Q&A Sociology Department MA Degree

What can I do with this degree?  What kind of jobs do people with this degree typically obtain?
Graduates of our programs have gone on to careers in an array of fields. According to the Sociology Department’s last two sociology “recent alumni” surveys, alumni reported working in the following areas: social services and agencies (24%); instruction and education-related work—particularly in local community colleges (17%); legal issues-related work (15%); organizations and labor-related jobs including labor organizing and human resources work (15%); counseling (12%); research firms (6%); and other discipline-related work such as NPOs (5%).

Will this master’s program prepare me for a Ph.D. program?
Yes, the Sociology MA Program provides a background that is rich in theoretical and research methodology that, among other things, helps prepare students for a PhD Program.

How do I apply to your graduate program?
You simply indicate “Sociology” as your intended program on your university application. We do not require anything in addition to what the university application requires of you.

Does your program require the GRE?  If so, is there a minimum score required?
No GRE is required for the Sociology MA Program.

How many recommendation letters does your degree program require?
The Sociology Program does NOT accept recommendation letters from applicants.

Whom should I get the recommendation letters from, professors or employers?
The Sociology Program does NOT accept recommendation letters from applicants.

Do you have any tips on how to write a personal statement?
The Sociology Program does NOT require a personal statement from applicants.

When do you accept students into your graduate program, in Fall or Spring or both?
The Sociology MA Program only allows Fall admissions.

What are the admission deadlines?
April 15 is the deadline for applying to the Sociology MA Program
You can find the University and Department Deadlines at this website: www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines

What is the cost to attend Graduate School?
You can find the cost of attendance at the Financial Aid website under “Cost of Attendance”: www.calstatela.edu/financialaid
**Does your department offer any GA or TA positions? If so, what is the eligibility requirement to apply for a GA or TA position?**
The Sociology Department offers University GA positions in our oversized classes. GA applicants must comply with university criteria for GA hires. In addition, GA positions in sociology classes require at least 1 semester of experience in the MA Program (although this can be waived under exceptional circumstances); we also require that the Sociology Graduate Program Director and Sociology Department Chair approve the applicant based on Program performance, CV, and reference letters.

After Advancement to Candidacy, a student with a GPA of 3.0 or above may become a TA for a particular professor/class by enrolling in SOC 5940. This is a teaching assistance practicum based in a mentor professor’s undergraduate class.

**Is this degree program co-horted?**
Yes, the 1st and 2nd semester required courses are largely serial, and therefore are taken at the same time by students entering the program in the same semester.

**How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enroll in 3 or 6 units per semester?**
This is a 30-unit program. It would take 10 semesters (5 years) if taking only 1 class at a time—if the culminating project is also completed in a timely manner. It would take 5 semesters (2 ½ years) to complete if taking only 2 courses at a time—if the culminating project is also completed in a timely manner.

**How long will it take me to complete the degree if I enrolled in 9 or 12 units per semester?**
Full time is considered 8-9 units and the program is set up to take 2 years including well-focused culminating project efforts by students. We recommend taking 9-11 units for each of the first three semesters (depending on culminating project requirements) and then concentrating on the culminating project and, perhaps, a final course in the final semester.

**Do you offer any Winter Intersessions classes or any classes during the Summer?**
No courses are offered for the MA Program during summer/winter, although it is often possible to do some supervision coursework in the summer/winter.

**When are your graduate classes typically offered during the day or at night?**
All Sociology MA Program courses meet once weekly from 6:00pm to 8:45pm.

**Whom can I contact in the department, if I have additional questions?**
The Graduate Program Director: Dr. Kristen Hourigan
Kristen.Hourigan@calstatela.edu

**Are there any additional resources or funding opportunities for graduate student at CSULA?**
The Sociology Department has a travel fund that offers partial reimbursement for students who are presenting their work as the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA). For resources and funding opportunities, please visit the Graduate Studies webpage at http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatestudies