

Sociology Graduate Handbook 2025-2026

College of Arts & Science
University of Tennessee-Knoxville



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Department Head Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Sociology's Graduate Program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville! The purpose of this Handbook is to familiarize graduate students with the content, admissions procedures, policies, and requirements of the program. Faculty members teach, conduct research, and perform service in ways that are consistent with the Department's Vision:

Our sociological research and teaching are inspired by our understanding of social justice and our drive for excellence. Social justice can only be realized when the causes of injustice are clear. Such clarity is gained through rigorous empirical analysis guided by theory. Analysis can then enrich teaching and learning, contribute to public policy formation, and serve in various social settings to achieve a just society.

and our Mission Statement:

The Department of Sociology strives to be an exemplar of an academic unit focused on social justice. Our mission is to maintain excellence and further strengthen our national and global reputation in and across four specialty areas: Criminology, Environmental Sociology, Political Economy and Globalization, and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Of these specialty areas, three are not commonly found in US Sociology departments, and the combination of the four is not found in any. This distinction provides a unique identity and supports our determination to recruit and retain highly capable and motivated graduate students from around the nation and the world who are committed to advancing the kind of knowledge the Department stands for and is pursuing. In addition, this identity presents an array of unique opportunities to our students. We are dedicated to collaboration across those core areas.

Our four specialty areas allow us to address questions of social justice and injustice by examining institutions and practices that are at the root of both. Social justice requires rigorous examination of data and focused theoretical analysis of the structural causes of injustice, harm, and hardship. Our research directly translates into continuous enhancement of teaching and learning, formulation of public policies (especially in our four specialty areas), and organization of forums dedicated to promoting a just society. In a just society, opportunities are determined according to abilities and drive rather than locations within the social structures into which people are born. Furthermore, in a just society, the interests of nonhumans are promoted along with the interests of humans.

The Department of Sociology also aims to exemplify the value and benefits of diversity. In both our work and our departmental community we endeavor to foster: remediation of persistent inequalities suffered by those who are oppressed and marginalized, broad representation of positions and identities and qualitative social transformation, and active participation in such transformation as teachers and researchers. We consciously work toward understanding the roots of oppression and harm, and we conscientiously use this knowledge to recruit, attract, and retain faculty and students from diverse populations and marginalized and oppressed groups.

The Department offers programs leading to the MA and the PhD degrees. The primary objectives of the Graduate Program are: (1) to offer coursework that equips students with a strong foundation in sociology and social justice issues and with a depth of knowledge in the basic tools of the discipline; (2) to promote high-quality teaching; and (3) to provide professional socialization that prepares students for

careers in the discipline. The Department's overarching focus on social justice unites faculty members' research interests with graduate curricula.

The Specialty Areas

As listed in the mission statement, faculty members' research centers on the following specialty areas:

- Criminology
- Environmental Sociology
- Political Economy and Globalization, and
- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies

Faculty members specializing in **Criminology** apply a sociological approach to the study of crime and criminal justice, exploring the linkages between crime phenomena, justice practices and strategies, and the elusiveness of social justice—both conceptually and practically. In addition, faculty members investigate how race/ethnicity, class, and gender affect offending and victimization as well as criminal justice experiences. They consider the historically and politically specific processes whereby some actions are criminalized. Finally, they examine innovative harm reduction strategies, including restorative justice and responsive regulatory mechanisms. Their scholarship explores interpersonal, corporate, and state harm.

Faculty members specializing in **Environmental Sociology** analyze the historical and social bases of environmentalism, the mobilization of grassroots environmental movements, and environmental justice at local and global levels. Environmental policies are examined as contributing to social justice in some circumstances, and as contributing to social injustice in others. Faculty members maintain research ties with a large number of organizations and programs outside the Department.

Political Economy and Globalization faculty members analyze the political and economic foundations of change in global society, examining contemporary issues in the context of large-scale and long-term historical shifts, to understand continuity and change both in global society and in local communities. Seminars focus on the sociology of development, and political, economic, and social institutions and categories such as class, state, race and ethnicity, gender, markets, and social, nationalist, and revolutionary movements.

The faculty in **Critical Race and Ethnic Studies** interrogate how racial and ethnic categories coalesce around structural inequalities and across multiple geographies. Race and ethnicity are foundational social structures influencing nearly every process in which human beings are engaged. These markers of difference shape social life. Seminars focus on enabling students to demystify the claims of dominant groups about race and ethnicity and to understand overarching themes of social stratification, harm, and humanity.

Stephanie A. Bohon
Professor and Head

Introduction

The Graduate School

In order to serve the mission and vision of the Graduate School and preserve the integrity of graduate programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, information related to the process of graduate education in each department is to be provided for all graduate students. Based on *Best Practices* offered by the Council of Graduate Schools, it is important that detailed articulation of the information specific to the graduate degrees offered in each department/program be disseminated. The Department Graduate Handbook does not deviate from established Graduate School policies (tiny.utk.edu/grad-policies) noted in the Graduate Catalog, but rather provides the specific ways in which those policies are carried out.

The purpose of this Handbook is to apprise all graduate students in the Department of Sociology of procedures and policies for successful degree completion. Students are allowed to switch Handbook years one time only.

Graduate students are expected to be aware of and satisfy all regulations governing their work and study at the University. They should become familiar with the Graduate Catalog (tiny.utk.edu/grad-catalog), *Hilltopics* (hilltopics.utk.edu), and publications on rights and obligations including Appeals procedures (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduate-student-life/understanding-your-rights-and-obligations/>).

Administration of the Department's Graduate Program

The Department's Director of Graduate Studies is the primary administrator of the graduate program, who works in collaboration with the three members of the Graduate Studies Committee and the Graduate Program Administrator to admit new students, monitor the progress of current students, and operate the program within the charge of the full departmental faculty. Meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee are open to elected representatives of the Sociology Graduate Student Association (with the exception of discussions of individual graduate students). The Director of Graduate Studies coordinates an annual Department Orientation for new graduate students.

Director of Graduate Studies:	Professor Lois Presser – fall 2025 Associate Professor Tyler Wall – spring 2026
Graduate Studies Committee:	Associate Professor Christina Ergas Assistant Professor Sam Kendrick Assistant Professor Bill McClanahan
Graduate Program Administrator	Ms. Kayla Lundy

General Duties/Responsibilities of Faculty and Graduate Students

Together, graduate faculty and graduate students work toward productive and respectful working relationships and building of knowledge. Graduate students work with faculty as students in their courses and as advisees, research assistants, teaching assistants. Students may join faculty on co-authored papers and other scholarly ventures.

Individual faculty members as research directors are responsible for providing students with appropriate recognition for their contributions at conferences and in professional publications. It is the faculty member's responsibility to clarify the principles for determining authorship and recognition at the beginning of any project. Students are responsible for discussing their expectations regarding acknowledgment of research contributions or intellectual property rights with the appropriate person(s) on the research team, preferably early in the project.

Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

Admission to the Department of Sociology involves two processes, one through the Department and the other through Graduate Admissions.

Admission Through Graduate Admissions

The application package includes the completed Graduate Application for Admission (gradschool.utk.edu/admissions/); a non-refundable application fee; one official transcript from all colleges and universities attended; and scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language or IELTS, if native language is not English. ***Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are not required.*** Admission to the graduate program is through the Office of Graduate Admissions (and not through the Department of Sociology).

Admission to the Sociology Program

The Department of Sociology requires, for admission to the graduate program, a minimum grade point average of 3.00 and completion of an appropriate previous degree. Students' admission to the program may be contingent on confirmation that the previous degree is completed. The following application materials must be received via online application **by January 15** of each year: the completed Graduate School and Departmental application form; two (2) letters of recommendation from persons suited to evaluate applicants' potential for graduate work; a Statement of Purpose of attending graduate school in Sociology; a writing sample; and, for international students, TOEFL or IELTS scores. Applicants are notified of admission status as decisions are made. Announcements of awards of financial support are typically made by early April. By state law, international students are eligible for funding only *after* their English proficiency scores are tested and meet the English proficiency standards set by the University.

Change of Program

Students who complete a master's degree in the Department of Sociology and who wish to be entered into the doctoral program must file a Change of Program form (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/change-of-program/>) with the Graduate School as soon as possible after submitting their thesis to TRACE and paying the appropriate fees. The thesis committee must take a vote on whether or not to admit the student to the PhD program;

the Graduate Studies Committee will admit the student based on the recommendation of the Committee.

Financial Support

Graduate Assistantships and Associateships

The Department Head awards Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate Teaching Associate, and Graduate Research Associate positions to new and continuing students selected on the basis of merit.

Appointments are usually made for an academic year though occasionally the appointment may be made for one semester only. These positions provide a stipend for service, as well as health insurance and a remission of tuition as stipulated by the University. Extraordinary circumstances may require a student awarded an assistantship to resign from their position during the academic year. In such cases, the student must file a letter with the Department Head describing the circumstances necessitating resignation and must work with the Director of Graduate Studies on necessary paperwork. Students who are not accepted into a degree program are not eligible for departmental assistantships/graduate associate positions or for loans through the Financial Aid Office.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships are typically awarded to select entering graduate students who have completed fewer than 18 graduate credit hours in Sociology. Graduate Teaching Assistants assist with teaching and advising activities and engage in supervised teaching in Introduction to Sociology and in Social Justice and Social Change courses.

Graduate Teaching Associateships are awarded to select students who have completed at least 18 graduate credit hours in Sociology or a related field. Graduate Teaching Associates are granted sole teaching responsibility for sections of Introduction to Sociology or Social Problems and Social Justice. In special cases of departmental need, Graduate Teaching Associates may be granted the opportunity to teach upper-division courses in the student's specialty area.

Graduate Research Associate positions are awarded as funding is available. Faculty members whose research is funded and whose funding includes a stipend for a Graduate Research Assistant, make those selections of Assistants in consultation with the Department Head; the Graduate Studies Committee does not make such decisions.

Funding decisions are made on the basis of the Annual Review (see **Reviews, Standing, and Appeals** below) and reflect two goals: to support and reward continuing students who progress through the program in a timely fashion; and to admit and support the most qualified new applicants in numbers sufficient to sustain the program in the future. Students admitted without funding may re-apply in the following year and are encouraged to seek funding from various entities across the University. To be awarded and to maintain departmental funding, MA students are expected to remain on-track to earn the degree in two years and PhD students are expected to remain on-track to earn the degree in four years. Accordingly, the Department typically funds graduate students for two years at the MA level and four years at the PhD level. In some circumstances, assistantships are awarded for additional years of study.

The Graduate School maintains time limits for the completion of graduate programs: 6 years for the MA degrees and 8 years for the PhD degree. No request for additional years of funding will be granted that has the student exceeding the Graduate School time limits.

Graduate Students receiving assistantships are appointed at 25 percent time or 50 percent time. Those receiving a .25 FTE appointment are required to do an average of ten hours of work per week over a 15-week semester. Those receiving a .50 FTE appointment are required to do an average of twenty hours of work per week over the length of the semester.

Funding and the Graduate School

The Graduate School manages a limited number of endowed fellowships that are awarded each spring: <https://gradschool.utk.edu/costs-and-funding/graduate-fellowships/endowed-graduate-fellowships/>.

The Graduate Studies Committee pursues these applications on behalf of students they deem the most competitive. In addition, the Graduate School posts open assistantships at UTK on their webpage (<http://gradschool.utk.edu/graduate-student-life/costs-funding/graduate-assistantships/>).

Travel Support

Travel awards for graduate students participating in international, national, and regional professional conferences on-site are available through the University's Graduate Student Travel fund administered by the Graduate Student Senate. For the University's Graduate Student Travel awards, see the Graduate Student Senate, or GSS (<https://gss.utk.edu/gss-travel-awards/>). Additional travel support is available from the Department. The Department requires that application be made for GSS funding first.

Dissertation Research Funds

As of 2014, the Department has funds to provide limited support for PhD students needing assistance with research-related expenses, including but not limited to travel to field sites, purchase of equipment, and purchase of data. Applications are accepted by the ad hoc committee composed of the Department Head and Director of Graduate Studies once per semester (depending on student interest) in fall and spring semesters. Deadlines will be announced in advance.

Early Withdrawal

If a student is terminated or withdraws from a program prior to the end of the semester, the student will be responsible for payment of tuition and other fees from the termination/withdrawal date until the end of the semester. Responsibility for paying tuition and fees will apply to all students, including those who have tuition waivers during the semester in which they are terminated/withdraw early. The Graduate Catalog provides additional information about early termination/withdrawal (onestop.utk.edu/withdraw). If you are considering early withdrawal, you should contact the Bursar's office to ask about financial ramifications.

Information for New Student Cohorts

In July of each year, the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Administrator communicate with newly admitted students to provide important information about starting the program. New students must report within the first week of August to the Budget Manager in 901 McClung Tower.

Coursework and Funding

Full-time students must complete 6 credit hours per semester of approved, graduate-level coursework, but the number of credit hours required for full-time status varies with (funding) appointments and with loan terms. The number of credits a student registers for may impact their health insurance benefits.

Graduate students funded at 25 percent must be enrolled for 9 or more credit hours per semester to be considered as full-time students by the Department and the University. Graduate students funded at the 50 percent level must be enrolled for 6-11 credit hours per semester to be considered full-time students by the Department and the University. The definition of “full-time study” may be greater for students with Stafford loans. See

https://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=55&navoid=11819#pol_admin_grad_assistantships for more information.)

Students may elect to attend graduate school on a part-time basis but should be advised that required or desired courses are not guaranteed to be readily available: few required courses are offered every year and few graduate seminars in sociology are offered in the evenings and summers. The Graduate School time limits for completion of graduate programs are 6 years from the first course for MA degrees and 8 years from the first course for PhD degrees.

Funded students are strongly discouraged from taking on additional income-generating work, as such work is likely to slow or jeopardize progress in the graduate program.

Graduate Student Employee Insurance

Graduate Teaching Assistants and Associates and Graduate Research Assistants who are employed at least 25% FTE will automatically be enrolled in the Graduate Student Employee Insurance program. The University pays 100% of the premium for these students. Covered students may elect to add spouse or dependent coverage at their own expense. If students already have insurance coverage through another insurance carrier, this policy functions as additional coverage. The Student Health Clinic manages the Graduate Student Employee Health Insurance Program. For information, see <http://studenthealth.utk.edu/insrecstudentinsurance.php> or call 865-974-3135.

Registration and Advising

Class Registration

New graduate students must consult with the Director of Graduate Studies before registering for the first semester of coursework. The Director explains and clarifies the curriculum, helps plan a schedule, and advises on MA and PhD degree requirements. The course timetable and registration are on MYUTK at <http://myutk.utk.edu/>. (Also see Banner for timetable: https://bannersb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched). Once new students receive their University ID number (9 digits beginning with 000) and Net ID they can register on myutk.edu: those identifiers and a password are necessary for the course registration process.

Graduate students generally are urged to register for courses as soon as registration opens so that class offerings and teaching schedules can be adjusted to suit actual needs.

Work Assignments and Workspaces

The Department Head in consultation with the DGS determines the coordination of graduate teaching assignments. New Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Teaching Associates are put in contact with their graduate teaching supervisor(s).

New funded students are also assigned a workplace. Workplaces must be completely cleared of all materials by July 1st of the year of graduation. Any alterations to the workplace that you inhabit must be reversed in preparation for new graduate students.

Faculty Advisors and Peer Supporters

The Graduate School will automatically assign the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) to serve as your advisor. The DGS, in turn, will assign you an advisor from among the faculty. Students may change advisors at any time simply by securing consent from the chosen advisor and notifying the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Administrator. Often the newly chosen advisor and the thesis or dissertation chair are the same, but they need not be.

Students are expected to work closely with advisors and/or chairs, meeting at least once per semester, and possibly more often. Students should take the initiative to schedule these meetings. The advisor reviews each student's progress in their course work and advises him/her/them accordingly as to specific courses and course load. The MA and PhD Course Planners in Excel (provided at new graduate student orientation in the Department) are useful tools for these meetings.

New students are also matched with a peer supporter, a more advanced graduate student with common interests who has volunteered for the role.

Thesis and Dissertation

Graduate students are advised to familiarize themselves with thesis/dissertation requirements as soon as possible. The Graduate School publishes the *Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*, available for downloading at <https://gradschool.utk.edu/documents/2023/07/preparation-guide-for-theses-and-dissertations.pdf/>. Also see templates for theses and dissertations: <https://gradschool.utk.edu/academics/graduation/theses-and-dissertations/preparing-your-work/thesis-and-dissertation-templates/>

Department Courses

Substantive departmental seminars are offered in Criminology, Environmental Sociology, Political Economy and Globalization, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Sociological Theory, and Research Methods. Since seminars are typically offered once every two years, it is advisable to take required courses as well as 600-level methodology courses at the earliest opportunity. The core required Theory and Methods courses typically are offered annually while advanced methods courses are typically offered every other year. These courses need not be taken in numerical sequence. Statistics courses, offered in the Statistics Department, *must* be taken sequentially.

In addition to substantive seminars, other course numbers appear in the catalog:

500 Thesis Hours. P/NP. Required.

502 Registration for Use of Facilities. S/NC. Permits use of library and other university facilities when you are not otherwise registered. Use for the summer only. Hours do not count toward a degree.

510 Professional Preparation. S/NC.

- 593 Independent Study. A-F. Student-initiated course that requires faculty member's approval and agreement to direct. Course requirements determined by faculty member. Use this course to arrange for a class you would like to take but which is not offered by faculty.
- 599 Readings. A-F. Student-initiated course that requires faculty member's approval and agreement to direct. Course requirements determined by faculty member. Requires form to be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies. Use this course number to permit time to read a body of literature.
- 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation. P/NP. Required.
- 628 Supplementary Readings in Major Area. S/NC. Allows preparation time for Major Area Paper (MAP) while maintaining full-time status.
- 649 Supplementary Readings. S/NC.
- 695 Advanced Special Topics. A-F. Typically faculty-initiated but sometimes students-initiated course in which students pursue a specific, narrowed focus within the literature.
- 699 Tutorials in Advanced Topics. A-F. Student-initiated course for doctoral student's pursuit of a special topic, often involving the examination of a potential dissertation topic. Requires faculty member's approval and agreement to direct. Course requirements determined by faculty member. Requires form to be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies. This course is essentially an independent study course for doctoral students who are ABD (have completed All But Dissertation requirements).

No more than 12 total credit hours from the following courses will count toward the degree: Sociology 510, 593, 599, 695, and 699. Plans for those courses, with the exception of 510, must be approved by the faculty member directing the course. Plans must specify (1) the nature of the work to be done, and (2) how the work will be evaluated for purposes of assigning a grade.

MA Degrees in Sociology

Students may pursue a traditional Master of Arts (MA) degree, which culminates in a thesis with a strong scholarly focus, or an Applied MA degree, which culminates in a thesis that reports theoretically and experientially on work done through a practicum experience. Both MA degrees in Sociology require a minimum of 30 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. For both MA degrees, students may take 9 credit hours in 400-level courses that carry graduate credit, and twelve (12) credit hours outside the Department. Students should consult with their advisor on these course selections. Students must complete all requirements within 6 calendar years of enrollment.

When a decision is reached on the thesis topic, the student should consult with the faculty member whose interests most closely match the student's and with whom the student can establish a strong working relationship, and request that the faculty member chair the thesis committee. It is recommended that full-time students launch this process in their second semester.

Application for admission to candidacy for one of the MA degrees should be made as soon as possible after the student has completed required prerequisite courses and 9 hours of graduate course work with a 3.0 average or higher in all graduate work. The student downloads and completes the Admission to Candidacy form (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/academics/forms-central/admission-to-candidacy-masters-or-specialist-degree/>), obtains signatures from the thesis committee members and the Director of Graduate Studies, and submits the form to the Graduate School no later than commencement day of the semester preceding the semester in which he/she plans to graduate.

Required Course Work: The Traditional MA Degree

Students pursuing the traditional MA degree must complete the following requirements:

- Sociology 506 Sociology and Social Justice (2 hours)
- Sociology 511 Pedagogy and Graduate Instruction (1 hour)
- Sociology 521 Sociological Theory (3 hours)
- Sociology 531 Research Methods in Sociology (3 hours)
- Two courses (Foundations and one other) in one specialty area (Criminology, Environmental Sociology, Political Economy and Globalization or Critical Race and Ethnic Studies). Choose one from Sociology 503, Foundations of Environmental Sociology; Sociology 504, Sociological Foundations of Political Economy; Sociology 505, Foundations of Criminology; or Sociology 509, Critical Race and Sociological Foundations of Race and Ethnicity, plus one additional course in the same area.
- Nine (9) credit hours of additional coursework
- Six (6) credit hours of 500 Thesis Hours

Students entering the traditional MA program who have not completed at least one undergraduate course in statistics or its equivalent must take Statistics 531 prior to enrolling in Sociology 631. Students may additionally elect to complete requirements for the Statistics Minor. A minor in statistics consists of 9 hours of statistics courses. See the Intercollegiate Graduate Statistics and Data Science Program in the Haslam College of Business for information.

Required Course Work: The Applied MA Degree

Students pursuing the Applied MA degree must complete the following requirements:

- Sociology 506 Sociology and Social Justice (2 hours)
- Sociology 511 Pedagogy and Graduate Instruction (1 hour)
- One (1) of the Foundations courses (3 hours). Choose one from Sociology 503, Foundations of Environmental Sociology; Sociology 504, Sociological Foundations of Political Economy; Sociology 505, Foundations of Criminology; or Sociology 509, Critical Race and Sociological Foundations of Race and Ethnicity.
- Two (2) methods courses (6 hours) from the following:
 - SOCI 531 – Research Methods in Sociology (required)
 - SOCI 631 – Advanced Quantitative Methods
 - SOCI 633 – Survey Design and Analysis 616
 - SOCI 636 – Field Research
- Two elective courses (6 hours) from the following:
 - SOCI 541 – Social Movements
 - SOCI 644 – Political Sociology
 - SOCI 653 – Law and Society
 - Advanced topics or Advanced studies course (616, 645, 655, 665, or 695)
 - Course in another department or unit (e.g., Geography, Social Work, Education, WGS) in consultation with advisor

- Sociology 546 Practicum/Action Research (6 hours)
- Sociology 500 Thesis (6 hours)

New Applied MA students should meet with the Director of Graduate Students early in their first semester to discuss and plan the practicum.

Thesis Committee

The thesis committee for both traditional and applied MA programs is composed of the major professor and at least two other faculty members at the rank of Assistant Professor or above. Students pursuing a minor must have one committee member from the minor department. Any change in the composition of the thesis committee must be made at least **one month** prior to the final oral examination to provide the new committee member with time to become familiar with the thesis work.

The student works on the thesis primarily with the major professor. Other committee members serve as a resource base, offering suggestions at the proposal hearing, evaluating the student's written thesis and oral defense of the thesis, and assessing the student's potential as a prospective doctoral student.

Thesis Proposal Meeting

MA students must submit a written thesis proposal to all committee members at least one week before a proposal meeting with the thesis committee is convened. At the meeting, committee members provide suggestions on the proposed research. Committee approval of the proposal is required; however, there is no official form documenting approval.

MA students are encouraged to move to the proposal meeting stage as soon as possible in the second year of the program. MA students who are interested in pursuing the PhD in the Department immediately after the MA, must defend their thesis proposal in the fall semester of the second year of the program, so that the committee can provide input on their candidacy for the PhD program.

Thesis Defense

A notice of the time and place of the thesis defense must be circulated to the Department at least **one week** in advance. Anyone may attend the defense.

Copies of the complete thesis must be submitted to all committee members at least two weeks prior to the thesis defense. During the thesis defense the thesis committee members conduct an oral examination on the student's thesis and evaluate it as Pass/Fail. The committee may require revisions of the written thesis prior to final approval and may withhold signatures of approval on the relevant form until the revisions are satisfactory.

Deadlines for the thesis defense and for final submission of the thesis to the Graduate School are publicized: <https://gradschool.utk.edu/academics/graduation/graduation-deadlines/>. Reminders are regularly forwarded by the Director of Graduate Studies from the Graduate School.

All theses and dissertations accepted by the University as partial fulfillment of master's and doctoral degrees must conform to specified formatting standards. Students are advised to meet prior to the deadline with the Thesis/Dissertation Consultant in Graduate Student Services (thesis@utk.edu) to

ensure that the thesis is correctly formatted but no later than the announced deadline. Many students arrange the consultation at the same time that they submit the thesis to committee members.

Students are responsible for downloading the appropriate forms prior to the thesis defense and sharing these with the thesis committee chair. Available on the Graduate School's Forms Central site, <https://gradschool.utk.edu/academics/forms-central/>, these are the "Report of Final Examination/Defense of Thesis..." form and the "Thesis/Dissertation Approval" form. After the thesis defense, the thesis committee collects committee member signatures and hands off the forms to the Graduate Program Administrator to submit to the Graduate School. In addition and if applicable, the chair sends a memo to the Director of Graduate Studies indicating the thesis committee's recommendation on the candidate's suitability for doctoral study. The committee chair also reports the results of the thesis defense to the faculty.

At the end of the review and approval process, students send the final, official copy of their thesis to the Graduate School, which will post it to [Trace](#), the University's electronic repository, after graduation. Students can request an embargo on open-access publishing for a limited time. See <http://gradschool.utk.edu/thesesdissertations/publication-policies/>. An electronic copy of the final thesis must also be sent to the Director of Graduate Studies for placement on our website. Additionally, members of the thesis committee frequently request copies.

The PhD Degree in Sociology

A minimum of 51 credit hours beyond a master's degree is required for the PhD degree. These hours include 24 credit hours of Doctoral Research and Dissertation and a minimum of 27 hours in graduate coursework (9 courses). Students must also complete an approved Major Area Paper in one of the four specialty areas (Criminology, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Environmental Sociology, and Political Economy and Globalization); pursue competence in a second area; pass the defense of their dissertation proposal; write a dissertation based on original research; and pass a final oral examination (defense) on the dissertation.

Students without thesis or with thesis from other disciplines

Any student accepted into the PhD program who has not completed a master's thesis must complete a thesis-length research paper within the first two years in the PhD program. An ad hoc committee comprised of at least two sociology faculty members must approve this paper. Any student who has completed a thesis in a field or discipline other than sociology must have their thesis approved by the Graduate Studies Committee as comparable to a sociology master's thesis. If the thesis is not approved, the student must complete a thesis-length research paper within the first two years in the PhD program. An ad hoc committee comprised of at least two sociology faculty members must approve this paper.

Required Course Work

If not completed at the MA level, students must complete Sociology 506, Sociology 511, Sociology 521 and Sociology 531. However, these hours will not count toward the minimum number of hours required for the PhD. At least 12 credit hours (4 courses) must be completed at the 600 level.

The following requirements must also be met:

- Three core courses (9 hours): Sociology 621; Sociology 631; one from Sociology 633, Sociology 636, Sociology 638, or Sociology 640
- Three courses (9 hours), including a Foundations course, in one specialty area:
 - The Criminology area includes but is not limited to¹ Sociology 505, Sociology 652, Sociology 654, and Sociology 655;
 - The Critical Race and Ethnic Studies area includes but is not limited to Sociology 509, Sociology 552, Sociology 616, and Sociology 694;
 - The Environmental Sociology area includes but is not limited to Sociology 503, Sociology 661, and Sociology 665;
 - The Political Economy and Globalization area includes but is not limited to Sociology 504, Sociology 541, Sociology 543, Sociology 644, and Sociology 645
- Nine hours in second area (another concentration in Sociology; a foreign language; a formal graduate certificate from among campus offerings; Intercollegiate Graduate Statistics and Data Science minor or MS; Environmental Policy minor; or an additional area proposed by the student in consultation with their advisor and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee)
- At least 24 hours of Sociology 600 Doctoral Research and Dissertation

No more than six credits outside of Sociology can count for the number of credit hours required for the PhD, although more credit hours can be taken.

Students pursuing a dissertation in an area requiring statistical competence beyond forms of regression are strongly encouraged to take appropriate advanced methods and/or statistics courses from other departments.

The Major Area Paper

In order to demonstrate that the student has attained mastery of scholarship in a specialty area (Criminology, Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, Environmental Sociology, and Political Economy & Globalization) or one of its major subareas, students must complete an approved Major Area Paper (MAP). All faculty members who comprise the primary faculty within each specialization will determine whether students in their specialization must write on the specialty area itself (e.g., the canon of literature considered important by critical race faculty) or on a major subarea (e.g., social movements, environmental justice, whiteness, carceral studies).

The MAP is a well synthesized and deep literature review. A successful MAP demonstrates that the student has achieved expertise in the broad umbrella under which their dissertation will fall and has arrived at areas for further development of the literature.

MAP Timing

Students must turn their Major Area Paper into their committee within two semesters after finishing required course work. Those for whom English is a second language may petition the Graduate Studies Committee for extra time in this process, as may students facing other special circumstances.

¹ Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies regarding whether a particular Sociology course counts within a particular area and whether a particular non-Sociology course of study/certificate qualifies for the second area.

Makeup and Function of the MAP Committee

Students should select a MAP Committee no later than the end of their fourth semester in the PhD program. The MAP Committee must approve the student's MAP topic (for example, if a student plans to write on state violence, the Committee must say that's okay) and determine whether the student should write based on a faculty-curated list of readings, a student-selected list of readings, or some combination of the two.

The Committee must consist of three faculty members who agree to serve. One faculty member will serve in an administrative Chair role. At least one faculty member must have a primary specialization in the student's specialty area and one other faculty member must have at least a secondary specialization in the student's specialty area (see chart below). The MAP committee should meet as a group at least once to review the first submission of the MAP.

MAP Reading List

The MAP Committee must review and approve the reading list, with meaningful sections, before a student begins writing. Typical reading lists will have about 50 citations but may have more. It is recommended that the reading list sections and subheadings be used to organize the MAP.

Content of the MAP

In the MAP, the student must provide a clear statement of scope and focus of the MAP (e.g., Crime and Place; Residential Segregation; Environmental Justice; etc.). The MAP cannot be a simple review of the literature; it must provide a synthesis or integration of (foundational and contemporary) theory and research on the topic, be issue- or idea-focused, and identify gaps in theory and/or methods. Models of such are available in *Annual Review of Sociology* and *Annual Review of Criminology* contributions. The MAP should be original and not derivative of another paper already published, or unpublished but known to the student. The MAP should be of publishable quality. That is, it should be well-written, coherent, persuasive, and scholarly.

Format of the MAP

The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and written in 12-point font. Page numbers should be included on pages. The student must use the American Sociological Association citation format (see February issues of *American Sociological Review*). Papers must be at least 20 pages in length and generally no more than 50 pages (exclusive of bibliography and cover page), though shorter or longer MAP papers may be acceptable at the discretion of the MAP Committee.

Papers are intended for the student to demonstrate *their* knowledge and ability. However, discussion with committee members concerning the developing MAP is encouraged. Students can also use the Writing Center for assistance.

MAP Evaluation

The MAP Committee will read and evaluate the papers as pass, pass with distinction, or fail. Committee members will try as much as possible to evaluate papers within two weeks of submission. Faculty are not required to evaluate MAPs during summer months (e.g., from mid-May graduation through mid-August beginning of fall semester). Papers will be evaluated based on the (a) breadth of knowledge demonstrated; (b) accuracy of information presented; and (c) demonstrated ability to write at a level

sufficient for publishing. Faculty will evaluate the paper based on coverage of the approved reading list and will not penalize students for failing to include work or ideas not on the list.

Students who do not pass the MAP evaluation on the first try will have six weeks to revise and resubmit their area paper. (Those for whom English is a second language may petition the Graduate Studies Committee for extra time in this process, as may students facing other special circumstances.) Students will be given written comments from their MAP Committee detailing the deficiencies of their first attempt. Faculty will read and evaluate the revised paper as pass or fail. Students should generally expect their evaluation within two weeks of submission.

Termination Process

Students who fail to deliver a passing MAP paper after two attempts will receive written notice from the Department Head of their removal from the program. Termination will be effective the semester following the failure to submit an approved paper after two attempts. Students who believe that their paper was evaluated in violation of procedures may appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee who will appoint an ad hoc committee to review the examination and MAP Committee procedures. They will issue a decision in writing within two weeks.

Table 1: Graduate Faculty by Specialty Area (August 2025)*

Area	Primary	Secondary
Criminology	Brown McClanahan Presser Wall Wulff	Dahms Destine Soliz
Environment	Ergas Gellert Jones Shade Soliz	Bohon Dahms McClanahan Shefner
Political Economy & Globalization	Christian Dahms Gellert Gill Jalata Kim Shefner	Bohon Destine Ergas Shade Wall Wulff
Critical Race & Ethnic Studies	Bohon Christian Destine Jalata Kim Sims Williams	Brown Ergas Kendrick Soliz Wall Wulff

*MAP committees must be comprised of one faculty member on an area's primary list, one faculty member who is on an area's primary or secondary list, and a third Sociology faculty member from any area.

The Dissertation

The dissertation process involves selecting a dissertation committee, holding a dissertation proposal hearing, completing the dissertation project, admission to doctoral candidacy, and the oral defense of the dissertation.

Students may not enroll in Sociology 600 (Doctoral Research and Dissertation) until they have completed their coursework and have an approved Major Area Paper (see below). Once enrolled in Sociology 600, a student must maintain continuous enrollment (fall, spring, and summer terms) until graduation.

Dissertation Committee

Students choose a dissertation chair according to shared research interests. The committee is composed of the dissertation chair as the chairperson and at least three other faculty members, one of whom is outside of the UTK Sociology Department. Three of the four committee members must be approved by the Graduate Council for directing doctoral research. Any changes in the dissertation committee must be approved by the Department Head and the Graduate School at least **one month** prior to the oral defense of the dissertation.

The dissertation chair provides guidance at every stage of the research process and in the preparation of the written dissertation. Committee members also provide consultation. The dissertation committee evaluates the dissertation proposal, acts as a resource base, and evaluates the written dissertation and the student's oral defense of it.

The Department strongly encourages all PhD students to write proposals to obtain funding for their dissertation research. Faculty members are available to advise and otherwise assist students with such proposals, as needed.

Admission to Candidacy

The Graduate School must approve admission to candidacy for the PhD degree at least one full semester prior to the date on which the degree is to be conferred. Admission to candidacy forms should not be filed until the MAP is passed and the doctoral committee is approved.

Dissertation Proposal Hearing

Students are required to write a proposal for the dissertation research and to schedule a formal hearing for the committee's review of the proposal. A minimum of **two weeks** must be allowed between the time the proposal is received by committee members and the hearing. The proposal must be approved before the student proceeds.

Dissertation Defense

Copies of the complete dissertation must be submitted to all committee members at least two weeks before the oral defense is held. The dissertation defense is a meeting in which committee members conduct an oral examination of the student's dissertation and evaluate it as Pass/Fail. The committee may

require revisions of the written dissertation prior to final approval and may withhold signatures of approval until the revisions are satisfactory.

Dissertation defenses must be formally scheduled with the Graduate School. If defense dates are changed, the defense must be formally *rescheduled* with the Graduate School.

Deadlines for the dissertation defense and for final submission of the dissertation to the Graduate School are regularly forwarded from the Graduate School. A notice of the time and place of the dissertation defense must be circulated to the Department at least **one week** in advance, via email notification and a paper flyer in the Department. Anyone may attend the defense. (Only members of the dissertation committee may vote on the outcome of the examination.) It is advisable for students to meet prior to the deadline with the Thesis/Dissertation Consultant in Graduate Student Services (thesis@utk.edu) to assure that the dissertation is correctly formatted. Many students arrange the consultation at the same time as they submit the dissertation to committee members, as long as they meet the Graduate School deadline for doing so.

Students are responsible for downloading the appropriate forms prior to the dissertation defense and sharing these with the thesis dissertation chair. Available on the Graduate School's Forms Central site, <https://gradschool.utk.edu/academics/forms-central/>, these are the "Report of Final Examination/Defense of Thesis..." form and the "Thesis/Dissertation Approval" form. After the thesis defense, the dissertation chair collects committee member signatures and hands off the forms to the Graduate Program Administrator to submit to the Graduate School. In addition and if applicable, the chair sends a memo to the Director of Graduate Studies indicating the thesis committee's recommendation on the candidate's suitability for doctoral study. The committee chair also reports the results of the thesis defense to the faculty.

At the end of the review and approval process, students will send the final, official copy of their dissertation to the Graduate School, which will post it to [Trace](#), the University's electronic repository, after graduation. Students can request an embargo on open-access publishing for a limited time. See <http://gradschool.utk.edu/thesesdissertations/publication-policies/>. An electronic copy must also be sent to the Director of Graduate Studies. In addition, members of the dissertation committee frequently request copies.

Reviews, Standing, and Appeals

Annual Reviews

Each fall graduate students as of their second year are required to submit an annual report on their progress to the faculty along with teaching evaluations (if available), an unofficial transcript, and a CV. As part of the report, students must indicate which Graduate Handbook they are following (either that in place the year they entered or a subsequent edition). Faculty advisors and chairs are responsible for completing the Advisor Report and Chair's report, respectively, which gives the faculty member's written assessment of the student's progress in the graduate program. Faculty work supervisors—if any—are also required to report progress for students on Graduate Teaching Assistantships or Graduate Research Assistantships.

All graduate students' files are reviewed to evaluate progress in the program and (continued) eligibility for funding. The files contain course grades, qualifying/specialty examination and MAP grades/assessments, Advisors' Reports, Chairs' Reports, and Supervisors' Reports. Advisors and faculty members who have worked with students submit evaluations of students. The faculty evaluations address class performance, teaching effectiveness, the student's strengths and areas for improvement, and progress toward the degree. The faculty review progress on the basis of the normal progress benchmarks (see below) and discuss feedback to deliver to the student.

All graduate students will receive a written summary of their evaluation, which they must sign and return to the Graduate Program Administrator. This written evaluation will be discussed in a meeting between graduate students and their advisor. The letter concludes with signature lines for the advisor and for the student, indicating the date when this meeting occurred. The student's signature confirms only that they have received the evaluation. It does not confer agreement with the assessment.

Students who fail to meet the normal progress benchmarks must work with their chair or advisor to develop a written plan for achieving the benchmarks missed. This plan must be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies in early October. The remediation plan must detail why the student is not meeting the goals and the steps they will take to ensure normal progress by the end of Spring semester. A student who believes that they have been assessed unfairly can file an appeal with the Graduate Studies Committee. Students should then implement the plan.

In late February, students failing to meet normal progress goals (as assessed in the September meeting) will submit a report to the Director of Graduate Studies detailing their progress toward following their remediation plan. During the March faculty meeting, the faculty will discuss students who are failing to meet normal progress benchmarks (as assessed during the September meeting). If students are still not meeting their goals, the faculty will take two votes. The first vote is to decide whether or not the student should continue in the program. This vote is based on the students' assessed ability to successfully complete a thesis or dissertation in a timely manner. If a student is retained, a second vote will recommend to the Head whether or not the student should be funded (if currently funded). This vote is advisory. The Director of Graduate Studies will convey the outcome of the votes to the student via letter.

Normal Progress Benchmarks

The Department's benchmarks for normal progress follow, for full-time and part-time students respectively. Recall that, according to the Graduate School, students have six (6) years to complete the MA degree and eight (8) years to complete the PhD.

MA (Full-time students)

MA-End of First Year

- Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.
- Student has selected a thesis chair
- Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a thesis
- Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of his/her/their courses

MA-End of Second Year

- Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.
- Student has attended a professional meeting
- Student has held a committee meeting to approve the thesis proposal
- Student has successfully defended the thesis
- Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of his/her/their courses

MA-End of Third Year or Later

-If student has not completed degree by end of first semester of third year, normal progress is not being made.

PhD (Full-time students)

PhD-End of First Year

- Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.
- Student has presented a paper at a regional or national professional meeting
- Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation
- Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of his/her/their courses

PhD-End of Second Year

- Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.
- Student has presented a paper at a regional or national professional meeting.
- Student has submitted a manuscript for review to a journal.
- Student has assembled her MAP committee and received approval of his/her/their topic and his/her/their reading list.
- Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation.
- Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of his/her/their courses.

PhD-End of Third Year

- Student has presented a paper at a national professional meeting.
- Student has submitted a manuscript for review to a journal.
- Student has successfully completed an approved MAP.
- Student has assembled her dissertation committee and submitted paperwork to graduate school.
- Student has successfully defended dissertation proposal.
- Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation.

PhD-End of Fourth Year

- Faculty remains confident in student's ability to successfully complete a dissertation.
 - Student has made significant progress on dissertation data collection.
 - Student has written at least two chapters of a dissertation that have been reviewed by the chair.
- (NOTE: Most students will complete their dissertation at the end of Year 4 and should plan on seeking employment at the beginning of Year 4. Although this is not required for normal progress, please note that funded students may not be able to retain their assistantships after Year 4 because of budget limitations.)

PhD-End of Fifth Year

- Student has actively sought employment.
- Student has defended the dissertation.

-PhD-End of Sixth Year or Later

-If student has not completed degree program by end of sixth year, normal progress is not being made.

MA (Part-time Students)

MA-End of First Year

-In courses, the student is earning grades no lower than a B- with an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

-Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a thesis

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

-Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

MA-End of Second Year

-Student has attended a professional meeting ONE-TIME BENCHMARK

MA-End of Fourth Year

-Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

-Student has selected a thesis chair

MA-End of Fifth Year

-Student has held a committee meeting to approve the thesis proposal

MA-End of Sixth Year

-Student has successfully defended the thesis.

PhD (Part-time Students)

PhD-End of First Year

-In courses, the student is earning grades no lower than a B- with an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

-Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

-Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

SUSTAINED BENCHMARK

PhD-End of Second Year

-Student has presented a paper at a regional or national professional meeting ANNUAL BENCHMARK

-Student has submitted a manuscript for review to a journal ANNUAL BENCHMARK

PhD-End of Fourth Year

-Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

-Student has assembled their MAP committee and received approval of their topic and their reading list

PhD-End of Sixth Year

- Student has successfully completed an approved MAP
- Student has assembled their dissertation committee and submitted paperwork to graduate school

PhD-End of Seventh Year

- Faculty remains confident in student's ability to successfully complete a dissertation
- Student has made significant progress on dissertation data collection
- Student has written at least two chapters of a dissertation that have been reviewed by the chair

PhD-End of Eighth Year

- Student has successfully defended the dissertation.

Other Evaluations

In compliance with University requirements, student learning objectives (SLOs) have been established by the faculty for MA and PhD program students. These SLOs include knowledge of one's area; design and implementation of independent research; and effective teaching. In meeting the reporting requirements for these SLOs, the faculty have created various rubrics to evaluate students. The purpose of these evaluations is to determine the progress of the program overall and not to evaluate the performance of any individual student.

Human Subjects Review

Graduate students whose research outside of course work uses human subjects are required to submit the appropriate forms to UT's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval prior to data collection. Submission of IRB approval requires (online) CITI Training, provided through the Office of Research: <https://irb.utk.edu/>. Note that research completed for a course still needs IRB approval if part or all of the work is presented in a public forum such as posted online, presented at a professional meeting, or submitted for review in a publication. Students should consult with their thesis/dissertation chair on the human subjects review process.

Dismissal from Graduate Program

Plagiarism is a grave offense and is the basis for dismissal from the program. Penalties for plagiarism and procedures for handling cases are outlined in *Hilltopics*.

Students whose GPA drops below 3.00 are placed on probation by the Graduate School and are not permitted to graduate until the GPA is above 3.00. Students who receive three grades of C+ or lower in any university courses taken for graduate credit are dropped from the program at the end of the semester in which the third C+ or lower grade is received.

A grade of incomplete automatically converts to an "F" after two semesters. Changing the "F" to a higher grade requires written justification to the Graduate School, and that office decides whether to approve the grade change.

Petitions and Special Requests

Requests pertaining to the waiver of departmental requirements should be submitted in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies, who will discuss the petition with the relevant faculty.

Work Requirements for Funded Students

- (a) All funded students are required to attend Department colloquia, lectures, and job talks as a condition of employment.
- (b) All funded students are required to register for courses prior to the start of the semester in which courses commence.
- (c) Graduate Teaching Assistants must inform the faculty member to whom they are assigned, and Graduate Teaching Associates must inform the Department Head, of a planned absence from scheduled instructional activity. Teaching Associates are generally not permitted to cancel a class without either rescheduling it at a suitable time for students enrolled in the class or arranging for alternative coverage.
- (d) Graduate Teaching Associates and Assistants are expected to hold regular office hours from the start of the semester and should inform their students of impending absences and alternative times, if possible. Study sessions, office hours, and other class activities with undergraduate students should be scheduled and held in university spaces and facilities or online.
- (e) Graduate Teaching Assistants who believe that academic dishonesty or scientific misconduct has occurred should report it to the faculty member to whom they are assigned; Graduate Teaching Associates should seek guidance from the Department Head.
- (f) Graduate students in direct contact with undergraduate students must adhere to University rules for protecting student privacy.
- (g) Graduate students in direct contact with their undergraduate students are prohibited from amorous or sexual relationships with them, as are faculty: <https://senate.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2014/08/Relationships-Between-Faculty-and-Students-2.pdf>. They are strongly discouraged from such relationships even where the undergraduates are not in currently direct contact.

Grievances and Appeals

Complaints about unfair treatment should be addressed, if possible, first with the student's faculty advisor and then with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head. The Graduate School policy statement available under "Graduate Student's Right of Appeal," <https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduate-council/appeals-committee/the-university-of-tennessee-graduate-council-appeal-procedure/>, applies "only after grievances have been duly processed, without resolution, through appropriate appeals procedures at the department and college levels." Thus, two additional elements are required that should precede pursuit of Graduate School procedure: (a) a detailed description of department's grievance and appeal procedure, emphasizing that the initial appeal must be filed no later than 30 days after the incident that occasions the appeal, and (b) a statement informing students that if the department procedure does not lead to resolution of the complaint, the next level is an appeal at the College level. This appeal must be filed within 30 days of a final decision at the Department level.

Graduate Faculty

Professors

Stephanie A. Bohon (PhD Pennsylvania State University, 1998) Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Social and Applied Demography, Research Methods, Latino Migration, and Ethnic Economies, sbohon@utk.edu

Michelle Brown (PhD Indiana University Bloomington, 2003) Critical Carceral Studies; Law & Society; Contemporary and Critical Theory; Transformative Justice; Visual Criminology, mbrow121@utk.edu

Harry F. Dahms (PhD New School for Social Research, 1993) Theory, Political Economy & Globalization, Planetary Sociology, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Philosophy of Social Science, Science Fiction, hdahms@utk.edu

Paul K. Gellert (PhD Wisconsin-Madison, 1998) Political Economy & Globalization, Environmental Sociology, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Southeast Asia, pgellert@utk.edu

Asafa Jalata (PhD SUNY-Binghamton, 1990) Political Economy & Globalization, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Race/Ethnic Minority Relations, Development, ajalata@utk.edu

Robert E. Jones (PhD Washington State University, 1990) Environmental Sociology, Survey Analysis, mountain@utk.edu

Lois Presser (PhD University of Cincinnati, 2002) Criminological Theory, Narrative Criminology, Harm, Restorative Justice, Discourse Analysis, lpresser@utk.edu

Jon Shefner (PhD University of California-Davis, 1997) Political Economy & Globalization, Social Movements, Development, Field Methods, jshefner@utk.edu

Associate Professors

Michelle Christian (PhD Duke University, 2011) Political Economy & Globalization, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Racial Stratification, Labor, Tourism, mchris20@utk.edu

Shaneda Destine (PhD Howard University, 2017) Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Social Inequality, Medical Sociology, Gender, sdestine@utk.edu

Christina Ergas (PhD University of Oregon, 2013) Environmental Sociology, Environmental Justice, Sustainability, Stratification, Political Economy, Urbanization, cergas@utk.edu

Timothy M. Gill (PhD University of Georgia, 2016) Political Economy & Globalization, Political Sociology, Development, Theory, U.S Empire, tgill5@utk.edu

Tyler Wall (PhD Arizona State University, 2009) Criminology, Policing and Social Order, State Violence, Race and Class, twall3@utk.edu

Deadric Williams (PhD University of Nebraska, 2013) Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Family Sociology, dwill196@utk.edu

Assistant Professors

Sam Kendrick (PhD University of Kansas, 2024) Gender and Sexuality, Courtship and Marriage, Sexual Scripts, Cultural Studies, skendrick@utk.edu

Andrew Taeho Kim (PhD University of Kansas, 2023) Labor Markets, Stratification and Inequality, Race and Ethnicity, Asian American Studies, Gender and Family, Research Methods and Statistics, atkim@utk.edu

Bill McClanahan (PhD University of Essex, 2017) Green Criminology, Visual and Sensory Criminology, Policing and Social Order, Rural Sociology and Criminology, Appalachian Studies, billmcc@utk.edu

Lindsay E. Shade (PhD University of Kentucky, 2017) Environmental Sociology, Political Economy and Globalization, Collaborative Action Research, Critical Property Theory, Appalachian Studies, lshade1@utk.edu

Jennifer Patrice Sims (PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014) Race/Ethnicity, Critical Mixed Race Studies, Social Psychology, Research Methods, Critique of Science and Knowledge. Email: TBD

Aryana Soliz (PhD Concordia University, Montreal, 2022) Urban Sociology, Transportation Policy, Environmental Governance, Critical Disability Studies, Gender and Intersectionality, Community Engaged Research. Email: TBD

Stephen Wulff (PhD University of Minnesota, 2024) Critical Criminology, Punishment, Policing and Social Order, Law & Society, Social Movements, Urban Sociology, swulff@utk.edu

Resources on Campus

- International students
 - International Student and Scholar Services (international.utk.edu)
 - International House (ihouse.utk.edu)
 - International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Testing Program (tiny.utk.edu/ita-testing)
- Professional development and training
 - Evolving Practices in Teaching program (tiny.utk.edu/bpit)
 - Libraries Services and Resources (libguides.utk.edu/graduate)
 - Center for Career Development & Academic Exploration (<https://studentsuccess.utk.edu/career/students/get-tailored-career-guidance/graduate-students/>)
 - Teaching & Learning Innovation (teaching.utk.edu)
- Funding
 - Costs and funding news (tiny.utk.edu/grad-funding)
 - Graduate Student Senate Travel Awards (gss.utk.edu/gss-travel-awards/)
 - Financial aid and scholarships (onestop.utk.edu/financial-aid)
- Other student resources
 - College of Arts and Sciences website (artsci.utk.edu)
 - Student Counseling Center (counselingcenter.utk.edu)
 - Department website (sociology.utk.edu/)
 - The Graduate School (gradschool.utk.edu)
 - Graduate Catalog (tiny.utk.edu/grad-catalog)
 - Graduation deadlines (tiny.utk.edu/grad-deadlines)
 - Graduate School forms (gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central)
 - Graduate Student rights and obligations and appeals process (tiny.utk.edu/rights-obligations)
 - Graduate Student Senate (gss.utk.edu)
 - Equal Opportunity & Accessibility (oed.utk.edu)
 - Office of Graduate Admissions (gradschool.utk.edu/admissions)

- Office of Information Technology – “OIT” (oit.utk.edu)
- Multicultural Student Life (multicultural.utk.edu)
- Research Integrity & Assurance (research.utk.edu/compliance)
- Office of Title IX (titleix.utk.edu)
- Student Conduct & Community Standards (studentconduct.utk.edu)
- Theses & Dissertations (gradschool.utk.edu/academics/graduation/theses-and-dissertations)

Forms

All forms are available on the Graduate School website (gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/). Current URL links are provided below.

- [Graduate Student Travel Award Forms](#)

Master’s student forms

- [Admission to Candidacy](#)
- [Revised Admission to Candidacy](#)
- Graduation Application: MyUTK: “Student Records” / “Apply to Graduate”
- [Report of Defense of Thesis](#)

Doctoral student forms

- [Admission to Candidacy](#)
- [Revised Admission to Candidacy](#)
- [PhD Committee](#)
- [Revise PhD Committee](#)
- [Scheduling of Dissertation Defense](#)
- [Report of Dissertation Defense](#)
- [Request for Concurrent Master’s Degree](#)