



University of Colorado **Boulder**

Department of Sociology

PhD in Sociology: Prospective Student FAQs

Application FAQs

Q. When is the application deadline? Is it ok if my application shows as incomplete after the deadline?

The application must be submitted by **December 1st** to be considered. The deadline applies to all materials. Due to processing time, your application will likely show as incomplete for up to a couple of weeks past the application deadline. This is normal and does not affect the consideration of your application.

Q. Can you confirm that my application materials have been received?

Please submit all applications materials at: <https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/admissions>
The admissions application process allows students to login and confirm which materials have been received.

Q. I have completed a Master's Degree—do I still need to submit GRE scores?

GRE scores are required of all applicants to our program and they cannot be waived based on academic or professional accomplishments.

Q. Do I need to submit unofficial transcripts from all institutions even if my coursework shows up on another transcript as transfer credit?

Yes. An **unofficial** transcript must be submitted from every higher education institution you have attended regardless of the length of attendance or the number of credits earned—even if some credits show up on another institution's transcript as transfer credit. Official transcripts will be required after students are **ACCEPTED** into the program.

Q. How competitive is admission to the Sociology PhD program?

Admission to the program is quite competitive. On average we receive approximately 100-120 applications each cycle and admit approximately 20 students.

Q. Do I need to have a Master's degree or a degree in sociology in order to be considered for admission?

A master's degree is not necessary to apply to our program. Approximately half of our incoming cohort each year comes in with a master's degree. We accept students with a wide variety of backgrounds; a degree in sociology is not required

Q. Can I take courses in your department prior to admission to the PhD program?

Generally, our PhD coursework is restricted only to students who have been accepted into the program. Certain exceptions can be made by the faculty teaching the course of interest.

Q. Can I transfer credits from another institution towards the PhD requirements?

We accept a maximum of 21 graduate level credit hours from another college or university toward fulfillment of the requirements of the PhD degree. Students can submit requests for transfer credit only after the successful completion of six credits of graduate level coursework at CU-Boulder with a 3.0 GPA.

Q. I would like to earn a Master's in Sociology, can I still apply to your program?

Our program is designed for students seeking a PhD and students obtain their master's en route to the PhD.

Q. Is prior teaching experience an important factor in being accepted into the PhD program?

Prior teaching experience is not an important factor in being accepted. However, an interest in teaching is a prerequisite.

Program FAQs

Q. How long, on average, does it take for a student to complete the PhD program?

In general, our students take between 5-7 years to complete the program.

Q. Who can I contact to discuss my research interests in order to determine if the program is a good fit for me?

You can read through the faculty profiles on our website and contact any faculty members whose research areas interest you (email is the best way to get in touch). The following link will provide you with a list of faculty members in sociology: <https://www.colorado.edu/sociology/our-people/faculty>

Q. Does the department offer funding to students?

We offer most of our incoming students a Teaching Assistantship. You would be assisting a faculty member to teach a class, and in return get a semester stipend, tuition remission, and most of your health insurance covered. This funding is based upon departmental funds, and cannot be guaranteed for a specific time, however, we are usually able to fund our students through their 6th year. The department also offers various funding awards for research, travel and teaching.