

Graduate Student Training and Teaching

(Updated 11/13/2019)

Expectations

All GTAs are required to take the Teaching Sociology course at first offering after beginning the doctoral program. If students do not take Teaching Sociology, they may lose the right to GTA funding, as GTAs are expected to teach by their second or third year in the program¹. Students will have a Teaching Practicum the first time they are instructor of record. Students are offered a full-time week training in online education, delivered in May (aligned with the offering of the Teaching Sociology course).

Once students complete a master's degree in Sociology and the Teaching Sociology course, they are qualified to teach the main general education courses—SOCA 101 (Introduction to Sociology) and SOCA 207 (Social Problems in Contemporary America). Depending on their areas of specialization, they may also qualify to teach other general education courses, including SOCA 221 (Families and Society) and SOCA 235 (Race and Ethnic Relations), or courses for the criminology major. These include SOCA 232 (Criminology) and SOCA 234 (The Criminal Justice System).

Students assigned to teach before passing comprehensive exams will teach one class per semester. Once a student teaches a course and has it prepped, they will be given priority for teaching it again—to improve it as soon as possible. On campus courses taught by graduate students will have enrollment capped at 50. After students have successfully passed their comprehensive exams, they are expected to teach two classes per semester. The classes will consist of one on-campus class and one online class. Students can request to teach two sections of the same on-campus class (i.e. two sections of 101); however, assignments will be based on department need.

Students may have the opportunity to teach 300 level classes when they are finished with their coursework and comprehensive exams or after they have taught lower division classes for two semesters and have a MA in the area of specialization. Assignment to 300 level classes is based on department need. Faculty are given priority for 300 level courses. Students are expected to fill out the Graduate Teaching Interest form within the first month of each semester in efforts to facilitate planning for the following semester. In addition to identifying courses of interest, the application will assess students' progress in the program and experience and past success with teaching. It is recommended that students submit the syllabus for their 300 level course to their advisor or other faculty member (e.g. DGS) two weeks before the first day of the class. Students teaching a 300 level for the first time will be evaluated by either the DGS or their advisor.

In sum:

- 1) Faculty are given priority for 300 level courses
- 2) Students must teach lower division courses for two semesters before teaching 300 level courses. This gives them experience in the classroom.

¹ Students who enter the program with a MA degree may be expected to teach their second year in the program, provided the Teaching Sociology course is offered the spring of their first year.

- 3) Students may have the opportunity to teach 300 level courses in their area of specialization after they take comprehensive exams or after they have written a MA thesis in the area. In both instances, the student demonstrates expertise in the area.
- 4) Decisions on which students teach 300 level courses is based on department need, student progress, experience and past success with teaching, and course preferences. Students who wish to be considered for 300 level courses will fill out an application the preceding semester. (see Attachment A)

Teaching priorities are determined using the following criteria:

- 1) Required: master's degree and Teaching Sociology course for all classes
- 2) Required: online teaching training for online courses
- 3) Strongly preferred: teach within area of specialization (221, 235, 232, 234)
- 4) Preferred: begin teaching at lower level and "graduate" to upper division courses (300 level) in area of specialization

Summary timeline

Year	Students	Teaching Eligibility
1	All	Take SOCA 710 & Online Training
2	All	Take SOCA 710 & Online Training
	MA & SOCA 710	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235.
3	MA & SOCA 710	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235.
	MA & SOCA 710 & taught lower division courses for two semesters	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235. Possibly advance to 300 level courses.
4	MA & SOCA 710 & taught lower division courses for two semesters	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235. Possibly advance to 300 level courses.
	MA & SOCA 710 & passed comprehensive exams	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235. Possibly advance to 300 level courses. Teach 2-2 load.
5	MA & SOCA 710 & taught lower division courses for two semesters	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235. Possibly advance to 300 level courses. Teach 2-2 load.
	MA & SOCA 710 & passed comprehensive exams	101, 207 and, depending on area of specialization, 221, 232, 234, and/or 235. Possibly advance to 300 level courses. Teach 2-2 load.

Attachment A.

Graduate Student Teaching Interest Form

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Finished MA? No Yes

Taken Teaching Sociology? No Yes

Finished comprehensive exams? No Yes

Please list the course(s) you have previously taught:

Course (please note online\in-person)	Number of Times Taught

In order of preference, please indicate the courses you would be interested in teaching:

Course (please note online\in-person)

Note that teaching assignments are made using the following criteria:

- 1) Curricular and enrollment needs
- 2) Your progress in the program
- 3) Your experience and past success with teaching
- 4) Your course interests

This means, for instance, if a course you are interested in teaching does not meet a curricular need then you will be assigned a course for which there is a need. It is not possible to match all students' interests with department needs; however, these matches will be made where possible.