Western Michigan University’s Sociology (M.A., Ph.D.) programs provide an advanced understanding of the significant features and processes of human society through a focus on research and teaching.

Graduates are well qualified for careers in research, evaluation, education, government, private enterprise, community organizing, and the non-profit sector.

The Ph.D. includes a strong core curriculum of theory and methods. Electives, area examinations, and dissertations generally revolve around one or more of these designated areas of concentration:
- Comparative Sociology
- Criminology
- Gender and Feminism
- Power and Inequality
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Research Methods and Applied Sociology
- Sociology of Religion

The M.A. stresses both theory and method, while elective credits and a thesis develop substantive knowledge. A criminology concentration is available.

Our diverse and distinguished faculty are recognized nationally and internationally for outstanding contributions in their respective fields of study.

We take pride in establishing strong relationships between faculty and students. Low faculty-to-student ratios provide opportunities for intellectual and professional development.

Additional research, evaluation, travel and teaching endeavors are supported by an endowment administered through our Kercher Center for Social Research.
Sociology (M.A., Ph.D.)

**Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas**
Founded in 1945, the Department of Sociology has evolved and expanded to offer an array of coursework, research and practical application opportunities to Masters and Doctoral students. We emphasize strong faculty-student relationships as a means of cultivating informed, experienced and driven social scientists. Our award winning faculty have diverse interests and expertise which we are eager to share. Individual biographies can be accessed through the department web site: www.wmich.edu/sociology

**Admissions**
Applications are considered on an annual basis, with enrollment beginning each fall. Deadline for applications is January 15.

Prospective Ph.D. students must have a Master’s degree in sociology or closely related field and a GPA of 3.25 or better in graduate courses (GPA of 3.0 or better is required in undergraduate sociology courses). Applications include a personal statement, writing sample, GRE scores, transcripts, TOEFL scores (international applicants), and three letters of recommendation.

Prospective M.A. students must have 24 semester hours in undergraduate social science, with at least 15 semester hours in sociology (applicants without the requisite hours of undergraduate sociology may be required to make up deficiencies) and a GPA of 3.0 or better in those courses. Applications include a personal statement, writing sample, GRE scores, transcripts, TOEFL scores (international applicants), and three letters of recommendation.

For additional application information and materials visit the program website: www.wmich.edu/sociology

**Graduate Assistantships/Associateships**
Generous financial aid packages are available. Students may receive such support for two years at the M.A. level, and three years at the Ph.D. level. These packages provide a stipend, tuition scholarship, and various other fringe benefits in return for 20 hours per week assisting in departmental activities. Funding through several university programs is available as well. Additionally, the department’s endowment supports graduate student scholarship through research grants and conference travel funding.

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**Western Michigan University**
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

**Kalamazoo**
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.