ph.D. Students

Listed below are benchmarks for progress through the Ph.D. program. These are minimum criteria for a positive evaluation during the spring review. Ideally, students will complete the program in 5 years. Meeting these minimum benchmarks does not automatically result in a student's continuation in the program. Students may be placed on probation or terminated from the program due to other deficiencies (not developing as an independent scholar, not fulfilling TA/RA responsibilities, etc.). Thus, these minimum benchmarks are not the sole basis of students' annual reviews. For more specific information on benchmarks, see 5.2.5.

End of...	Students Entering without an MS	Students Entering with an MS
1st year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pursuit of Masters and Ph.D. in Same Department” form submitted • Program of Study (POS) committee and coursework approved • Grades of B or better in all required courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision regarding equivalency for empirical thesis performed at prior institution • Grades of B or better in all required courses
2nd year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis proposal approved by POS committee • Grades of B or better in all required courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of equivalency project (applies only to students w/o empirical thesis from prior institution) • Grades of B or better in all required courses • Approved Doctoral POSC (committee and coursework)
3rd year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis defended (by end of year 2) • Grades of B or better in all required courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written preliminary exam completed • Grades of B or better in all required courses
4th year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctoral POS committee approved • Written preliminary exam completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral preliminary examination completed • Dissertation proposal approved by POS
5th year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral preliminary examination completed • Dissertation proposal • Approved by POS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation defended
6th year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation defended 	

5.2.3 Appeal of Recommendation

Any student has the right to a view contrary to the graduate faculty’s recommendation and to due process in consideration of that view. A student may request a reconsideration of a dismissal or probation. An appeal of the spring review decision must address issues raised in the report of results by the major professor. This report along with the student’s written comments and relevant information should be submitted to the department chair and to the student’s POS committee. The department chair will charge the student’s POS committee with the task of review and possible reconsideration of the decision in light of the student’s comments. If the student and/or the department chair feel that the student’s POS committee could not provide an impartial review, the department chair will appoint an ad hoc committee of no less than three graduate faculty members to review the case.

The review committee must present the results of their review to the department chair and graduate faculty within two weeks. The student must be informed in writing within 48 hours of the resulting decision with explanation for the basis of that decision made by the faculty.

5.2.4 Grievances

If a student contends that their scholarly or professional competence has not been evaluated fairly, they should first discuss the complaint with the person or persons most directly involved in the matter: a faculty member, major professor, POS committee, DOGE, or department chair. If these discussions are unsuccessful and further adjudication is desired, the student may submit the grievance, which must be in writing, to the

appropriate program grievance committee. If no such committee exists, the DOGE (or department chair when appropriate) will appoint one. The committee should respond in writing within fifteen (15) class days. If the grievance occurs within the last 15 class days of the term, the committee should respond expeditiously, within 15 class days or no later than the beginning of the next term.

The following procedures apply:

Each program offering graduate study must form a grievance committee (of at least four members) composed of equal numbers of representatives from the program graduate faculty and graduate students. The grievance committee may be a standing committee or may be an ad hoc committee, depending upon the program.

The DOGE (or department chair) may serve as a nonvoting chairperson of the grievance committee.

Written records of the committee shall include the complaint itself, the disposition of the complaint, and any other information the committee deems pertinent. Written records of the program grievance committee are available for study by the student filing the complaint and those making decisions at higher levels in the event of further appeal.

The program grievance committee deliberates in private except in instances where parties contend the issue under consideration is of general interest and importance. In those cases, the committee may hold public meetings with the consent of both parties involved in the complaint.

The graduate student (or chosen representative or advisor) and the other party (or chosen representative or advisor) have the right to present their cases orally to the grievance committee.

The committee shall provide a written recommendation regarding the grievance to the DOGE (or department chair) of the student's major and to the student.

The DOGE (or department chair) will then provide a written response from the graduate program to the student.

A graduate student unsatisfied with program action may appeal in writing to the Dean of the Graduate College within 15 calendar days. See [Section 9.5.2](#): Grievances Related to Scholarly and Professional Competence in the Graduate College Handbook.

5.2.5 Checklist and Timetable

Below is a timetable and checklist outlining some of the major events a full-time graduate student will encounter while progressing through the graduate program. The timetable is meant as a general reference in that students' progress may be different depending upon the program they are in and the specific needs and abilities they have. Students who wish further information concerning their particular program should consult with faculty members of that program. Students should keep in mind the timetable described in the *Minimum Criteria* (5.2.2).

Many of the forms listed in this section are available on the [Graduate College Student Forms](#) site. Some forms, like the POSC, route electronically for approval. Other forms will need to be routed for signatures on a paper form or can be emailed for electronic signatures. Students must obtain all other signatures before submitting forms to the DOGE, if required. The "manually" approved forms should be submitted to the Graduate Support Assistant for uploading to the Graduate College Forms Cybox.

GC = Graduate College; GCH = Grad College Handbook

- **Orientation** (First Year, 1st Semester)
 - Make faculty contacts
 - Become acquainted with major professor(s)
 - Start thinking about a thesis topic
- **Master's Program of Study and Committee (POSC)** (First Year)
 - Create POS Committee in consultation with major professor
 - Select at least 3 members - minimum requirements:
 - Major professor
 - Professor from outside one's area of specialization
 - Professor from minor department (if applicable)
 - Confer with advisor (and committee, if needed) regarding courses to be completed.
 - Complete the POSC form through AccessPlus. After submitting, the form will automatically route to Committee Members, DOGE, and the Graduate College for approval.
 - For more information, see [GCH Chapter 6](#); [POSC Help](#); [POSC Worksheet](#)
 - Changes to the committee or coursework can be made later by submitting a POSC modification in AccessPlus.
- **Master's Students: Thesis Proposal** (Second Year)
 - Complete proposal draft of thesis and receive permission from your major professor to circulate to the rest of your committee. See *Thesis Manual & Graduate Handbook*
 - Plan committee meeting at least 3 weeks before intended meeting
 - Schedule a meeting time and reserve room with the main office; notify members
 - Give copy of proposal to committee members at least 14 days before meeting
- **Master's Students: Filing for Degree** (Semester of Thesis Defense)
 - Application for Graduation must be submitted during the first 2-3 weeks (at the latest) of the term you intend to graduate. Be sure to note [Graduate College Deadlines](#) for all deadlines pertaining to finishing up. GC deadlines are firm and will not be changed without extraordinary extenuating circumstances.
 - To apply for graduation, you will need to:
 - Log into your [Access Plus account](#)
 - Then select Graduation from the left side menu
 - Finally, select Application and fill out your Application for Graduation
 - Determine whether you plan to attend commencement; see [Graduation & Commencement](#) website for details
 - If you will not graduate during the indicated term, withdraw the application through AccessPlus and submit a new application for the semester of graduation.

- **Master's Students: Thesis Defense**

- Complete draft of thesis and receive OK from your major professor to circulate to the rest of your committee
- Many resources are available on the GC [Theses & Dissertations](#) webpage. Use the [Thesis Checklist](#) to make sure your thesis is formatted appropriately.
- Plan committee meeting at least 3 weeks before intended meeting
 - Schedule a meeting time and reserve room with the main office; notify members
 - Give copy of proposal to committee members at least 10 days before meeting
- Submit [Final Oral Exam Request](#) to Graduate College at least 3 weeks before defense meeting. For more details, see [GCH Chapter 7](#) and [Master's Final Oral Exam Checklist](#).
- Major professors will receive a link to report the result of the exam immediately after the conclusion of the exam. This link is only accessible to major professors.
- Once the final oral exam has been passed, the student must submit the [Graduate Student Approval Form](#) to the Graduate College by the deadline of the appropriate term. (See [Graduate College Deadlines](#))
- [Submit your Thesis](#) online to ProQuest by the due date (available on GC website).
- If you choose to continue in the Sociology/Rural Sociology PhD program, complete the [Pursuit of Master's & PhD in Same Department](#) form. You do not need to submit a new application with the Grad Admissions office but the department admissions committee will need a few items to be submitted so they can make an admission recommendation. Email Graduate Support Staff for more info about this process.

- **Doctoral Program of Study and Committee** (First Year)

- Create POS committee in consultation with major professor
 - Select at least 5 members - minimum requirements:
 - Major professor
 - Professor from outside one's area of specialization
 - Professor from minor department (if applicable).
- Determine courses to complete in consultation with major professor. If needed, schedule a meeting with your POS committee to discuss courses
- Complete the POSC form through AccessPlus. After submitting, the form will automatically route to Committee Members, DOGE, and the Graduate College for approval.
 - For more information, see [GCH Chapter 6](#); [POSC Help](#); [POSC Worksheet](#)
 - Changes to the committee or coursework can be made later by submitting a POSC modification in AccessPlus.

- **Doctoral Students: Written Preliminary Examination** (Second Year)

- Doctoral committee is formed and doctoral POS is completed. See *GCH* and *Graduate Handbook*.
- Conducted after completion of all doctoral degree course requirements; by third year or earlier.

- **Doctoral Students: Preliminary Oral Examination/ Dissertation Proposal**
 - Written preliminary exam is passed. See *GCH* and *Graduate Handbook*
 - Complete [Preliminary Oral Exam Request](#) and submit to the Graduate College at least 2 weeks before oral exam and at least 6 months before the final oral exam (dissertation defense).
 - Plan committee meeting
 - Schedule a meeting time and reserve room with the main office; notify committee members
 - Give copy of materials to committee members at least 14 days before meeting
- **Doctoral Students: Filing for Degree** (Final Semester)
 - Application for Graduation must be submitted during the first 2-3 weeks (at the latest) of the term you intend to graduate. Be sure to note [Graduate College Deadlines](#) for all deadlines pertaining to finishing up. GC deadlines are firm and will not be changed without extraordinary extenuating circumstances.
 - To apply for graduation, you will need to:
 - Log into your [Access Plus account](#)
 - Then select Graduation from the left side menu
 - Finally, select Application and fill out your Application for Graduation
 - Determine whether you plan to attend commencement; see [Graduation & Commencement](#) website for details
 - Will your major professor be presenting you? You should coordinate this with your major professor in advance of graduation.
 - If you will not graduate during the indicated term, withdraw the application through AccessPlus and submit a new application for the semester of graduation.
- **Doctoral Students: Dissertation Defense** (Final Semester)
 - Complete draft of dissertation and receive OK from your major professor to circulate to the rest of your committee and take in for a format check.
 - Many resources are available on the GC [Theses & Dissertations](#) webpage. Use the [Thesis Checklist](#) to make sure your thesis is formatted appropriately.
 - Plan committee meeting at least 3 weeks before intended date.
 - Schedule a meeting time and reserve room with the main office; notify members
 - Give copy of dissertation to committee members at least 14 days before meeting
 - Submit [Final Oral Exam Request](#) form to Graduate College at least 3 weeks before defense meeting. For more details, see [GCH Chapter 7](#) and [Ph.D. Final Oral Exam Checklist](#).
 - Major professors will receive a link to report the result of the exam immediately after the conclusion of the exam. This link is only accessible to major professors.
 - Once the final oral exam has been passed, the student must submit the [Graduate Student Approval Form](#) to the Graduate College by the deadline of the appropriate term. (See [Graduate College Deadlines](#))
 - [Submit Your Dissertation](#) online to ProQuest by the due date (available on GC website).

Chapter 6: Graduate Student Professional Development

6.1 Student Organizations

With hundreds of student organizations to participate in, there are ample opportunities to collaborate and socialize with students that share similar passions and interests. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice students maintain an active role in many organizations. A complete listing of student organizations can be found on the [Student Organization's](#) webpage. In addition to graduate student organizations, students are

encouraged to join national and regional professional organizations in their chosen fields of study such as [American Sociological Association](#), [Sociologists for Women in Society](#), [Rural Sociological Society](#), [Agriculture Food and Human Values Society](#), [American Society of Criminology](#), the [Population Association of America](#), and the [Midwest Sociological Society](#). Part of professional socialization is attending annual meetings of these organizations, particularly to present original research, and students are encouraged to do so. A non-comprehensive list of graduate student organizations follows.

6.1.1 [Alpha Kappa Delta](#) (AKD)

AKD is the International Sociology Honor Society and affiliated with the American Sociological Association. It is open to eligible graduate and undergraduate students. AKD seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition. AKD also offers funding to members for conferences.

6.1.2 [Alpha Phi Sigma](#) (APS)

APS is the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, and is affiliated with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. APS recognizes the academic excellence of undergraduate, graduate, and Juris Doctorate students and is the only honor society for students of the criminal justice sciences recognized by the Association of College Honor Societies. APS promotes analytical thinking, rigorous scholarship, and lifelong learning; to keep abreast of the advances in scientific research; to elevate the ethical standards of the criminal justice professions; and to sustain in the public mind the benefits and necessity of education and professional training. The Pi Epsilon Lambda Chapter at Iowa State hosts an annual initiation and awards convocation as well as hosts the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice annual Chili Cookoff and Pancake Breakfast.

6.1.3 [Graduate Students in Sociology](#) (GSS)

GSS is an advocacy group for the department's graduate students, regardless of specific program. The organization's aim is to build and maintain a professionally and socially rewarding community for sociology students. GSS facilitates workshops, hosts guest speakers, and coordinates discussions on professional development topics with department faculty. GSS also organizes social events and fundraisers for students to participate in outside of the university setting.

6.1.4 [Graduate and Professional Student Senate](#) (GPSS)

GPSS, founded in 1969, represents the graduate and professional students' perspective on campus issues and serves as a liaison between graduate/professional students and the university administration. Each Department has the ability to elect a graduate or professional student senator. Senators attend monthly meetings, participate in voting and discussion, and relay information back to their Departments. There are also opportunities for students to serve on various campus committees. GPSS hosts an annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference to showcase research, attend talks and workshops, and network.

6.1.5 [Sustainable Agriculture Student Association](#) (SASA)

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice supports the Sustainable Agriculture Interdepartmental Graduate Program. As such, students in Rural Sociology may also be part of the Sustainable Agriculture program. SASA is a student lead organization (open to eligible graduate and undergraduate students) which works towards promoting sustainable agriculture, consumer education and outreach and improvement of the current agricultural paradigm. Recurring activities include volunteering at the Food at First garden and organizing a meal once a month at Food at First. Activities are designed and planned as a way for the community of students in the Sustainable Agriculture Interdepartmental Graduate Program as well as friends of the program to build community and learn more about sustainable agriculture outside of the classroom.

6.2 Serving on Departmental Committees

By custom, graduate student representatives serve alongside faculty on most departmental committees. Students are reminded that only those who are in good standing should serve on these committees. Each year, there is a call for committee representatives by the GSS leadership, after which they make a recommendation to the faculty among those students who would like to serve. Committees that include a graduate student representative include: the Graduate Program Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Development Committee, and the Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

6.3 Departmental Professional Development Funds

Graduate students may apply for departmental travel funding (depending on availability) to attend professional conferences to present their research. For successful applications, students will receive a maximum amount that may be used for multiple conferences until exhausted. To be eligible:

- Students must present at least one research presentation that has not been presented at any other conference
- If not presenting, students must appear on the program in a significant way (such as serving as discussant or participating in a roundtable, workshop, or similar).
- They must be making adequate progress in the degree program.
- Recipients must deliver a practice presentation during a scheduled practice time slot at least one week prior to travel.

6.3.1 Supplemental Funding

Alpha Kappa Delta members are eligible to apply for funding for conference travel. See the current AKD President for application details. [Professional Advancement Grants](#) (PAG) are provided to graduate and professional students by the Graduate and Professional Student Senate to help defray expenses related to professional meeting and conference travel.

6.3.2 Resources Outside the Department

6.3.2.1 [Center for Communication Excellence \(CCE\)](#)

CCE is dedicated to supporting graduate students and post-doctoral associates. The team provides opportunities for practice and improvement using a range of resources – all grounded in the study of communication genres and in the scholarship of teaching and learning. CCE offers one-on-one writing consultations, peer review groups, thesis and dissertation assistance, and other various seminars, workshops, and courses.

6.3.2.2 [Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching \(CELT\)](#)

CELT, in collaboration with ISU's Graduate College, has designed three programs to help graduate students succeed in their future careers.

6.3.2.3 [Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning \(CIRTL\)](#)

CIRTL a national program committed to implementing and advancing evidence-based teaching practices for diverse learners. CIRTL focuses on three core ideas: Evidence-based Teaching, Learning Communities, and Learning-through-Diversity.

6.3.2.4 [Graduate Student Teaching Certificate \(GSTC\)](#)

GSTC aims to enhance the professional development of graduate students who want to become professors. The certificate provides teaching knowledge and experience, focused as much as possible in the home discipline, for graduate students across the university.

6.3.2.5 [Preparing Future Faculty \(PFF\)](#)

The PFF program supplements departmental graduate preparation by offering additional teaching, mentoring, and learning possibilities. These enriching experiences help prepare postdoctoral fellows, Ph.D. students, and master's students for an academic career and provide further credentialing to be competitive on the academic job market.

6.3.2.6 [Library Workshops](#)

The library hosts a number of workshops throughout the semester that cater to a wide variety of interests and needs. Reoccurring topics include how to write literature reviews, data management, getting started with citation software (Mendeley, EndNote, LaTeX, Zotero), and professional and academic networking. Upcoming and archived workshops are available on the Library Instruction Workshops page.

Chapter 7: Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities

Graduate students are an integral part of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice's academic community. Graduate students are students, and, when on assistantship, employees. A graduate student experience marked by fairness and equitable treatment is the first step in forging a lifelong commitment to the University. In turn, graduate students are expected to demonstrate a commitment to their academic endeavors, to make steady progress toward academic milestones and goals, and to demonstrate ethical practices at all times.

All student rights and responsibilities, information dealing with academic probation, grievance procedures, etc. can be found in [Chapter 9: Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) of the Graduate College Handbook. Graduate students on assistantship appointment also are governed by the policies applicable to instruction, research, and the conduct of University business as found in the [ISU Policy Library](#).

In addition to the provisions of this handbook, all graduate students are governed and protected by:

- the Board of Regents' Uniform Rules of Personal Conduct,
- University [Student Disciplinary Regulations](#) (Code of Conduct) contains expectations for student conduct, as well as procedures for addressing and resolving alleged violations of university policies,
- University regulations in the [Student Life](#) section of the Policy Library,
- for students on appointment, the [Personnel, Conduct & Human Relations](#) section of the Policy Library, department procedures, and the terms of sponsored research agreements that fund their assistantships or other employment,
- academic policies in the University Catalog,
- departmental/program rules and policies,
- grievance procedures described in this manual,
- the University's policy on [Title IX Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking](#), and
- the University's policy on [Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment](#).