Emory's doctoral program in Sociology features an internationally recognized faculty dedicated to both research and teaching. Strong mentoring and interdisciplinary connections support productive student scholarship in preparation for a variety of academic and research careers.

Areas of Focus
We provide rigorous training in theory, research design, and statistics, as well as extensive preparation in these major substantive areas:

- **Culture:** mass media; religion; world culture; music, literature, and the arts; popular culture; identity construction.
- **Health:** social determinants of health, mental health and illness, health inequalities, religion and public health, gender and global health
- **Social psychology:** interpersonal and group processes; social structure and personality; status and power; justice; racial attitudes; legitimacy; identity formation and negotiation; emotions; causes of crime; health and well-being.
- **Social inequality:** gender, race, class, and ethnicity; education; work and industry; medical sociology; criminology.

We also collaborate in exploring links across these areas. For example, several faculty members are engaged in projects that examine the effects of inequality on physical, mental, and social well-being. Others are exploring the evolution of lynching in the South, the experience of middle-class Latino immigrants, links between global warming and crime, effects of gender on health across countries, and the development of musical fields.
Research Resources
Faculty and graduate students at Emory enjoy an ample and invigorating research environment, including the resources of the Institute for Quantitative Theory and Methods. The Sociology Department houses a computer laboratory consisting of high-capacity PCs and Macs that operate a wide array of statistical, qualitative, and graphics software. The extensive University library systems consists of the Robert W. Woodruff General Library as well as a number of specialized facilities, all linked through a computerized circulation system.

Emory and the Atlanta areas offer a number of other opportunities for research and collaboration.

The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference focuses on the study of the modern civil rights movement. The Carter Center at Emory University includes a policy center fostering scholarly activities on issues such as conflict resolution, global health, and economic development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are nearby, offering opportunities for research and employment.

As the capital of Georgia, Atlanta is a major government and business center. Twenty-two colleges and universities are located in the surrounding area. Atlanta is the U.S. government’s southeast regional headquarters for the Departments of Labor, Interior, and Health and Human services, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Atlanta is also the home for a number of important civil rights organizations. Sociologists in the areas of race relations and social change may pursue interests in the activities of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the national office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the regional headquarters of the NAACP.

Curriculum
Our curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in theory, methodology, and the major areas of sociology; experience with conducting and presenting original research; and expertise in two or more chosen areas of specialization. The program is designed for completion in five to six years.

Coursework
The Ph.D. program usually requires three years of coursework. Students are required to take courses in research design, statistics, and theory. The remaining hours of coursework include advanced courses in statistics and theory, qualitative methods, and substantive courses. Students are encouraged to take courses not only in their major area but also in other areas of the program and in other departments/schools.

Students take a “hands-on” research writing course in their second year to assist them in developing a publishable research paper.

Research
Our program requires a paper based on original empirical research, which is to be presented at a professional meeting. Often, students publish their research paper in a peer-reviewed journal. They also co-author with faculty and their graduate student peers.

Preliminary Exams
Students take one preliminary exam at the end of their third year, covering one of our four core areas and a minor area related to the student’s field of research.
Dissertation

The capstone of the Ph.D. curriculum is the writing of the dissertation, which the student carries out under the guidance of an advisor and at least three other committee members. Students have the opportunity to attend grant-writing workshops to solicit outside dissertation support. Recent students in the Ph.D. program have been awarded dissertation fellowships from organizations such as the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, National Science Foundation, and Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Fellowship in Women's Studies.

For more details about our curriculum, please visit the graduate program page on our website at http://sociology.emory.edu/home/graduate/index.html. You will find a student handbook that details all degree requirements, preliminary exam reading lists, course syllabi and more.

Students

We typically have 45 doctoral students in residence, and accept about five new students each year. Students and faculty in the Sociology program are from a close community of scholars, with small classes and individualized advising and mentoring.

Currently, graduate students are participating in ongoing research projects that include legitimacy and justice processes in interaction, welfare policies, schooling and the state, the process of retrospective consecration of artists, international non-governmental organizations and global social problems, race inequality and education, and the causes of juvenile delinquency.

Faculty and graduate students take part in the Sociology brown-bag series, which is an internal forum for the presentation of ongoing research. We also sponsor a speakers series, which brings major scholars to campus each year.

Admitted students usually receive five years of funding, which includes a tuition scholarship and stipend. The Laney Graduate School also provides research, specialized training and professional development funds, including travel funds for students to present their work at professional meetings, and research funds for their dissertation work.

We actively support our students’ efforts to find good positions in both academic and non-academic careers. Recent academic placements include the University of Delaware, the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, SUNY at Albany, Drew University, Morehouse College, Ithaca College, Georgia State University, the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Texas A&M, the University of Toronto, Mary Washington University, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Alabama at Huntsville, Erasmus University (Rotterdam), and Mississippi State. Recent non-academic research placements include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CARE, the CIA, MACRO International, UNC Charlotte, University of South Carolina, University of New Mexico, and Virginia Commonwealth University.
Faculty

The Sociology Department includes 18 full-time faculty, 2 lecturers and numerous associated and adjunct faculty whose primary appointments include the Rollins School of Public Health, the Candler School of Theology, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our faculty members engage in cutting-edge research, take pride in excellent teaching, and actively contribute to the University and wider community.

Faculty publish regularly in the leading Sociology journals, including the American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Annual Review of Sociology, Social Psychology Quarterly, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Poetics, Sociological Methodology and Sociology of Education, as well as in leading journals of adjacent disciplines and interdisciplinary specialties such as The American Political Science Review, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Social Science and Medicine, Theory and Society, and Criminology.

Recent books published by our core faculty include: Flourishing: Positive Psychology and the Life Well Lived; From Words to Numbers: Narrative, Data and Social Science; The Handbook of Political Sociology; Latinos and African-American Women at Work; Pressured Into Crime: An Overview of General Strain Theory; Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism; World Culture: Origins and Consequences; The Netherlands: Globalization and National Identity.

A complete listing of our faculty, along with their research interests and selected publications, is available on the faculty page of our website, http://sociology.emory.edu/home/people/index.html.

Contact Information

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