

# Requirements for the PhD Degree

Students receive the PhD degree after fulfilling the following requirements. Students should aim to fulfill these requirements within five to six years. Course requirements and full course descriptions can also be viewed in the University of Colorado Catalog.

1. **Minimum Course Hours:** Students must complete a total of 45 hours of course work credit hours. At least 24 hours must be in the Department of Sociology on the Boulder campus. All courses taken within the Department of Sociology must be numbered 5000 or above to qualify for graduate credit.
2. **Successful Completion of Required Seminars:** These include: Research Design, Data 1/Quantitative Methods 1, Data 2/Quantitative Methods 2, Logics of Qualitative Research, Sociological Theory and a second theory seminar of the student's choice.
3. **Completion of Equivalent of "Preliminary Exams":** Satisfactory completion of the five required classes during the first two years in the program represents what the Graduate School refers to as the "preliminary examination."
4. **Faculty Reviews:** At the end of each year, faculty members teaching required courses, faculty mentor/advisors, and faculty supervising teaching assistants conduct a review of students' progress.
5. **Successful Completion of Specialty Area Comprehensive Exam:** Students must complete the required 45 hours of course work before taking the specialty area comprehensive exam.
6. **Successful Defense of Dissertation Proposal:** Students should prepare a written dissertation proposal and orally defend it before the Dissertation Committee.
7. **Completion and Successful Defense of the Dissertation:** Students should complete dissertation research and defend by the end of their sixth program year.