

# MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

The MA program in sociology offers students the opportunity to develop strong research skills through completion of a rigorous course schedule of theory, methods, topic courses, and a thesis project. Students design and implement research projects that meet high scholarly standards and prepare them for PhD programs or applied research positions. Students obtain a deepened understanding of the social world that readies them to be effective citizens and forces for positive social change.

## TWO PATHS OF STUDY

There are two paths of study in the program: the generalist option and the specialist option, both of which require 36 credits of graduate coursework.

***The generalist option*** offers students a broad graduate education in sociology that can serve as the basis for a wide array of professional careers in the public and private sector.

***The specialist option*** is designed for students who plan to pursue a doctoral degree in Sociology. This option offers students the opportunity to design and carry out a research project in a particular area of sociological research under the direct mentorship of a faculty member and then write a thesis. Students may apply to be admitted to the specialist option after completing 9 credits in the program.

# SOCIOLOGY MASTER'S PROGRAM



## PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- Highly skilled, enthusiastic, and intelligent faculty trained in the latest theoretical and methodological approaches from top tier research universities.
- Small class size permits individualized attention in a friendly, caring environment
- Faculty are committed to both scholarly rigor and social justice

## WHAT KIND OF STUDENTS ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Hard working
- Intellectually curious
- Interested in sociological questions
- Concern for social justice
- Loves to read about the social world
- Participated in sociological research at the undergraduate level (preferred but not required)

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## CRITERIA

1. Students must complete a bachelor's degree.
2. Students must complete and score competitively on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). GRE scores over five years old will not be accepted.
3. Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average for the last 60 credits of undergraduate work leading to their bachelor's degree.
4. Students must submit directly to the Department of Sociology:
  - a) Statement of Purpose (500 to 1000 words in length, outlining their goals and interests in subject areas within sociology)
  - b) A sample of their writing (e.g., a paper from an undergraduate course).
5. Sociology majors at FAU should submit the names of two sociology faculty members as their referees. All other students must obtain two letters of recommendation and have them sent by the recommenders directly to the Department of Sociology.
6. Applicants who apply after March 1 (for Fall admission) or after November 1 (for Spring admission) may be admitted to the graduate program but may be too late to be considered for an assistantship award.

***Please send admission materials to [sociology@fau.edu](mailto:sociology@fau.edu)***

# GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Department of Sociology offers graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs) to outstanding students.

These assistantships provide students with a full tuition waiver (for three classes per term) plus a stipend of \$4000 per term in return for their work as assistants to the faculty. If the student's work in both the assistantship and the graduate program is satisfactory, the assistantship is continued for the four terms necessary to complete the degree.

Students who are awarded a GTA have the opportunity to work closely with the faculty on their courses and make a significant contribution to the quality of the courses offered to both lower and upper division students.

A GTA is deeply involved in the life of the department since the position requires full-time enrollment and about twenty hours per week of grading, tutoring, and other assistance to the faculty. The Department provides GTAs with a dedicated workspace in the Culture and Society building on the Boca Raton campus.

**NOTE:** *When you submit your statement of purpose and your writing sample, please indicate in your email whether you wish to be considered for an assistantship.*

# FUNDING

# FACULTY SPECIALIZATIONS

We pride ourselves on being methodologically diverse and covering a wide breadth of sociological topics. Students will find multiple faculty working in the following areas:

- Social Theory
- Culture
- Social Psychology
- Qualitative Methods
- Poverty
- Youth, Aging, and Adulthood
- Political Economy
- Environment
- Global Sociology
- Gender
- Microsociology
- Urban Sociology

## RECENTLY OFFERED GRADUATE SEMINARS

- Sociology of Consumption
- Self and Identity
- Healthy Aging
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Political Economy of Culture
- Sociology of Childhood
- Globalization and Development
- Labor and Globalization
- Microsociology
- State, Economy, and Society

## WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES NOW?

Students who graduate with an MA in Sociology leave with a strong sociological imagination and practical research skills that will serve them well in PhD programs or careers related to non-profit, government, education, law, or public policy.

MA graduates have been hired as teachers, research analysts, consultants, human resource managers, and program directors.

In recent years, our MA graduates have enrolled in well-regarded PhD programs at The Ohio State University, University of Utah, University of Virginia, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and SUNY Binghamton.







**CONTACT US**

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## DAVIE CAMPUS

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Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is located in South Florida, close to the tropical beaches of Palm Beach, Broward, and St. Lucie counties. The seven-county region served by the university has a population of more than five million people, offering a diverse community with all of the cultural advantages of a major metropolitan setting.