



# University of Colorado **Boulder**

## Department of Sociology

### PhD in Sociology: Prospective Student FAQs

#### Application FAQs

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

The application must be submitted by the deadline to be considered. Due to processing time, your application will likely show as incomplete for up to three 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?**

Due to the large volume of materials that we receive, we cannot confirm that materials have been received. Please continue to monitor your checklist through your application portal, which will reflect materials that have been received as they are processed by the Office of Admissions. Due to processing time, your application will likely show as incomplete for up to a few weeks past the application deadline. This is normal and does not affect the consideration of your application.

**Q. One of my recommenders did not receive the email with a request for a recommendation. Can this request be re-sent?**

The application must be submitted for recommenders to receive the email request. Be sure to complete the application with this consideration in mind. If you have received confirmation that your application has been submitted and a recommender informs you that he or she did not receive a link to the recommendation form, email [gradadm@colorado.edu](mailto:gradadm@colorado.edu). In your email, be sure to include your first and last name, EmplID (located at the top of your application), the name of the recommender, and the recommender's email address. Or, you can have your letter of recommendation mailed in a signed and sealed envelope sent directly to:

Graduate Admissions  
University of Colorado Boulder  
3100 Marine Street, Suite A122  
553 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309-0553 USA

**Q. Do I need to have a master's degree or a degree in sociology 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. How competitive is admission to the Sociology PhD program?**

Admission to the program is quite competitive. On average we receive 150 applications each cycle and admit approximately 20 students.

**Q. Why am I required to submit unofficial transcripts from every college or university attended?**

We evaluate your application based on your entire academic record (undergraduate, graduate, nondegree, etc.)

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

Our PhD coursework is restricted only to students who have been accepted into the program; you cannot take courses without being admitted to the program.

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

We accept a maximum of 21 graduate-level credit hours from another college or university toward fulfillment of the requirements for 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. If I would like to earn a master's in Sociology, can I still apply to your program?**

We do not offer a "stand alone" master's degree, although you may receive a master's degree along the way to your PhD.

## 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 to determine if the program is a good fit for me?**

You can read through the faculty profiles on our website and contact 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:

<http://sociology.colorado.edu/people/faculty>

**Q. Does the department offer funding to students?**

We offer our incoming students a teaching assistantship. With a teaching assistantship, you would be assisting a faculty member to teach a class, and in return you would receive a semester stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance. This funding is based upon departmental funds and cannot be guaranteed for a specific time. The department also offers various funding awards for research, travel and teaching.