

University of Kansas

Department of Sociology

MANUAL OF GRADUATE STUDY

Implemented Fall 2009

Revised Spring 2016

**Students entering prior to Fall 2015 may also need to refer to the previous Graduate Manual. Please see the Graduate Studies Director or Secretary for special questions.*

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MANUAL OF GRADUATE STUDY

I. ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The department offers a doctoral program in sociology and students are admitted with the expectation of earning the Ph.D. Please see **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for university level admission requirements. Admission to full graduate standing in the program requires at least 15 previous hours of sociology, including one course each in sociological theory and statistics. Applicants are also required to submit: Scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); three letters of reference from previous instructors; all transcripts from previous institutions, and a personal statement of interest.

Students who have earned a thesis-based Master's degree in sociology at a university other than the University of Kansas may be admitted to the program at the Ph.D. level if the Graduate Studies Committee concludes that they have done sufficient graduate-level coursework in sociology and if their Master's thesis meets the standards for such work at the University of Kansas. Students who enter the Ph.D. program with a Master's degree from another university must petition the Graduate Studies Committee if they wish to have any of the courses completed in that graduate program accepted in meeting our Ph.D. course requirements. Complete application instructions are on our webpage: <http://sociology.ku.edu/grad-admission>.

Dual-Title Sociology/Gerontology Degree: Students who have earned their Master's degree at the University of Kansas or elsewhere and are accepted into the sociology doctoral program may, after completing one semester of study in good standing, apply for admission to a dual-title sociology and gerontology degree program, discussed in Section III of this Manual.

International Applicants are required to meet the criteria and submit the materials stated above. Applicants who have studied in universities in other countries must submit a brief description of their major programs of study, their university's grading scale, and their rank relative to other students. International applicants must also submit scores on either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Academic Format of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) administered by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. The Department of Sociology requires applicants to score at least 550 on the TOEFL paper-based exam, 79 on the internet-based TOEFL exam, 213 on the computer-based TOELF exam, or a minimum overall score of 6.5 on the IELTS. Please see **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for university level English proficiency requirements.

II. STEPS TO THE PH.D DEGREE

Qualifying for a Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology requires that students complete a sequence of steps. Students must complete all required coursework, write and successfully defend an M.A. thesis, complete the requirements in two areas of specialization, write and defend a proposal for a Ph.D. dissertation, and successfully complete a doctoral dissertation.

STEP 1: THE M.A. DEGREE

A. Faculty Advising. Incoming graduate students will be assigned to an initial academic advisor selected by the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director serves as the general supervising advisor for all students. Students must choose a principal faculty advisor during their first semester of enrollment in the graduate program and inform the Graduate Director of their selection by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). For MA students, the Advisor should also be the Chair of their thesis committee. Each year in January students must develop a plan of study for the MA in consultation with their advisor. A statement of this plan, updated and revised as needed, must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee for review every year. The Graduate Student Plan of Study is available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course.

B. Course Enrollment. All pre-M.A. students must enroll in 9 credit hours of coursework per semester until they complete the M.A. requirements. This enables students to complete within four semesters the 36 hours of graduate credit required for the M.A. degree. During their first semester all students are required to take three graduate seminars, and those with GTA appointments are required to enroll in SOC 892 (Teaching Seminar). All new graduate students are required to participate in the Proseminar, a series of four to five meetings to acquaint them with the department and faculty. Pre-M.A. students are required to enroll in SOC 810 (Sociological Inquiry) in their second semester in the program and SOC 811 (Sociological Research) in their third semester in the program, and 6 thesis hours (SOC 899). In addition, pre-M.A. students are required to complete 8 additional Sociology graduate seminars, including SOC 812 and one additional graduate-level course in sociological methods, and one graduate-level course in sociological theory. Individual Master's Readings courses (Sociology 891) may not be used to meet these requirements except by approved petition. See **Section V. C. Petitions for Waivers of Rules & Requirements** for a comprehensive listing of course petition requirements and limitations. For a full list of the courses that satisfy the theory, methods, and seminar requirements may be found in **Appendix A**.

International students are required by immigration laws to be enrolled full-time unless they are in the final semester of the degree program. Full-time enrollment for international students holding student visas means that students must complete nine (9) hours each semester, unless in the final semester of the program.

C. Time Limits. Students must complete all requirements for the M.A. degree no more than four semesters from the time of their first semester of graduate enrollment. For example, if a student begins the program in Fall 2012, all requirements for M.A. degree must be completed by the end of the Spring 2014 semester. Students are required to meet the deadlines specified above if they wish to be considered for departmental financial support. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in dismissal from the graduate program.

D. Portfolio. From their first semester in the graduate program, students will start to prepare a professional portfolio of their graduate work. The portfolio should be a bookmarked PDF document so that it may be accessible to faculty for evaluation (see **Appendix B**). For pre-M.A. students, the portfolio must contain the following items: a table of contents, curriculum vitae, the syllabi and written work from all courses including research papers, examinations and annotated bibliographies, master's thesis proposal, master's thesis, and any conference papers, grant proposals or published works. The portfolio may also contain the following items if students and their committees find them helpful as evidence of students' command of a given field: syllabi of courses taught or proposed, book reviews, open pieces, and web-site designs. Portfolios must be submitted each January to student's advisor and the Graduate Secretary.

E. M.A. Thesis. Besides completing the required coursework, students must prepare and defend an M.A. thesis. The purpose of the M.A. thesis is to train students in writing, conceptualization and research. Defense of the thesis includes a general examination on relevant themes of sociological theory and research. The student's chosen Advisor is chair of the M.A. advisory committee, which must include a total three graduate faculty members, including at least two from this Department. Students must secure the agreement of each faculty member to serve on the committee and notify the Director of Graduate Studies of the composition of the committee by completing the Advisor/ Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course) during their first year of enrollment. Students must then develop, in consultation with the committee, a proposal for the M.A. thesis. This proposal must be approved by the committee, and this approval must be formally recorded.

Students must then complete the thesis to the satisfaction of the committee and pass an oral defense of the thesis and a general examination on the major subject. The oral defense and the general examination take place on the same occasion. The general examination is a requirement of the Graduate School, and permission to schedule the examination must be received from the Graduate School before the examination is given.

The Department of Sociology requires the thesis draft to be submitted to the committee no less than thirty days prior to the anticipated defense date. This requires students to schedule the defense date *prior* to circulating the approved draft to the committee members, upon approval of the chair of the committee, to ensure that the committee has the requisite 30 days for reading and feedback. The last date to defend allowed by the Department will be one week prior to the University's graduation deadline for the given term. Defenses are not normally approved to take place outside of Fall and Spring semesters.

No student can attempt a thesis defense and a general M.A. examination more than twice; a second failure on the defense and examination requires that the M.A. committee chair report this fact to the Graduate Studies Committee to deliberate on the possible dismissal of the student from the program.

After the thesis has been approved by the M.A. committee and the defense has been completed successfully, students must meet the University's graduation requirements, see **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements**. Students must also submit a paper copy to their Advisor and one bound copy to the department of the thesis with the original signatures of the advisor and the two committee members on the title page within one semester of graduation. The department's copy must be bound in spiral or book binding style. Completion of these requirements leads to the M.A. degree, which normally allows the student to proceed to doctoral study.

F. Non-Thesis Terminal M.A. Students who do not wish to continue on to the Ph.D. and who do not complete an M.A. thesis may be awarded a terminal M.A. if they fulfill the following requirements within four semesters of first enrollment in the graduate program: completion of 36 hours of graduate coursework not including thesis hours but including SOC 810 (Sociological Inquiry), SOC 811 (Sociological Research), and 10 additional Sociology graduate seminars, including SOC 812 and one additional graduate-level course in sociological methods, and one graduate-level course in sociological theory. Individual Master's Readings courses (Sociology 891) may not be used to meet these requirements except by approved petition. See **Section V. C. Petitions for Waivers of Rules & Requirements** for a comprehensive listing of course petition requirements and limitations. A list of the courses which satisfy the theory, methods, and seminar requirements may be found in **Appendix A**.

Non-thesis students must also pass a final oral examination over their coursework. To prepare and defend a non-thesis M.A., students must set up an advisory committee and designate a committee chair. Students must secure the agreement of each committee member and must notify the Director of Graduate Studies of the composition of the M.A. committee by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). The student's advisor serves as chair of the examining committee and selects two additional faculty members to serve on the committee. The oral exam must be scheduled at least 30 days in advance. The oral examination may be taken twice; a second failure on the oral examination requires that the M.A. committee chair report this fact to the Graduate Studies Committee to deliberate on the possible dismissal of the student from the program.

STEP 2: TOWARDS THE PH.D DEGREE

A. Admission to the Ph.D. Level. Students who have received an M.A. degree and completed a thesis from the Department of Sociology may pursue the Ph.D. degree by obtaining unanimous approval from members of their MA committee for advancement into the Ph.D. level of the program. After the thesis defense, each committee member will complete and submit to the Director of Graduate Studies a recommendation for advancement to the Ph.D. level of program. In addition, students who have completed the MA and wish to continue to the Ph.D. level of the program must submit a 2-3 page letter of interest to the Director of Graduate Studies and a copy of their completed thesis. Students who have earned a thesis-based Master's degree in sociology at another university may be admitted to the graduate program at the Ph.D. level if they completed a thesis which, according to the Graduate Studies Committee, meets the standards for such work at the University of Kansas.

After completing one semester in good standing in the sociology doctoral program, students are eligible to apply for the dual-title sociology-gerontology Ph.D. program. Further details are in **Section III** of this Manual.

B. Student Advising for the Ph.D. Degree. Newly admitted students will be advised during their first semester of enrollment by an initial academic advisor selected by the Director of Graduate Studies but must choose a principal faculty advisor by the end of their first semester in the program and inform the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of their selection by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). Continuing students will be advised by the faculty member previously selected to serve as their principal academic advisor. The Graduate Director serves as the general supervising advisor for all students. Each year, students must develop a plan of study for the Ph.D. in consultation with their advisor. A statement of this plan, and any subsequent significant revisions, must be submitted to the Graduate Studies

Committee for review every January by completing and updating the Graduate Student Plan of Study, available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course. Within one month of the completion of the Oral Comprehensive Exam and dissertation proposal defense, the student must work with his/her advisor to complete the Dissertation Mentoring Agreement, establishing the timeline for completion of the dissertation, and outline expectations for both the student and advisor as to turnaround time on feedback, frequency of meetings, nature and extent of comments/suggestions for revision, etc. The Dissertation Mentoring Agreement should be submitted to the graduate secretary. It must be revisited and revised annually, and submitted along with the Plan of Study.

C. Course Enrollment. All Ph.D. students are required to enroll in 9 credit hours of coursework per semester for the first four semesters of enrollment in the program. During their first semester all students are required to take three graduate seminars, and those with GTA appointments are required to enroll in SOC 892 (Teaching Seminar). All new graduate students must participate in the Proseminar to become acquainted with the department and faculty. After completing the oral comprehensive examination and defense of the dissertation proposal, students are required to adhere to the University's Post-Comprehensive Enrollment Policy. See **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements**.

D. Course Requirements. Ph.D. students are required to complete 14 graduate seminars in Sociology, including three graduate-level theory courses and three graduate-level research methods courses. For those who completed the thesis-option M.A. in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas, the graduate-level theory, methods, and sociology seminars taken while earning the M.A. count toward meeting these requirements. Students who do not complete Sociology 812 (Analytical Methods) at the Master's level are required to do so at the Ph.D. level. Individual Doctoral Readings courses (Sociology 991) may not be used to meet these requirements except by approved petition. A list of the courses which satisfy these requirements may be found in **Appendix A**. With a letter of support from their faculty advisor, students may petition the Director of Graduate Studies to have one or more of these requirements waived.

Students who earned their M.A. degree at a university other than the University of Kansas must petition to get credit for graduate course work previously completed. The petition form, available from the Graduate Secretary, must be accompanied by the syllabus from the graduate seminar the student wishes to receive credit for, their grade in the seminar and, when possible, the final work product (e.g., written essays, exams, research papers) from the seminar.

Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill all theory and methods requirements through sociology courses, though exceptions may be made through petition in some cases. (See **Section V. C. Petitions for Waivers of Rules & Requirements** for a comprehensive listing of course petition requirements and limitations.)

E. Time Limits. All course requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed with the first 5 semesters of enrollment at the Ph.D. level, after completion of the MA. In addition, students are required to demonstrate command of their first area of specialization within three semesters of first enrollment at the Ph.D. level (**i.e. Enter FA15, due by end of FA16**), and of a second area within five semesters of first enrollment at the Ph.D. level (**i.e. by end of Fall 2017**). After having demonstrated command of a second area, students have one semester to complete a comprehensive oral examination and defend a dissertation proposal. Students are required to meet the deadlines specified above if they wish to be

considered for departmental financial support. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in dismissal from the graduate program.

The Sociology Department's *recommended* time to complete the Ph.D. is 7 years for students who complete both the MA and Ph.D., or 5 years for students who earned the MA elsewhere.

See **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for university time limits.

F. Portfolio. From their first semester in the graduate program, doctoral students will prepare a professional portfolio of their graduate work. The portfolio should be a bookmarked PDF document so that it may be accessible to faculty for evaluation (see **Appendix B**). For students at the Ph.D. level, the professional portfolio must contain the following items: a table of contents, a curriculum vitae, master's thesis, the syllabi and written work from all courses including research papers, take-home examinations and annotated bibliographies, master's thesis, Area Specialization Dossiers (ASDs), dissertation proposal, and any published works, conference papers and grant proposals. It may contain the following items if students and their committees find them helpful as evidence of a student's preparation: syllabi of courses taught or proposed, book reviews, op-ed pieces, and web-site designs. The professional portfolio must be submitted to the student's advisor and the Graduate Secretary each year. Post-Oral Comp students must submit one final professional portfolio including the dissertation proposal.

G. Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship (RSRS) Requirement. This requirement is satisfied by the completion of three methodology courses, including SOC 812. For pre-MA students, SOC 810 and 811 are also required. A list of the courses which satisfy the methods requirement is available in **Appendix A**. Additional information about the RSRS requirement can be found in the Graduate School section of the Academic Catalog.

H. Areas of Specialization. Students demonstrate their command of two areas of specialization in sociology and their preparation to undertake dissertation research by creating artifacts to be part of their professional portfolios. Two sections of the professional portfolio are designated as Area Specialization Dossiers (ASDs) and devoted to materials that demonstrate mastery in the students' specialty areas. During their first semester at the Ph.D. level, students must select a chair and establish a committee for their first ASD. After securing the agreement of each person to serve on the committee, the student must notify the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of the composition of the committee by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). Committee membership may not change after the ASD has been submitted for formal review. The committee must be comprised of three members of the graduate faculty, at least two of whom are from the Department of Sociology. By the end of their first semester at the Ph.D. level, students must submit to the Director of Graduate Studies a one-paragraph statement signed by the student and all committee members outlining the field to be covered. The first ASD must be completed before the end of their third semester at the Ph.D. level.

Within one semester of completion of the first ASD, students should establish a committee and designate a chair for their second ASD, securing the agreement of each person to serve on the committee and notifying the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of the composition of the committee by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). Committee membership may not change after the ASD has been submitted for formal review. The committee must be comprised of three members of the graduate faculty, at least two of whom are from the Department of Sociology. Within one month of forming the committee,

students must submit to the Director of Graduate Studies a one-paragraph statement signed by the student and all committee members outlining the field to be covered. The second ASD must be completed before the end of the fifth semester at the Ph.D. level.

Students will demonstrate their competency in their chosen areas by receiving a satisfactory grade (B or higher) in a minimum of two courses in each area and placing materials from those courses in their ASD. At least one of the two ASDs will include a ***Critical Review Essay (CRE)*** (see below). An ASD will be a part of the student's professional portfolio. Materials in the ASD may include conference papers/presentations, exams/essays/research papers written or published, original course syllabi, completed research proposals, or papers submitted to a journal for review. ASDs are to be electronic documents formatted as a bookmarked PDF file. All committee members will review the ASD and indicate whether it shows evidence of competency in its field of sociology. If the committee deems all or sections of the ASD to be "unsatisfactory" the student is allowed one opportunity for revision; a second failure requires that the student's advisory committee report this fact to the Graduate Studies Committee for consideration for dismissal from the program. A list of courses which satisfy requirements for substantive areas is available from the Graduate Secretary.

At least one ASD must include a ***Critical Review Essay*** that is no longer than 10,000 words (40 pages) in length, excluding the bibliography and cover page with committee members signatures. The CRE is a broad assessment of the area, starting with a conceptual mapping of the area that includes its foundational literature, theories, and relevant work produced in the past 10 years. This essay might also highlight the student's specific interest in the area, especially pertaining to their dissertation. Students may refer to the *Annual Review of Sociology* for examples of the style and content of a critical review essay. Another example of the CRE can be found in the ASD of a graduate student in our department [on file with the Graduate Secretary]. CREs should be completed, approved and placed in the relevant ASD before the entire ASD is reviewed. CREs must be submitted to committees for review no later than 30 days prior to the ASD submission deadline in any semester. Faculty committees, through the chair, should provide a decision/feedback on the CRE within 3 weeks of its submission. Students will have one week to make the revisions prior to submission of both the CRE and ASD for final review.

Area Specialization Dossiers are due no later than 30 days before Stop Day on any semester. If a student submits it to the committee later than that date, they cannot expect feedback until four weeks into the next semester counting from the first day of classes. Likewise, faculty committees, through the chair, should be expected to provide a decision/feedback on the ASD within 30 days of submission. Chairs of committees are responsible for organizing and soliciting feedback from other members of the committee and reporting the results to the student and the Director of Graduate Studies/Graduate Secretary. All feedback from committee members should be directed to the committee Chair, and committee members should reach an agreement about the outcome of the ASD before any information is relayed to the student. The Chair will then inform the student of the committee's decision and give appropriate feedback. The Chair will also relay the results to the Graduate Director and/or Graduate Secretary as appropriate. If the committee does not find the ASD acceptable, the student must address its deficiencies and resubmit the ASD within 30 days.

I. Comprehensive Oral Examination and Defense of Dissertation Proposal. Within one semester of having satisfied the requirements pertaining to the second ASD, students must complete a comprehensive oral examination and defend a dissertation proposal. The comprehensive oral examination (which covers students' two areas of specialization) and the defense of the dissertation

proposal take place within the same examination period. The focus of the examination and defense will be on the feasibility and quality of the proposed research as well as the student's two areas of specialization. To prepare for the examination and defense, students must establish a comprehensive oral exam committee and designate a committee chair. The committee must consist of at least five members, at least four of whom are members of the Sociology Department. Committee membership is expected to be the same as the final dissertation committee. See **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements** for university policy on committee membership. Students must secure the agreement of each person to serve on the committee and notify the Director of Graduate Studies in writing of the composition of the comprehensive oral examination committee by completing the Advisor/Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). After the Comprehensive Oral Examination is completed, committee membership can be changed only by written appeal to the Director of Graduate Studies or the Chair of the Department of Sociology. Such change in dissertation committee membership cannot be altered less than one month before the scheduled date of the final dissertation defense.

Committee members must be allowed at least 30 days prior to the defense date to read the proposal draft and provide feedback. This requires students to schedule the defense date *prior* to circulating the approved draft to the committee members, upon approval of the chair of the committee, to ensure that the committee has the requisite 30 days for reading and feedback. Oral Comprehensive exams may be scheduled during finals week, but are not normally approved to take place outside of Fall and Spring semesters. Upon passing the comprehensive oral examination and the defense of the dissertation proposal, the student becomes a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. The examination may be taken twice; a second failure on the examination requires that the committee chair report this fact to the Graduate Studies Committee to deliberate on the possible dismissal of the student from the program.

To be eligible for a new or continuing GTA appointment, students must meet all deadlines that are specified herein for completing theses, submitting ASDs, and defending dissertation proposals. In addition, students must remove all "Incompletes" in the time period specified (See Section III:C).

J. Dissertation. The candidate must present a dissertation that demonstrates the development, execution, and results of original research. The doctoral dissertation is a coherent, logically organized, scholarly document. Material previously published by the candidate may be incorporated in the dissertation. See the Graduate School Catalog for a full description of the principles that underlie the dissertation. Instructions regarding the proper form of the dissertation, besides those in this document, may be obtained from the Graduate School. Completion of the dissertation is the final phase of a doctoral program and is followed by the final oral examination and defense of the dissertation. Upon satisfactory completion of the final oral examination and approval of the dissertation by the dissertation advisory committee, the student proceeds with the submission of the dissertation to the Graduate School.

K. Final Oral Examination. When the student and the members of the dissertation advisory committee believe that the dissertation is in final form (i.e., ready for defense) and all other degree requirements have been satisfied, the student and chair of the dissertation committee should schedule the final oral examination and take any steps required to assure the appointment of a committee for the final oral examination by the Graduate School. Committee membership is expected to be the same as the Comprehensive Oral Examination committee. Committee membership can be changed only by written appeal to the Director of Graduate Studies or the Chair of the Department of Sociology. Such change in dissertation committee membership cannot be altered less than one month before the scheduled date of the final dissertation defense.

Committee members must be allowed at least 30 days prior to the defense date to read the dissertation draft and provide feedback. This requires students to schedule the defense date *prior* to circulating the approved draft to the committee members, upon approval of the chair of the committee, to ensure that the committee has the requisite 30 days for reading and feedback. The last date to defend allowed by the Department will be one week prior to the University's graduation deadline for the given term. Defenses are not normally approved to take place outside of Fall and Spring semesters. The Graduate School requires that the announcement of the final oral examination be published in University and community news media. Interested members of the University community are encouraged to attend. The department will report the outcome of the final examination to the Graduate School. If a grade of "Unsatisfactory" is reported, the candidate may be allowed to repeat the examination a second time. Failure on the second attempt at the final oral examination will result in the termination of the student from the graduate program.

An application for degree should be submitted online to the at least three months prior to the granting of the degree and usually during the enrollment for the session in which requirements for the degree are to be completed.

L. Final Submission of the Dissertation. When the final oral examination has been passed and the dissertation cover sheet has been signed by the members of the dissertation committee, the student must meet the University's requirements for graduation. See **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements**. A paper copy of the signed dissertation must be bound and be given to the Director of Graduate Studies for deposit in the Sociology Department within one semester of graduation. The department's copy must be bound in cloth with the title and author's name on the front cover. The year, title and last name of author should be on the spine. Some students also prepare a bound copy for the dissertation advisor, but this is not required.

III. The Sociology & Gerontology Dual Title Degree Program

The Sociology & Gerontology dual-title degree program is an option available to students who have completed the Master's degree, been accepted and enrolled in the doctoral program in the Department of Sociology, and completed a minimum of one semester of course work in good academic standing. This option is designed to appeal to students who are strong in Sociology but also motivated to study across disciplinary lines. The dual-title degree program allows students to pursue a single degree that incorporates study in a traditional discipline and training in an interdisciplinary field. Upon the successful completion of the Ph.D. requirements of both areas, the student is awarded a single degree (Ph.D.) with both titles identified on the diploma ("Ph.D. in Sociology & Gerontology"). At the post-doctoral stage, dual-title degree graduates will have enhanced career and employment opportunities, as they are able to claim expertise in one or both titles of their degree when seeking positions in education and research.

A. Admission to the Dual-Title Program. Students interested in the dual-title program must first be admitted to the Sociology doctoral program. After completing at least one semester in good academic standing, the student is eligible to apply for the Sociology & Gerontology dual-title degree program. The application process is an internal procedure. The student will write a letter requesting admission to the program that outlines their previous studies, academic interests, and proposed plan of study. The letter will be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committees of Sociology and Gerontology, and both must accept the candidate for admission into the program. The graduate studies secretary in Sociology will

process a “Change in Plan” PtD Form to move the student from Sociology to the dual-title program. The signed plan of study should be attached to the “Change in Plan” PtD Form and submitted to the College.

B. Faculty Advising. To ensure integration of the fields in regard to coursework, examinations, and dissertation, the student’s principal faculty advisor must be a faculty member in both fields; or, if this is not possible, the student must have co-advisors from each of the two fields. Students should confer with their advisor(s) each year in developing a plan of study for their degree. This plan of study must be submitted to the Sociology Graduate Studies Committee for review every January. The plan of study form is available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course.

C. Course Enrollment. Dual-title degree doctoral students are required to enroll in at least 9 credit hours per semester for at least the first four semesters of enrollment in the program. After completing the oral comprehensive examination and defense of the dissertation proposal, students are required to adhere to the University’s Post-Comprehensive Enrollment Policy. See **Section VII: University Policies and Degree Requirements**.

D. Course Requirements. Students pursuing the dual-title degree must complete the required coursework for the doctorate in Sociology and the required coursework for the doctorate in Gerontology. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire a thorough understanding of the requirements in both programs. Many theory, methods, and content courses for each side of the pairing can jointly fulfill requirements for both programs in the dual-title degree. Nonetheless, the dual-title student may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements in both programs.

Course requirements for doctoral study in Sociology and in Gerontology are described in detail in each program’s respective graduate student handbooks. For your convenience, the combined course requirements for both fields require 45 credit hours (excluding dissertation hours), as listed below:

- Gerontology Proseminar (3 hours)
- Sociological Theory Seminars (9 hours)
- Research Methods (12 hours; 6 hours must be in advanced statistics, including SOC 812).
- Other Seminars (21 hours; at least 6 of these hours must be in core courses in Gerontology selected from the following areas: biology of aging, psychology of aging, social gerontology; at least 9 hours must be Sociology Department graduate seminars).

For students who completed the thesis-option M.A. in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas, the graduate level theory, methods, and sociology seminars taken while earning the M.A. count toward meeting these requirements. Students who earned their M.A. degree at a university other than the University of Kansas must petition to get credit for graduate course work previously completed (See page 8, second D of this Manual).

E. Time Limits. (See **page 8**, Section E of this Manual). Students pursuing the dual-title degree may be given, if necessary, an extra semester for completing the stated requirements.

F. Portfolio. (See **page 9**, Section F of this Manual).

G. Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship. (See **page 9**, Section G of this Manual)

H. Areas of Specialization Dossier (ASD). (See **page 9**, Section H of this Manual). One of the two area specialization dossiers for students in the dual-title program will be Life Course & Aging. The program requires a written preliminary examination, which should be included with other work the student has completed in field and placed in the ASD section of the Portfolio. Students should carefully read the Student Handbook available in the Gerontology program to become familiar with the written exam procedure. The second ASD must be completed before the end of the second semester following the completion of the first ASD. The second ASD may or may not include a critical review essay, at the discretion of the student's committee. (See **page 10** of this Manual for further explanation and a description of critical review essays).

I. Comprehensive Oral Examination and Defense of Dissertation Proposal. Within one semester of having satisfied the requirements pertaining to the second ASD, students must complete a comprehensive oral examination and defend a dissertation proposal. The comprehensive oral examination will cover both of the student's areas of specialization and a dissertation proposal defense. The focus of the examination and defense will be on the feasibility and quality of the proposed research as well as the student's two areas of specialization. To prepare for the examination and defense, students must establish a comprehensive oral exam committee that includes two faculty members from the Sociology Department, two faculty members from Gerontology, and one outside member affiliated with neither program. From additional information, students are referred to the Gerontology program's graduate studies manual and **page 10** of this Manual.

J. Dissertation. The candidate must present a dissertation that demonstrates the development, execution, and results of original research. The doctoral dissertation is a coherent, logically organized, scholarly document. From further information about the dissertation, please see the Gerontology program graduate manual, **page 11** of the current manual, and the Graduate School catalog for a full description of the principles that underlie the dissertation.

K. Final Oral Examination. (See **page 11**, Section K of this Manual)

L. Final Submission of the Dissertation. (See **page 12**, Section L of this Manual).

IV. RULES COVERING PROGRESS AND DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A. Academic Probation. Students are required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to remain in the program. Once their cumulative grade point averages fall below 3.0, the student will automatically be placed on Academic Probation. Students are allowed one semester on probationary status. If the cumulative grade point average has not risen to 3.0 at that point, students may be dismissed from the program.

B. Dismissal from the Graduate Program. Students can be dismissed from the Graduate School upon recommendation of the department. Academic dismissal should occur before a given semester; however, if a student is dismissed during the semester, said dismissal will be effective only at the end of the semester in which notification of dismissal is given by the department. The Graduate School will also notify the student of dismissal. Failure to meet the time limits for completing the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees described above (Section II, Paragraph H and Section III, Paragraph J) is cause for dismissal from the graduate program.

C. Incompletes. Receiving a grade of “Incomplete” in a course may be regarded as an indication of inadequate progress in the program. Students should not take an incomplete grade unless it is absolutely unavoidable (i.e. due to serious illness, accident, etc.). Students have one semester to remove an incomplete grade. Failure to remove an incomplete grade will disqualify students for departmental financial support and may result in dismissal from the graduate program.

D. Departmental Financial Support. It is the goal of the department to support as many graduate students as possible during their graduate studies. In order to come as close as possible to this ideal, it is often necessary to limit the amount of support provided any one student. One of the primary ways that the department supports graduate students is through their appointments as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). In selecting students for positions as GTAs, departmental need shall be the first consideration. In addition, the following criteria will also be considered with no particular priority: the student's record as a teacher, progress in the program, record as a student, evidence of seeking support outside the department, and extent of past support provided by the university. Students must meet the time limits for completing the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees as described above (Section II, Step One, Paragraph C and Section II, Step Two, Paragraph D) to qualify for financial support. Most GTA appointments are for one academic year. Students indicate their interest in obtaining and/or continuing funding each year in the Plan of Study, and each year all students who apply for funding are evaluated by the Graduate Studies Committee. Students entering the program at the M.A. level may be permitted up to five years of half-time Graduate Teaching Assistantship funding from the department. All half-time (.50) GTAs appointed in the Department of Sociology are required to enroll in Sociology 892, Teaching Seminar, for four consecutive semesters beginning with the first semester in which they holding a GTA appointment. Additional enrollment is optional. Credit hours earned in Sociology 892 do not count toward a graduate degree in sociology.

V. ADVISING, PETITIONS, AND ANNUAL REVIEW

A. Faculty Advisor. On admission, students will be advised by an initial academic advisor, appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, in regard to such matters as course enrollment, committee formation, preparation of the portfolio, and the annual review. By the end of the first semester in the graduate program, students are required to choose a faculty advisor and inform the Graduate Director of their selection by completing the Advisor/ Committee Agreement Form (available on [Blackboard](#) in the Sociology Graduate Students course). Any change of advisors must also be noted in this fashion. Students should confer regularly with their faculty advisor regarding their progress in the program. Students are required to record the name and obtain a signature of their faculty advisor on their annual plan of study which is included in their departmental files. The Graduate Director serves as the general supervising advisor for all students.

B. Annual Review. With the advice of their advisors, all students shall submit a plan of study early in January of each year. Students must also submit their professional portfolio each year. Post-Oral Comp students must submit one final professional portfolio including the dissertation proposal. Post-Oral Comp students must also submit the Dissertation Mentoring Agreement, initially within one month after the Oral Comp Exam, then annually along with the plan of study. After review, the Graduate Studies Committee will keep on file these materials for use in regular reviews and evaluation for financial support, GTA appointments, and awards. The plan of study outlines the timing, means of preparation, and mode of meeting departmental requirements and other goals of the student. Master's students in their second year of the program are also required to submit a draft of their Master's thesis with their portfolios for review. The Dissertation Mentoring Agreement establishes the timeline for completion of

the dissertation, and outlines expectations for both the student and advisor as to turnaround time on feedback, frequency of meetings, the nature and extent of comments/suggestions for revision, etc. The purpose of the annual review is to ensure prompt consideration of the student's goals in graduate study, frequent consultation with the advisor and committee, effective use of the student's time in the program, and sound professional training.

C. Petitions for Waiver of Rules and Requirements. Exceptions to the rules and requirements of the graduate program may be granted for sufficient reason by the Graduate Studies Committee. Students must petition to waive the rules and requirements stated in this manual, and the petition must be accompanied by written assessment(s) from the student's faculty advisor and, where relevant, the approval of the members of their ASD, Master's or dissertation committees. This is to ensure careful consideration of the merits of the proposed change by those working most closely with the student involved.

Petitions based on medical justifications are required to have supporting documentation from a health care professional. This statement can be as simple as a letter from the student's doctor's office stating that he/she is 'being treated', or 'under doctor's care'. The statement **MUST NOT** include specifics of the condition that the student is being treated for.

Requests for time limit extensions with expected defense or exam dates outside of Spring or Fall semesters will not be considered unless a firm exam or defense date has been set and agreed to by all committee members during the prior Spring / Fall term.

Students may petition to have up to two courses waived for Individual Master's Readings (891) or Individual Doctoral Readings (991). Reading hour petitions must include the following materials:

- A syllabus, that includes a full reading list/bibliography to be covered, a description of what the course is about, and the specific goals and outcomes of the class.
- A schedule of regular meeting with the instructor.
- A plan for regular assignments to be turned in to the instructor that demonstrates the student's mastery and understanding of the reading materials, such as annotated bibliography/summary of the readings, and/or series of essay assignments covering the readings.
- A final written product for the class in the form of a term paper or equivalent.

Ph.D. students who have completed a Master's degree at an outside institution are permitted to waive up to 1 Methods course, 1 Theory course, and 2 Substantive Seminar course requirements. A syllabus and final paper or other major work product are required.

Students may not petition to have a course listed as Substantive Seminar, per **Appendix A** of the Graduate Manual, to count as a theory or methods requirement.

A majority vote of the Graduate Studies Committee is required to grant the petitioned exception. Students at all times may request from the Director of Graduate Studies clarification and elaboration of rules, requirements, and recommendations.

VI. POLICIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Only currently enrolled students will have access to University resources in the Department of Sociology. The resources may include: desk, office space, and mailboxes. Students who are not currently enrolled (including those on official leave) or enrolled students who are not in-residence must return all departmental keys and promptly remove all personal and professional effects from departmental space.

Appendix A: Theory, Methods, and Seminars Meeting Course Requirements

Sociological Theory

Sociology 802 Modern Social Theory
Sociology 803 Issues in Contemporary Theory
Sociology 804 Sociology of Knowledge
Sociology 808 Feminist Theories
Sociology 900 Seminar on Special Topics in Theory

Sociological Methods

Sociology 812 Analytic Methods
Sociology 910 Seminar in Special Topics in Methods (courses regularly taught under this number include Feminist Research Methods, Historical Sociology, and Qualitative Methods)

Graduate Seminars

Sociology 722 Sociology of Gender
Sociology 760 Social Inequality
Sociology 767 Gerontology Proseminar
Sociology 780 Advanced Topics (courses regularly taught under this number include Cultural Sociology; Globalization; Gender, Family, and Life Course; Civil Society and the State; Sociology of Religion; and Issues in the Sociology of Development)
Sociology 820 Political Sociology
Sociology 824 Health and Social Behavior
Sociology 875 The Political Economy of Globalization
Sociology 920 Social Organizations
Sociology 930 Comparative Studies
Sociology 970 Social Conflict and Change
Sociology 980 Special Topics (See 780 above)

Appendix B: The Professional Portfolio

From their first semester in the graduate program, students are expected to prepare a professional portfolio of their graduate experience and work. This portfolio is to be submitted on the first day of the spring term in January. (Post-Oral Comp students must submit one final professional portfolio including the dissertation proposal.) The Professional Portfolio should be seen as an on-going systematic collection of selected work that can demonstrate achievement and development. It is frequently expanded, revised, and updated. For example, an incorporated seminar paper that is later revised should be updated in the portfolio. Likewise, portfolio statements should be reconsidered and re-written in light of continued study and intellectual development. The faculty will conduct annual reviews of portfolios in the spring and thus students should ensure that all materials included are up-to-date and reflect the student's current progress. Finally, the portfolio should be an electronic document in a single bookmarked PDF file so it is accessible to faculty for evaluation.

The Professional Portfolio must contain the following items:

- table of contents
- curriculum vitae
- a portfolio statement explaining why the items selected have been included in the portfolio, how they relate to fields of interest, how those fields might be integrated and related to one another and what are understood to be the leading research issues in the major fields
- syllabi & written work from all courses including research papers, take-home examinations, master's thesis proposal, etc.
- master's thesis
- area specialization dossiers (ASD) for two areas, at least one containing a critical review essay (CRE), (if applicable)
- dissertation proposal
- published works, if applicable
- conference papers, if applicable
- grant proposals, if applicable

The Portfolio may also contain the following work products if the student and their committees find them helpful as evidence of student's preparation:

- Powerpoint presentations (converted to PDF form)
- description of professional websites designed
- syllabi created for courses taught or proposed
- annotated bibliographies
- public sociology activities such as op-ed pieces, work done for community organizations, and the like.

Once completed, please convert your portfolio to an electronic bookmarked PDF & email it to your advisor and the Graduate Secretary.

VII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This section is written and provided by the KU College Office of Graduate Affairs for inclusion in departmental graduate manuals. (<http://clas.drupal.ku.edu/coga/department/toolkit>)

This section contains information on requirements and policies of the Office of Graduate Studies and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, both hereafter referred to as “the University”. It is not a complete list of all policies pertaining to graduate students. Only those policies that *most commonly* affect graduate students are included.

Policies are described in general terms and are intended to help students understand what is expected. They do not reflect the exact language of the official policy and should not be confused with official policy. Specific information and restrictions as well as links to relevant forms may be accessed by clicking on the policy headings. Links to the official policies in the KU policy library are found at the bottom of each policy description. Students are accountable to and should familiarize themselves with the University's official policies.

GENERAL POLICIES

The following University policies apply to ALL graduate students regardless of degree, program, or department. These are minimum general requirements. Your department or program may have more restrictive policies in any of these areas.

Admission

Degree or non-degree seeking applicants must have a bachelor's degree (as evidence by an official transcript from the institution the degree was obtained) and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the most recent degree that was obtained.

Students not meeting these requirements *may* be admitted provisionally upon recommendation by the department; however, restrictions on certain types of funding, including GTA/GRA/GA funding, apply to students on provisional admission status. Students should consult the program admissions advisor or Director of Graduate Study (DGS) on their eligibility for funding with admission.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Admission to Graduate Study](#)

English Proficiency Requirements

The University requires applicants, international or domestic, whose native language is not English to demonstrate English proficiency for admission to any graduate program at KU. There are two ways to prove English proficiency:

- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education, or from such an institution in an English-speaking country where the medium of instruction is English. This first option is not sufficient, however, to be appointed as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.
- Submitting results of the TOEFL iBT examination taken no more than two years prior to the semester of admission. A score of at least 20 in each part is required for regular admission. A score of 22 on the speak section is required to receive a Teaching Assistantship.

Applicants that do not meet the minimum scores should review the English Proficiency Chart, provided via the link above, for information about provisional admission.

Applicants should submit their scores directly to the Office of Graduate Studies:

Office of Graduate Studies
213 Strong Hall
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence KS 66045-7535

Related Policies and Forms:

- [English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study](#)
- [Spoken English Language Competency of Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants, Kansas Board of Regents Policy](#)

GRADING

Grade Point Average

To be in good standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average and be making satisfactory progress toward the degree, as determined by the department or program.

If the grade-point average falls below 3.0, the student is placed on probation by the graduate division of the school/college. The grades of P, S, U, and I, for which no numerical equivalents are defined, are excluded from the computation. If the student's overall graduate average has been raised to 3.0 by the end of the next semester of enrollment after being placed on probation, the student may be returned to good academic standing. If not, the student is not permitted to re-enroll and will be dismissed unless the graduate division of the school/college acts favorably on a departmental recommendation for the student to continue study.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Academic Probation](#)

Transfer of Credits

The transfer credit option allows master's students to count graduate-level coursework completed at another institution toward their KU degree. Restrictions apply to what non-KU graduate courses can be counted toward a KU master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below, as well as consulting with their DGS. In all cases, transfer credit must first be approved at the department of program level. To begin the transfer process, students should consult with their DGS to submit the required transfer materials. These include a transcript reflecting the courses to be transferred and descriptions and/or syllabi for the courses in question.

No transfer of credits is allowed for the Ph.D. In circumstances where students enter the Ph.D. program with an M.A. from another institution or relevant graduate coursework, it may be possible for students to request a reduction in the number of hours required for the Ph.D.. Students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Graduate Credit](#)
- [Count Toward Degree Form](#)
- [Co-enrollment](#)
- [MA and MS Degrees](#) (on Reduced Hour Master's Degree)

P (Pass) and S (Satisfactory) Grades

The letter P is used only to indicate participation in thesis, dissertation, and research enrollments (related to thesis or dissertation), and in the first semester enrollment of a two-semester sequence course. In any semester, an instructor may, at his or her option, assign a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F when evidence about performance is available. Upon completion of thesis/dissertation or research hours leading to a master's or doctoral degree, the P remains on the final transcript except for the last semester of enrollment. A letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) is assigned in the last semester of enrollment to characterize the quality of the final product. The I grade is not appropriate for enrollment in thesis, dissertation, or research, and is not accepted.

The grades of S and U may be used to designate satisfactory and unsatisfactory performance, respectively, in continuing education, workshop, and institute courses upon the recommendation of the department offering the course. No more than 6 hours total of graduate courses graded S are permitted to count toward a degree.

In courses numbered 800 or above for which specific authorization has been given, the instructor may report a grade of S for students who have satisfactorily attended the course but for whom it has not been possible to evaluate the quality of performance.

Once the S grade for a particular course (or a particular faculty member's section of a multi-section course) has been recommended by the department and approved by the Graduate Division, it must be applied to the entire student enrollment in the course or section. This applies to those 800- or 900-level courses eligible for the S grade (or its alternative of F), as well as to Continuing Education, institute, and workshop courses. The S and U grades are not used in computing the grade-point average.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Grading](#)

Credit/No Credit

The University supports and encourages interdisciplinary study, which may include graduate students enrolling in coursework at the graduate level that is outside of their primary discipline. The Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) is an option for graduate students who are taking a course that is not required for their degree or certificate and who do not wish to have the course grade reflected in their overall graduate GPA. Rather than a grade appearing on the transcript, the student receives a designation of CR or NC, which does not factor in the GPA.

No course graded CR/NC will count toward the satisfaction of any graduate degree or certificate requirement. This includes, but is not limited to, courses taken to fulfill the Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship requirement for doctoral students.

If a student elects to take the CR/NC option, they must make this election during the CR/NC time frame, which can be found in the Registrar's current [Academic Calendar](#). This period typically begins after the last day to add a class and extends for approximately two weeks. This process must be initiated in the COGA office.

The student should consult with their own program advisor about the appropriateness of the course prior to enrolling. In cases where CR/NC is elected, the course instructor is not informed of the election unless the student chooses to share this information.

Additional restrictions apply. Students should carefully review the information in the link above.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [University Senate Rules and Regulations \(USRR\), Section 2.2.7](#)

ENROLLMENT

For graduate students in the College, advising on enrollment and course selection take place at the department level. While units within the College may define full-time enrollment more stringently, the University defines it as follows:

Fall and Spring semesters:

- Enrollment in 9 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s). *See Doctoral post-comprehensive enrollment.

Summer sessions:

- Enrollment in 6 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s).

Graduate students are not normally permitted to enroll for more than 16 hours a semester or more than 8 hours in summer session.

While these are KU's definitions of full-time enrollment, other institutions may have different definitions. Be sure to consult with your financial aid and/or health insurance providers before making enrollment decisions.

Students not enrolled by the first day of classes will be assessed a late fee. Students not enrolled by the 60th of classes will be automatically discontinued in Enroll & Pay.

Students who wish to leave their graduate program should inform the department of such plans in writing so that a Voluntary Discontinue form may be submitted on his or her behalf.

Deadlines for adding, changing, dropping, or withdrawing from courses entirely, as well any fines associated with the change, are set by the University. **Deadlines vary from year to year. Students should carefully review the current [Academic Calendar](#).** .

The College Office of Graduate Affairs' (COGA) website has a very useful [Enrollment Changes Guide](#), which provides comprehensive guidance on the forms and endorsements required for different enrollment situations, including late enrollment changes after the published deadlines.

You may also wish to consult the Registrar's page on [Effects of Dropping or Withdrawing on your Transcript](#).

Related Policies:

- [Discontinued Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment Regulations](#) (CLAS)
- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Graduate Coursework Expiration Dates](#)
- [Master's Enrollment Requirements](#)

Time limits

After being admitted to doctoral programs at KU, students must complete all degree requirements in eight years. In cases in which compelling circumstances recommend a one-year extension, the Graduate Division has authority to grant the extension on the written advice of the department and dissertation committee. Students who complete the master's degree at KU and subsequently begin doctoral studies have a maximum total enrolled time of 10 years to complete both degrees. Normal expectations, however, are that most master's degrees should be completed in two years of full-time study, and both master's and doctorate in six years of full-time study.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Degree Time Constraints](#)
- [Doctoral Degree Time Restraints](#)
- [Doctoral Program Profiles with Time To Degree Information](#)
- [Graduate Degree Completion Agreement](#) (PDF)
- [Mentoring Agreement Template](#) (Doc)

Leaves of Absence

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. cases of illness, emergency, financial hardship, military leave, to pursue family responsibilities, or to pursue full-time activities related to long-range professional goals) it may be necessary for graduate students to take a break from their program temporarily, without having to withdraw entirely from the program. An approved leave of absence allows a student to take a temporary break from enrolling in graduate coursework while remaining in good standing with the University and the department and while "stopping the clock" on their time to degree.

Requesting a Leave of Absence is done via a University petition. University petitions must first be approved and supported at the program level, so students wishing to initiate the petition process should first consult with their Director of Graduate Studies and review their department's internal petition procedures. Units or the Director of Graduate Study may request documentation to support the student's need for a leave of absence; however, the only document that COGA requires for the petition is the Leave of Absence Petition form, linked below.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Leaves of Absence](#)
- [Leave of Absence Petition Form](#) (PDF)

Oral Exams

All graduate students must complete one or more exams as part of their degree requirements. In addition to department or program guidelines, the University has several policies pertaining to the following exams:

- Master's Exam/Thesis Defense for Master's degree
- Doctoral Comprehensive Oral Exam
- Doctoral Final Exam/Dissertation Defense

Before a student is allowed to sit for any of these three exams, pre-approval from COGA is required. This approval must be sought by the department at least two weeks prior to the exam date. COGA checks to ensure that the student has fulfilled certain University requirements. The full list of requirements that COGA checks for may be found via the link in the heading above. Students should work with their departments well in advance of their planned exam date, to schedule their exams in a timely fashion and to ensure that all University policies relating to oral exams are being followed.

In many cases, programs may have additional exams, such as a written pre-qualifying exam. Exam pre-approval by COGA applies **ONLY** to the oral portions of the three exams listed above. The following are University policies pertaining to these oral exams:

Oral Exam Committee Composition

For all oral exams, the committee members must be appointed members of the Graduate Faculty of KU. In addition, a majority of committee members serving on a graduate student oral examination committee must be tenured/tenure-track faculty holding regular graduate faculty or, in the case of doctoral committees, dissertation faculty status in the candidate's department/program of study.

Many additional restrictions apply, especially for doctoral exam committees. Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the University policies pertaining to exams, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies when forming an exam committee.

Oral Exam Attendance (Physical Presence)

The Oral Exam Attendance policy describes rules for physical versus mediated attendance (e.g. Skype or phone) at oral exams.

In all cases, a majority of committee members must be physically present with the student for an exam to commence. Both the chair and outside member (for doctoral exams) must form part of this majority. In cases where the student prefers that all committee members are physically present, the student's preference shall be honored.

Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the policies below, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies in the formation of an oral exam committee.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Graduate Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Oral Exam Attendance](#)
- [Graduate Faculty Appointments](#)

DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the student's individual Ph.D. program's degree requirements, the following are University requirements for graduation with a Ph.D. at KU.

Residency Requirement

Two semesters, which may include one summer session, must be spent in full-time resident study at the University of Kansas. During this period of residence, fulltime involvement in academic or professional pursuits may include an appointment for teaching or research if the teaching/research is directed specifically toward the student's degree objectives.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Doctoral Program Time Constraints](#)

Continuous Enrollment for Post-Comprehensive Students

During the semester in which the comprehensive exam is completed and each semester or session that follows, doctoral candidates must enroll in at least 6 credit hours per semester and 3 credit hours per summer session until all requirements for the degree are completed OR until 18 post-comprehensive hours have been completed, whichever comes first. At least one of these credit hours each semester must be a dissertation hour (or an approved dissertation equivalent).

During the semester in which the student will complete this requirement, enrollment may be dropped to only the number of hours required to complete the 18. For example, if a student is entering the Fall semester having completed 15 post-comprehensive hours, he or she need only enroll in 3 credit hours. After fulfilling the post-comprehensive enrollment requirement, enrollment may be reduced to as little as 1 dissertation hour per semester or summer session up to and including the semester of graduation. Students are strongly advised to closely review the University regulations on continuous enrollment for post-comprehensive students (found in the above heading or the policy links below). Failure to properly comply with the policy could result in additional enrollment requirements and tuition expense near the end of your degree program.

Post-comprehensive enrollment requirements also apply to students with GTA/GRA/GA appointments, but these students must be certified to drop their enrollment levels. To become certified, the student or department staff should complete and submit to COGA the Certification of Eligibility to Enroll in Fewer Than Six Hours form (found below) **prior** to the beginning of the semester in which the enrollment will drop below 6 hours.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Doctoral Program Time Constraints](#)
- [Doctoral Candidacy](#)
- [GTA/GRA Certification of Eligibility to Enroll in Fewer than Six Hours](#)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (M.A. & Ph.D.)

In addition to all program requirements, students planning to graduate must complete all University graduation requirements **prior to the published Graduation Deadline** in a given semester. Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for the published Graduation Deadline, which varies by semester.

COGA's graduation checklists contain a comprehensive list of all University requirements for graduation and should be used by every graduating master's or doctoral student in the College:

[**M.A. DEGREE GRADUATION CHECKLIST**](#)

[**PH.D. DEGREE GRADUATION CHECKLIST**](#)

Submission of the final draft of the thesis or dissertation is done electronically. Students must comply with all University requirements for [formatting](#) and [electronic submission](#) of the thesis or dissertation. There is no University requirement that students provide a bound or printed copy of the draft. Students who have concerns or questions about fulfillment of graduation requirements may arrange for a Graduation Appointment with the [College Office of Graduate Affairs](#) (COGA) following the defense or final exam and in advance of the applicable Application for Graduation deadline. While this appointment is not a requirement, it can be useful to review all degree requirements with a COGA staff member, verify that the Application for Graduation and Thesis/Dissertation submissions have been completed, and receive guidance on any pending items.

GRADUATE STUDIES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Graduate Studies offers [funding opportunities](#) in several different categories. Students interested in applying should direct inquiries to the department's Director of Graduate Studies or to the Office of Graduate Studies. Some of the available funding includes:

Dissertation Fellowships: intended for doctoral students who have passed their comprehensive examinations; for one academic year, non-renewable.

Summer Fellowships: intended primarily for doctoral students.

Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund: intended for graduate students presenting a paper at a national or regional meeting of a learned or professional society. A student may receive an award (\$500) only once, and funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Doctoral Student Research Fund: Designed to support KU doctoral students who need assistance to carry out research that advances progress toward the degree. Applications for this fund are accepted only for a limited time as funding is available. Students should check the link above for additional information and restrictions.