

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
2019 ADMISSION INFORMATION
MASTERS PROGRAMS**

General admission requirements are set out by the University's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). Prospective students should familiarize themselves with the pertinent regulations found on the current Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research website (<http://www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca>)

Application Deadline: January 15th

Application opens September 1st, 2018 for September 2019 admission.

**This is an online application and
ALL of your documents will be uploaded to the on-line application.**

<http://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/apply-for-admission>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following are minimal conditions for admission:

- **Course Based and Thesis Based MA programs**

- Successful completion of a baccalaureate degree with coursework in Sociology or related discipline.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.5 or its equivalent over the last 60 credits (2 years) of the Baccalaureate degree for North American transcripts. Foreign transcripts must meet the minimum requirements set out by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
- Applicants typically will have previously completed coursework in the following courses (or their equivalent) if studying outside the University of Alberta:
 - statistics
 - research methodology
 - two sociological theory courses
 - at least one single-term course in macrosociology and in social psychology (broadly defined to include related coursework)

(Students without one or more of these courses may be required to make up any course deficiencies)

• MA Course-based Program in Sociology (Criminal Justice) Part-Time

- Successful completion of a baccalaureate degree in Criminology or an equivalent program -- that is, students are recommended to have completed coursework and field placements equivalent to the Department's BA (Criminology) degree program, including the following courses or their equivalents: Criminology (SOC 225), Criminal Justice Administration (SOC 327), Statistics (SOC 210), and Social Methodology (SOC 315).
- A minimum grade point average of 3.2 (on a 4.0 grading scale) or its equivalent over the last 60 credits (2 years) of the Baccalaureate degree for North American transcripts. Foreign transcripts must meet the minimum requirements set out by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- Students with the relevant experience in the criminal justice system without one or more of these courses will be required to make up any course deficiencies in addition to the regular program requirements.

• MA Thesis-Based Program in Population Life

- Successful completion of a baccalaureate degree with coursework in Sociology or related discipline.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.5 or its equivalent over the last 60 credits (2 years) of the Baccalaureate degree for North American transcripts. Foreign transcripts must meet the minimum requirements set out by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
- Completed at least one undergraduate single-term course in each of the following areas: statistics, research methods, theory, and population or life course/family; students without coursework in these areas will be required to make up this background prior to admission

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Course-Based Degree:

The course based MA in Sociology is an intensive course based program, typically completed within a year and a half. Required course work consists of 24 credits,

including core courses in classical and contemporary theory, research design, research methods and statistics, SOC 900 (research project), and completion of the mandatory ethics training requirement. Residency is two four month terms.

Thesis-Based Route:

Thesis MA students require registration in a combination of coursework and thesis research comprising a minimum of 24 credits, and the completion of the mandatory ethics training requirement. Course work consists of at least 18 credits, including core courses in theory, research design, research methods and statistics. It is completed in the first year. In the second year students write a thesis which is subject to a final oral exam.

Criminal Justice Degree (part-time):

The MA in Criminal Justice is a part-time program designed for students who are pursuing a career in one of the components of criminal justice system. The program requires 24 credits at the graduate – level, plus a project equivalent to 3 credits and completion of the mandatory ethics requirement. Coursework must include SOC 525 and an additional 9 credits in criminology courses. Coursework in related disciplines is encouraged. There is no residence requirement for the course-based MA program. Note, this program has no guaranteed funding package.

Thesis Based (Population and Life Course Dynamics):

The department of sociology has a long and successful history in the area of population studies, demography, and the life course. Since its inception in the 1980s, 25 students graduated from the program (previously named MA – Demography). In the same period, the field has broadened and evolved to include a wide range of methods and theories for studying population change. The revitalization of the program under the designation of “Population and Life Course Dynamics” captures these shifts, and draws on the rich expertise of faculty in our department. Thesis MA students require registration in a combination of coursework and thesis research comprising a minimum of 24 credits, and the completion of the mandatory ethics training requirement. Course work consists of at least 18 credits. Candidates will be examined orally on their completed thesis.

The typical time to completion for MA students is 1.5 – 2 years. The maximum time allowed by FGSR to complete the requirements for the thesis-based route is four years.

Course Based and Thesis Based Applicants must provide:

Applications, including the following uploaded documents, must be submitted by 11:59pm (MST) on January 15:

1. **Official transcripts** from all post-secondary institutions attended. Read the [Requirements for Acceptance of Uploaded Transcripts](#).
2. A **Statement of Intent** specifying your area of interest and plans for study in the graduate program in this department. This letter of intent is approximately two to three pages in length (paper size 8 1/2" x 11", 1" margin, 12 point font). This is the Department's first introduction to you, and gives us an idea of what you are interested in studying, how these interests fit into ongoing departmental research and whether we are the right place for you to pursue your academic goals.
3. **Research Interests:** Applicants to the MA and PhD Thesis programs must include a clearly defined statement of research interest which will be developed into an MA thesis or doctoral dissertation. This statement does not bind you in terms of your eventual research project, however, this description signals to us that you are capable of identifying a research topic that can be supervised by faculty members in our department. Ensure your statement is as specific as possible, refers to relevant academic literature, is well-written, and is no longer than two to three pages in length (paper size 8 1/2 x 11", 1" margin, 12 point font). PhD Applicants: Indicate the ways in which your proposed research builds upon your Master's work OR offer a rationale for your new research focus. This is not required of applicants applying to a Course-based program.
4. A detailed **curriculum vitae** (resume) outlining your scholarly studies. Include editorial credentials, work and professional activities and volunteer contributions.
5. An **academic paper** you have written (in English, max 7000 words including references) in your area of interest (when possible), that is substantial in content and analysis. This should be solely authored by you in English. A successful term paper written for a course, published article, article manuscript, MA thesis or part thereof are acceptable. The Department's Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee will also use this to assess your analytical writing abilities.
6. **Three references.** At least two of the three references should be academic in nature from persons who are qualified to comment on your academic work and potential for graduate study. Where possible, one or more of the references should be from a person(s) from the institute last attended. The on-line

application form has appraisal forms for your referees to complete ("Letter to Support Application for Graduate Admission"), and upload to the online application system. Note: electronic notifications will not be sent to your referees until you submit your application (and pay the application fee), so ensure you submit your application early enough to allow your referees time to submit their reference prior to the application deadline.

7. All foreign students who have not completed a degree at an English-language university (recognized by the University of Alberta) must demonstrate **English Language Proficiency (ELP)** by completing an approved English Language exam. Note, the Department of Sociology has slightly higher [ELP requirements](#) than those that are stated on the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research [website](#)

Note: Admission to the program is limited and carried out on a competitive basis. The **deadline** for formal application and receipt of all supporting documentation is **January 15.** Decisions on applications will not take place until the end of March.

SUPERVISION

A supervisor who is willing to assist with program planning and supervise the student's project/thesis is selected from faculty members who work in the student's area of interest.

- It is recommended that students contact potential supervisors during the application process and indicate this in their "Letter of Intent". Later in the program the Department will recommend the supervisor to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.
- The supervisor is responsible for assisting the student in planning the completion of his or her program and advising in relation to the project/thesis.
- Acceptance into any graduate program is the prerogative of the Department Graduate Awards and Admissions (GA&A) Committee and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
- Admission will depend upon the current availability of a supervisor in your area of research interest. In some cases, potential research supervisors may be on sabbatical, already have the maximum number of graduate students to supervise, or a supervisor may not be available in a particular subject area during a particular year. Your application could then be re-submitted once a supervisor becomes available.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Sociology provides competitive funding packages to all full-time graduate students in the department. Note, the part-time MA course-based program in Criminal Justice does not have a funding package.

Our funding approach—which includes employment, scholarships, and research and travel awards—is designed to support both the scholarly and the professional development of each graduate student.

All **full-time** graduate students receive guaranteed funding in the form of research and teaching assistantships (normally twelve hours/week) as shown below.

Students pay their tuition and fees out of these incomes. Whenever possible, the department also covers additional tuition fees for international students.

Approximately – can vary slightly from year to year:

MA (course-based) 1 year (two terms) of guaranteed funding (value = @\$16,000)

MA (thesis-based) 2 years (four terms) of guaranteed funding (value = @\$32,000)

It should be noted that the funding that is available is insufficient to cover all living expenses in Edmonton.

Department of Sociology English Language Requirement (ELP)

Test of English as a Foreign Language - minimum score of 600 (paper-based), or a total score of 100 with a score of at least 20 on each of the individual skill areas (internet-based)

Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) - minimum score of 85

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - minimum overall band score of 7, with at least 5.5 on each band (Academic)

Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL) - overall minimum score of 60, with at least 60 on each subtest

Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) - overall minimum score of 68

NOTE: If you need to complete one of these English language examinations, you should do so as soon as possible and arrange for the results to be sent to the department. **Scores more than two years old cannot be verified; therefore the applicant normally would be required to re-take the test.**

ELP EXEMPTIONS

The following webpage provides information on the English Language Proficiency (ELP) exemptions that are made for applicants with international qualifications and includes both Exempt Countries and Exempt Institutions.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/international-admissions-protocol/english-language-proficiency/exemptions>