Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Sociology

The Ph.D Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. program in Comparative Sociology incorporates and builds upon the M.A. program. The Ph.D. program consists of 75 semester hours or course work including the 36 hours contained in the M.A. degree in Comparative Sociology at FIU. Students are expected to acquire competencies in theory and research methods during the M.A. program. After being admitted into the Ph.D. program, students will pursue their own research interests by taking elective courses and by working with their committee to prepare a doctoral dissertation.

Admissions

Applicants must meet or exceed admissions requirements for the M.A. Students who originally applied to the M.A. program must apply separately to be admitted into the Ph.D. program. A positive evaluation of the student’s performance at the M.A. level (hereafter called the M.A. review) will be the most important of the factors considered in evaluating applications to the Ph.D. program. All students, including those who originally applied directly to the Ph.D. program, must undergo a successful M.A. review upon completion of the Masters Program requirements in order to continue in the Comparative Sociology program toward the Ph.D. The Graduate Committee conducts these reviews. The purpose of the M.A. review is to determine the ability of the student to do Ph.D. level work with the department’s faculty. Among the information considered during the review are students’ performance and grades in courses, passing of competency exams in theory and research methods, and faculty recommendations.

Students who have obtained a Masters degree at another institution may be admitted directly into the Ph.D. program. However, students admitted from other programs must pass the Core Competency Exams in theory and research methods competencies as described above under the M.A. Program.

Course Work

The Ph.D. curriculum in Comparative Sociology consists of a total of 75 credit hours, including six Core Courses, one additional course in advanced theory and one additional course in research methods, 12 electives courses (6 at the M.A. level and 6 at the Ph.D. level), and a minimum of 24 dissertation credits.

Core Courses

The core curriculum includes six required courses (this is the same core as in the M.A. degree):
Students in the Ph.D. program are required to complete two additional core courses above and beyond the Core Curriculum, one in methods and the other in theory. These additional courses are designed to train students in more advanced theory and methods while meeting individual professional goals. Students may select the courses most consistent with their needs and goals from lists published by the Sociology/Anthropology Department.

**Elective Courses**

In addition to the 18 hours of electives students complete during the M.A. program, students in the Ph.D. program will take 9 additional hours of elective courses. These additional courses should be selected to prepare the student in substantive academic fields of inquiry that will be important to the student’s dissertation. Typically, students will concentrate their electives courses in mastering one of the Department’s specialization areas: Environmental Anthropology/Sociology; Migrations and Diasporas; or Comparative Identities and Social Conflicts. At least two but no more than four electives taken while in the Ph.D. program must be from outside the Department, unless the student petitions the Graduate Program Director for an exception to these rules.

**Ph.D. General Examination**

After successfully completing the required core and elective course work, and after having passed the Core Competency Exams in theory and research methods (for students who completed the M.A. at FIU this will occur during the M.A. program), each student will prepare for writing the Ph.D. General Examination. This examination will be conducted in accordance with the FIU University Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual and the Department’s General Examination guidelines.

**Dissertation Proposal and Defense/Candidacy Exam**

After passing the General Examination, students will form a dissertation committee according to the regulations for such committees published on the University Graduate School web page (http://gradschool.fiu.edu). In conjunction with this committee, students will prepare a dissertation proposal. Students must defend the dissertation proposal orally before their committee. The proposal defense serves as the candidacy examination for the Comparative Sociology Graduate Program. Upon passing the proposal defense, the student is admitted to candidacy status. Only after successfully defending the dissertation proposal may a student register for dissertation credits (SYA 7980). The Ph.D. program requires students to be continuously enrolled in at least 3 credits each semester of Doctoral Dissertation (SYA 7980).
from the time they advance to candidacy until they complete the dissertation, including summers. Thirty nine (39) credits must be completed above the M.A. degree.

*The Dissertation and Dissertation Defense*

After successfully defending the dissertation proposal, students will conduct research and complete their dissertations under the guidance of their dissertation committee. Upon completion of their manuscript and authorization of their research committee, the students will then defend their dissertations before their research committee and the university. University Graduate School regulations governing the dissertation may be found at [http://gradschool.fiu.edu](http://gradschool.fiu.edu).