

Table 2: Requirements for Doctoral Degree in Sociology

Program Requirements	Credit Hours	Expected Timing*
All of the following courses: SOC 815, SOC 816, SOC 881, SOC 882, and SOC 885	15	Year 1
Two of the following courses: SOC 883, SOC 884, SOC 985, or SOC 986 (or another 800- or 900-level advanced methods/analyses course approved by the student's Guidance Committee)	6	Years 2-3
At least five courses in or related to a Signature Area, approved by the Guidance Committee	15	Years 1-3
<i>Total Coursework</i>	36	
24 SOC 999: Doctoral Dissertation Research Credits**	24	
Total	60	
Successful completion of Departmental Graduate Teaching Assistant workshop		Year 1
Successful formation of Guidance Committee		Year 2
Successful completion and presentation of Qualifying Paper		spring of Year 2 or fall of Year 3
Successful completion of Comprehensive Examination		Year 4
Successful oral defense of Dissertation Proposal		Year 5
Successful oral defense of Dissertation		Year 6
Successful completion of Departmental Professional Development Workshop Series		Years 1-3; as needed Years 4-6
Successful completion of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) certification***		update annually
Successful completion of GradPlan		update annually

* The expected years are for students entering the Doctoral Program with a BA/BS. Failing to complete program requirements in a timely fashion places students at risk of losing their "good academic standing" status (see Section 7.6.3. below). Students "not in good academic standing" may have holds on their university account, making them unable to enroll in courses or receive assistantships or fellowships. Information about requests for extensions to the University's Comprehensive Exam and PhD time limits is available here: <https://grad.msu.edu/tle-info>.

** The maximum number of dissertation credits allowed is 36.

*** RCR training involves Department, College, and University requirements.