



## Department of Sociology

*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

This letter provides a brief review of the department, the program, and the criteria we use for selecting graduate students.

Our graduate program is part of the Graduate School of the University of Georgia. The Graduate School admits students to the program on the department's recommendation. Application forms for admission to the Graduate School must be submitted online at <http://grad.uga.edu/>. After you have applied online to the Graduate School you will need to provide our department with a copy of your curriculum vitae, personal statement, and writing sample. More information can be found on the departmental web site at <http://sociology.uga.edu/>. If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact the Sociology Department at [socigrad@uga.edu](mailto:socigrad@uga.edu).

All students receive instruction in sociological theory, research methods, statistics, and teaching sociology. In addition, our faculty offers specific course instruction and one-on-one training in a variety of areas within sociology which include: Crime, Law, and Deviance; Family, Life Course, and Aging; Gender and Inequality; Latin American Society; Medical Sociology, Physical and Mental Health; Politics, Culture, and Social Change; Race and Ethnic Relations; Social Psychology; and Work, Occupations, and Organizations. Our department is nationally recognized for its excellence in both qualitative and quantitative methods across these substantive areas.

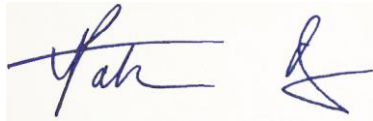
The Graduate Program in Sociology is directed primarily toward students whose ultimate goal is to receive a Ph.D. The Master of Arts degree is designed as a preparation for the Ph.D., so we do not have separate M.A. and Ph.D. curricula. Instead, students complete their M.A. en route to the Ph.D. degree. Our doctoral program is based on a rigorous curriculum of course work and independent research. The first two years involve required courses in methods, quantitative analysis, and basic training in substantive areas. During the second year, the major focus of the training program begins to shift from course work to research as students embark upon their Master's thesis project. In the third year, students may begin their Ph.D. program of study with a series of seminars that will prepare them for the Written and Oral Comprehensive Examination. Finally, in the fourth year, the student begins the dissertation, which is the culmination of the training program.

Descriptions of our areas of concentration, as well as a sample program of study and answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on our departmental website. Our favorable faculty-to-student ratio allows us to emphasize individualized instruction and student participation in all stages of the research process. For this reason, our cohorts range from five to eight students. Our department typically has 14 teaching assistantships to allocate to graduate students, several of which are reserved for incoming students. The assistantship award includes a tuition waiver and subsidized health insurance. Assistantships are renewable annually and require seventeen hours of work per week.

If you were to apply to the University of Georgia, you would be considered along with approximately 50 other applicants for admission and for one of these awards. We base admission on five factors: (1) the student's grades in previous coursework (while we evaluate applicants holistically, our accepted applicants tend to have an average GPA of 3.6); (2) G.R.E. scores and, for international students, TOEFL scores; (3) letters of recommendation; (4) complementarity between the student's interests and faculty teaching and research interest; and (5) writing samples, a personal essay, and a curriculum vitae. **GRE scores are optional for Fall 2021.**

We are currently accepting applications for the academic year beginning **Fall Semester 2021**. If you wish to be considered for admission and an assistantship, you must have your application folder completed by **December 15, 2020**. Although the Graduate School accepts applications until July 1 (May 15 for international students), the Department is under no obligation to review applications received after December 15. Thus, it is extremely important that all application materials be received by December 15. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me ([plr333@uga.edu](mailto:plr333@uga.edu)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Richards', followed by a stylized flourish or mark.

Patricia Richards, Ph.D.  
Professor of Sociology and Graduate Coordinator