



**SAN JOSÉ STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**SOCIOLOGY  
Graduate Program**

Offering:  
MA in Sociology  
or  
MA in Sociology with a Concentration in Criminology

Department of Sociology  
San José State University  
One Washington Square  
San José, CA 95192-0122

Room 241, Dudley Moorhead Hall  
(408) 924-5320  
[socio@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:socio@email.sjsu.edu)

Sociology web site:  
<http://www.sjsu.edu/sociology>

**To Apply to SJSU**

Details on admission requirements and procedures for applying to SJSU may be found at SJSU's Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations web site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/>.

*For more information about the field of Sociology:  
American Sociological Association  
[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)*



## The Graduate Program in Sociology at San José State University

### The Department

Our faculty consists of 12 full-time faculty members, and several part-time lecturers. The permanent faculty members all have Ph.D.s, and are diverse in their theoretical orientations, methodological approaches, and substantive interests. The department provides a strong background for intellectual development in areas such as theory, research methods, criminology, community change, identity, and class, gender and race/ethnicity.

### Permanent Faculty Specialties

<b>Yoko Baba</b>	criminology, youth gangs, victimology
<b>Natalie Boero</b>	qualitative methods, gender, sociology of health & illness
<b>Peter Chua</b>	global issues, sexuality, race/ethnicity/gender/class inequalities
<b>Carlos Garcia</b>	immigration, race/ethnicity, quantitative methods
<b>Chris Hebert</b>	criminology, youth offenders, arrest/incarceration by race/ethnicity
<b>James Lee</b>	quantitative methods, criminology/deviance, social psychology, youth
<b>Amy Leisenring</b>	qualitative methods, identity, gender, domestic violence
<b>Susan Murray</b>	families, gender, family violence
<b>Scott Myers-Lipton</b>	social inequality, service learning, community action
<b>Wendy Ng</b>	community research, race/ethnicity, urban
<b>Preston Rudy</b>	labor and social movements, political and economic sociology, oral histories
<b>Claudio Vera Sanchez</b>	policing, Latino youth, corrections, youth offender

### The Graduate Program in Sociology

The Sociology Department at San José State University offers a general **M.A. degree in Sociology** and an **M.A. degree in Sociology with a Concentration in Criminology**. The program is designed to prepare students for entry into Ph.D. programs and provide skills and training necessary for employment as professional sociologists in other related occupations. We are looking for students who are curious about the social world, academically dedicated, interested in research, and committed to the examination of society.

The M.A. degree in Sociology is a 30-unit program. Most classes are taught in the evening one night a week. Some classes meet twice a week from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Students are admitted to the program “conditionally” while completing courses as described below.

All of our M.A. students are required to complete four undergraduate sociology prerequisites with a grade of B or better for each: Social Theory (Soci 101), Introduction to Statistics (Soci 102), Quantitative Research Methods (Soci 104) and SPSS Applications (Soci 103). If these courses, or their equivalents, have not been taken as an undergraduate, or were completed with a grade

lower than B, the courses must be taken and a grade of B or better earned before taking other required courses in the program.

Students entering the sociology graduate program are required to demonstrate graduate level writing skills in English. These writing skills are evaluated in Soci 201A during the first semester. If a student's writing is determined to need substantial improvement, the student will be required to take a writing course in addition to any other prerequisites before becoming Classified in the program.

After completing required prerequisites, all students must also complete an advanced theory class (Soci 201A) and an advanced research design class (Soci 200A) with a grade of B or better for each class to achieve Classified status.

Students progress through the set of core courses and pursue their specific research interests, culminating in a Master's thesis (Plan A) or a Special Study project (Plan B). Approximately 40 graduate students are in our program at any specific time.

Students may earn their M.A. degree within two years. Experience has shown that many dedicated students take three years to complete the program. Students who enter needing to complete prerequisites for Soci 200A and Soci 200B typically take longer than other students to earn their degree.

### **M.A. in Sociology, General**

Once in classified status all students are required to take Soci 200B and Soci 201B. The remaining courses in the 30-unit program are elective seminars, internships, and a master's thesis or a special project chosen with the approval of the Graduate Advisor.

### **Comprehensive Exams**

After completing Soci 200A and Soci 201A with a B or better, every student must pass a comprehensive examination in theory and one in research methods. Both of these exams must be passed before a student may sign up for any other comprehensive exams or begin a thesis (Plan A). Plan B (non-thesis) students must pass additional comprehensive examinations in two subjects taught by two different professors at SJSU before signing up for their special project (Soci 298).

### **M.A. in Sociology, Criminology Concentration**

All requirements are the same as in the General M.A. program with two exceptions. The following course work must be completed: Soci 253 (Advanced Criminology), plus two courses chosen from Soci 254 (Deviance and Social Control), Soci 256 (Contemporary Issues in Criminology), and Soci 258 (Advanced Corrections). Plan B students must pass comprehensive exams in two criminology subjects taught by two different instructors.

### **M.A. Internship Opportunities**

M.A. students may choose internships worth up to six units in non-profit, private, or government sectors as well as at community colleges. Students may apply to work on a faculty member's project as a research intern. In cooperation with the Office of Institutional Research, an advanced M.A. student may be placed in an internship that provides training in institutional research and university planning. All internships must be approved by the graduate advisor prior to enrollment.

## **Possibilities for the M.A.**

**General M.A. Degree in Sociology:** Community college instructor, researcher, data analyst, outreach and recruitment coordinator, counselor, research program director.

**M.A. Degree in Sociology with Criminology Concentration:** Occupations listed for the General M.A. degree, Investigator, victim advocate, juvenile probation officer, adult probation officer, police officer.

**Ph.D. Programs:** Students graduating from the SJSU Sociology M.A. program have been admitted to excellent Ph.D. programs throughout the country. Most recently, students have gone on to study at the Univ. of Colorado, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, UC Davis, Stanford, Iowa, UCLA, Syracuse University, and the Univ. of Texas-Austin.

## **Admissions Requirements**

Graduate Admissions is a two-step process:

- (1) You must apply to and be accepted by the University. Once SJSU determines that you meet the minimum requirements for Graduate Admissions, your application is referred to the Sociology Department.
- (2) The Sociology Graduate Committee evaluates the application and additional materials submitted directly to the department—statement of purpose, recommendations, and writing sample. For admission to the graduate program, a student must have a GPA of 3.0, and high potential demonstrated in a 2-4 page statement of purpose, 2 letters of recommendation, and a writing sample.

For details on admission requirements for San José State University, visit the Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations web site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/index.htm>. For more information on Department requirements, visit the M.A. program website at [http://www.sjsu.edu/sociology/Programs/ma\\_program/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sociology/Programs/ma_program/) or contact the graduate advisor (see the directory on the website).

## **Test Requirements for Admission**

All graduate applicants whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English with a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Students educated outside the U.S. must provide scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Domestic students do not need to submit standardized test scores, but they may give additional evidence of their merit.

## **Applications**

**Deadlines, Fall Admission: March 18: all items submitted to CSUmentor (on the Internet)  
April 8: all other documents submitted to Sociology Department**

## TO APPLY

Recall that graduate Admissions is a two-step process:

- (1) You must apply to the University using the on-line application, [www.csumentor.com](http://www.csumentor.com).

**Application codes:**

**For the General Sociology M.A.: 22081**

**For the M.A. with a Concentration in Criminology: 22091**

Send SJSU application materials, including official transcripts, directly to:

Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations  
San José State University  
One Washington Square  
San José, CA 95192-0017

- (2) Send directly to the Graduate Advisor, Department of Sociology, the following items:
  1. A statement of purpose (about two to four pages) explaining your interest in sociology and why you want to study for a masters degree
  2. Two letters of recommendation from former professors or employers who may evaluate your academic and scholarly abilities
  3. A short writing sample that will permit the committee to evaluate your written English.

Send statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, and writing sample to:

Graduate Advisor  
Sociology Department  
San José State University  
One Washington Square  
San José, CA 95192-0122

## Contact Us

Department Office:

Phone: (408) 924-5320

Email: [socio@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:socio@email.sjsu.edu)

Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/sociology>

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