

Graduate Group in Sociology and Demography PhD Degree Requirements

First-Year Curriculum

The first-year curriculum is designed to introduce all graduate students to the essentials of demographic theory and methods. Therefore, students on all three degree tracks begin by completing a set of required courses in the first year as outlined below.

Students in the doctoral program take the same curriculum in the first year as Master's students and sit for the same written examinations, which they must pass at a level commensurate with the requirements of the doctoral program. All first-year courses, with the exception of DEMOG 213, must be taken on a letter-grade basis. DEMOG 110, 210, C126, C175 and 200 must be passed at a B or above grade.

Fall semester

DEMOG 110: Demographic Methods: Introduction to Population Analysis (3 UNITS)

DEMOG/SOCIOL C126 Sex, Death, and Data (4 UNITS)

or

DEMOG 200: Social Demography: Population, Culture, and Society (4 UNITS)

DEMOG 210: Demographic Methods: Rates, Structures, and Models (4 UNITS)

DEMOG 213: Computer Applications for Demographic Analysis: Introduction to Computing for Demographers, or comparable course. (2 UNITS)

Spring semester

DEMOG/ECON C175: Economic Demography (4 UNITS)

DEMOG 260 Special Topics in Demography (topics vary) (4 UNITS)
[May take other Graduate Level Demography courses instead]

DEMOGRAPHY ELECTIVES: Graduate-level courses in Demography or other disciplines relevant to the student's research interests. (Min. 7 units, may include DEMOG 260)
[taken for a letter grade]

TOTAL Units: 24

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Preliminary Exam

Toward the end of the Spring semester of the first year, students take an M.A. Qualifying/Ph.D. Preliminary Exam. This M.A. exam is a written test of fluency in demographic theory, methods, and substance. The exam consists of two 3-hour long sessions, one devoted to methods and the other to substance and theory. Although all of the content included on the M.A. exam is covered in the required courses, the exam is not a simple repetition of course exams. Instead, students are required to demonstrate the ability to synthesize forms of knowledge acquired in different courses and to think critically about the assumptions and implications of demographic models. Non-circulating copies of old exams are available in the Sharlin Library and are now also available online to Demography students.

The Demography preliminary examination must be passed at a level commensurate with the usual requirements for the doctoral program in the Department of Demography in order for a student to continue toward the Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography.

Upon the successful completion of the first-year coursework and the M.A. Preliminary exam, students earn their Master's degrees in Demography, provided that they do not already hold an equivalent MA degree in Demography or Population Studies.

Second-Year Curriculum

Approximately 23 units of additional required coursework in the second year of study.

- DEMOG 211: Advanced Demographic Analysis (4 UNITS)
- **OR**
- SOCIOL 271C: Intermediate Quantitative Methods (3 UNITS)

(Other courses may be used for this requirement but must be approved by the DGS in Sociology and the HGA in Demography.)

- SOCIOL 200: Proseminar (1 UNIT)
- SOCIOL 201A: Sociological Theory (3 UNITS)
- SOCIOL 201B: Sociological Theory (3 UNITS)
- SOCIOL 271A: Methods of Sociological Research (4 UNITS)

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- SOCIOLOGY ELECTIVES: Two (2) courses from SOCIOL 280 series (6 UNITS)
- OTHER ELECTIVE: Graduate-level courses in Sociology or Demography or other disciplines relevant to the student's research interests (3 OR 4 UNITS)

[Note: Students may not count elective courses that were used for the first year MA degree toward this elective requirement.]

M.A. Research Paper in Sociology and Other Joint Program Requirements

Consistent with the standard practice in the Department of Sociology, students in the joint program are required to write an M.A. research paper. This paper is written with the supervision and approval of a personal M.A. committee comprising two Sociology faculty members. The student's M.A. committee must approve in advance all details regarding the design, research, content, length, and timetable for the research paper project. Each candidate for the M.A. selects a faculty member as the Chair of her/his M.A. committee (with that professor's approval) and a second reader. The student may ask the Graduate Advisor of the GGSD to assist in finding a second reader. The M.A. research paper requirement is fulfilled when both members of the M.A. committee have signed and dated the cover page.

After all the coursework, methods, and paper requirements in Sociology are met, each student in the program is required to have an M.A. Advising Conference, organized by GGSD in conjunction with the Department of Sociology (and following the rules prevailing in that department), where it is decided whether the student satisfies doctoral requirements or not. Thus, in addition to the aforementioned requirements in the Department of Demography a student must satisfy the usual doctoral requirements in the Department of Sociology in order to continue toward the Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography.

Foreign Language Exam

All candidates to the Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography must fulfill a foreign language requirement before taking their oral Qualifying Examination. The foreign language exam for the Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography is administered by the Graduate Group in Sociology and Demography (GGSD) following the standards and procedures used by the Department of Demography.

The Department follows Option 3 of Graduate Division guidelines for foreign language examinations, which requires that students demonstrate a "reading knowledge" of one language. For the Ph.D.s in Demography and in Sociology and Demography, this language must be a "major world language" other than English, defined as a language with at least 100 million speakers worldwide (including non-native speakers). In recognition of the fact that it may be difficult to know how many people speak a given

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language, the “100 million” rule may be interpreted loosely and yet still serve as a useful guideline.

An exception to the “100 million” rule can be made in cases where students will be using a less widely spoken language as an integral part of their dissertation research. Students can fulfill their language requirement using such a language provided that: 1) the language has a formal writing system, and 2) a person qualified to administer the exam is available.

Language exams may be administered by faculty members in the Department if they are competent in a particular language. In other cases, students may arrange to be tested in one of the foreign language departments on campus or by some other means if approved by the Graduate Advisor. The exam will normally consist of translating a passage of 300 to 500 words into English within a time limit of 90 minutes, either with or without a dictionary. The level of difficulty of the passage should be similar to what is encountered in scholarly social science research written in that language.

Standards for passing the language exam are at the discretion of the examiner but should generally adhere to the following guidelines. The translation should be well written and complete. It should not be an awkward literal rendering of the original into English. Most small errors that do not change the meaning of the text can be excused, although major faults (those that significantly distort the meaning of the passage or an individual phrase) must be minimized. At the discretion of the examiner, even one major fault could be judged to indicate a failing exam.

There are two other means of fulfilling the foreign language requirement for a qualified language: 1) a high school or university diploma where the language was the primary medium of instruction automatically fulfills the requirement; and 2) a course sequence of four semesters (or six quarters) in the language at any UC campus also fulfills the requirement. (Foreign language courses at other institutions must be validated by Graduate Division in order to qualify for this exemption. In addition, any foreign language sequence, whether taken at the University of California or elsewhere, must have been completed within four years of admission to Berkeley.)

Oral Qualifying Exam

Students in the Ph.D. program must pass an oral qualifying examination before they can be advanced to candidacy. This is in some ways the most important step in your doctoral training, as it represents the turning point from being primarily a consumer of scholarly literature toward being also a contributor. With the QE, you enter the professional conversation. The core of the QE is four fields of study that the student prepares for the oral Qualifying Examination, including Sociological Theory, General Demography, and two specialized fields in sociology and/or demography.

Preparation for the exam is supervised by the Chair of the orals committee, who may separate and delegate the task of supervision to other committee members with

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expertise in one of the student's fields of examination. The oral Qualifying Examination itself consists of questions on each of the four topics, in an order chosen by the student. For a successful outcome, the committee must vote unanimously for a "pass." The jurisdiction for ruling on split votes rests with the Administrative Committee.

Students are responsible for making all arrangements for the exam including: 1) filling out the necessary forms with help from the Graduate Services Advisor at least 3 weeks in advance of your expected exam date, 2) forming an examination committee (see below) *with the advice and consent* of the Graduate Advisor and/or other faculty members, 3) scheduling a date and time for the exam that is agreeable to all committee members, and 4) preparing reading lists; 5) providing copies of the materials to all members of the committee two weeks before the exam.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The orals committee consists of five members, all of whom must be members of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate.

At least three but not more than four of the committee members must be core faculty in the GGSD, with at least one committee member representing the Department of Demography and another representing the Department of Sociology. One of these members will serve as chair of the Orals Committee. That person may not also serve as Chair of the student's dissertation committee. One member must serve as the Academic Senate Representative and may be faculty within the core GGSD faculty or from another department, but must be a member of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate of the University of California, that is, must be members of the regular faculty. The Graduate Adviser of the GGSD recommends the membership of the Qualifying Exam committee and the topics of examination to the Graduate Dean.

READING LISTS

Reading lists should be prepared by the student for the specialized areas, each in close conversation with a specific faculty member. For example, you may wish to do Population Health with Prof. Mahmud and Computational Demography with Prof. Feehan. These lists should be comparable in scope and length to a one- or two-semester course syllabus on the topic. If the student has attended a specialized course on the topic, they may wish to use the syllabus for that course as the basis for assembling the reading list, with modifications to reflect their own interests. In addition to the support of the specific faculty member for each list, you should obtain final approval of their reading lists from the Graduate Advisor ideally the semester before the exam and at least one month before.

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PREPARATION

The QE is a turning point in your education, and therefore your preparation for the exam should be serious. You will prepare each field with a specific faculty member, and faculty vary in the details of how they like to see that preparation happen. You may write memos or essays, have discussions, or work in other ways to ensure that you know the material and can speak compellingly about it.

Dissertation Prospectus

The dissertation prospectus is an important step toward completing a doctoral degree in Sociology and Demography. It is generally the final requirement that a student must complete before being approved for "advancement to candidacy" for the Ph.D.

The prospectus must be worked out in conversation with and approved by the faculty member who will serve as chair of the student's dissertation committee. Signed approval of the prospectus by the dissertation chair is needed before the Graduate Advisor approves the student for the advancement to doctoral candidacy. All decisions about the appropriate form, length, and content of a dissertation prospectus lie with the dissertation chair, not the Graduate Advisor. In making plans for the dissertation prospectus, the student and her/his chair should keep in mind the deadline for advancement to candidacy that will qualify the student for the normative time fee reduction.

Dissertation

After passing the oral Qualifying Examination, the student assembles a provisional dissertation committee. This provisional committee will become the permanent dissertation committee once the student is advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. As with the oral Qualifying Examination, dissertation committee members are chosen by the Graduate Adviser of the GGSD in consultation with the student. The dissertation committee is approved formally by the Graduate Dean.

This committee will consist of three members, including one chair member from the core faculty in the GGSD, one Academic Senate Representative, and one other additional member. All committee members must be members of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate. Students may have two co-chairs as long as one chair is a member of the GGSD core faculty.

During the dissertation writing period, students are expected to take another research seminar, Demography 296, every semester until the completion of the dissertation. This phase should last two or three academic years.

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Once the dissertation committee members have accepted the dissertation, they sign and date the cover page. A public dissertation defense is not required although students are strongly encouraged to give a final presentation to the Graduate Group.

NORMATIVE TIME FOR SOCIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY, PhD:

Normative Time to Advancement to Candidacy: **8** semesters

Normative Time in Candidacy: **4** semesters

Total Normative Time: **12** semesters

[Please note that students starting their first-year Sociology course work are starting their 2nd year of study in Sociology and Demography, but joining Sociology's first-year cohort.]

GRADUATE GROUP IN SOCIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY CORE FACULTY

(As of September 30, 2022)

Daniel Aldana Cohen, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Irene Bloemraad, Professor of Sociology

William Dow, Professor of Public Health

Dennis Feehan, Assistant Professor of Demography

Neil Fligstein, Professor of Sociology

Marion Fourcade, Professor of Sociology

Joshua Goldstein, Professor of Demography

David Harding, Associate Professor of Sociology

Heather Haveman, Professor of Sociology

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Professor of Demography and Sociology

Rucker Johnson, Associate Professor of Public Policy

Danya Lagos, Assistant Professor of Sociology

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Mara Loveman, Professor of Sociology

Samuel Lucas, Professor of Sociology

Ayesha Mahmud, Assistant Professor of Demography

Jane Mauldon, Associate Teaching Professor of Public Policy

Trond Petersen, Professor of Sociology