

# PhD in Sociology at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

## Overview

The PhD in Sociology at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is a unique and innovative doctoral program that draws on our distinctive location along the U.S.-Mexico Border and focuses on the department's outstanding expertise in migration, environment, and health. This Ph.D. program specializes in the comparative study of national and social processes that connect and transcend the boundaries of the United States and Mexico, as well as other divided global societies.

The faculty in UTEP's Sociology & Anthropology Department have a strong record of publication and research in each of these fields. Moreover, as an interdisciplinary department that contains Sociologists, Anthropologists and Geographers, we provide a training that goes beyond more narrowly focused Sociology departments. Additionally, UTEP, with a majority Latinx student body, is on the cutting edge of filling the clear need for more Latinx scholars with Ph.Ds.

The department houses an NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program in "Immigration and Border Community", is a member of the Rocky Mountain Research Data Center Consortium, and houses the Socio-Environmental & Geospatial Analysis (SEGA) Lab which provides training in GIS. It has established, world-leading experts on borders, spatial analysis, and political economy. Its faculty have also won three Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards for excellent teaching and numerous outstanding book awards from national and international associations.

## UTEP Sociology Faculty by Specialty Area

Specialty Area	Faculty
<i>Borders and mobility</i>	Campbell, Chakraborty, Heyman, C. Morales, D. Morales, Murga, O'Hearn, Slack
<i>Culture and health</i>	Heckert, Leyser-Whalen, Frederick, D. Morales, Murga, Nunez-Mchiri
<i>Environment and society</i>	Basu, Carmichael, Chahim, Chakraborty, Firat, Heyman

## Curriculum

Students in this program will engage in empirical research to produce new understandings of social processes impacting the world in a unique and highly dynamic context. Research will be conducted via one of the three tracks that comprise the program: (1) Borders and Mobility; (2) Culture and Health; and (3) Environment and Society. This tripartite structure reflects the concentrated expertise of our highly productive faculty in these three areas, all of which reflect their shared commitment to place-based research.

### Semester Credit Hour (SCH) Requirements by Category

Category	SCH Entering with a Bachelor's	SCH Entering with a Master's
Required Courses	16	Variable depending on previous course completions
Prescribed Electives	6	Variable depending on previous course completions
Electives	21	Variable depending on previous course completions
Dissertation	18	18
Other (Specify, e.g., internships, clinical work, residencies)		
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	61	variable but at least 31

<sup>1</sup>If a student already has a Master's degree, they can apply to have some M.A. courses counted towards Ph.D. course credits. A review of the syllabi of their previous courses and the grades they received in these courses will determine whether they can place out of courses.

## Required/Core Courses

Prefix and Number	Required/Core Course Title	SCH
	<b>Research Methods</b>	<b>6</b>
6320	Quantitative Sociology	3
6322	Qualitative Sociology	3
	<b>Theory</b>	<b>6</b>
6328	Classical Theory	3
6329	Contemporary Theory	3
	<b>Professionalization Courses (currently 5311, will be expanded to two courses at 6000 level)</b>	<b>4</b>
6111	Proseminar on research, grants, and writing	3
6112	Proseminar on applying to jobs (may be repeated at 0 credit)	1
	<b>Dissertation Hours</b>	<b>18</b>
SOCI 6389	Supervised Research (can be repeated for credit)*	variable
SOCI 6398	Dissertation I	3
SOCI 6399	Dissertation II (can be repeated for credit)*	3-6

**Prescribed Elective Courses (two core courses in a chosen concentration)**

<b>Prefix and Number</b>	<b>Prescribed Elective Course Title</b>	<b>SCH</b>
	<b>Borders and Mobility</b>	<b>6</b>
SOCI 6362	Proseminar in Border Theory	3
tba	Problems in Border Research	3
	<b>Environment and Society</b>	<b>6</b>
SOCI 6363	Proseminar in Environmental Justice	3
tba	Social and Environmental Sustainability	3
	<b>Culture and Health</b>	<b>6</b>
SOCI 6364	Proseminar in Culture and Health	3
tba	Health Disparities	3

## Elective Courses

Prefix and Number	Elective Course Title	SCH
	<b>Select 18 hours in areas of special interest to student (including above prescribed electives outside of chosen concentration; courses will be taught irregularly according to profile and interests of cohorts)</b>	<b>18</b>
tba	Global Environmental Change and Social Inequalities	3
SOCI 6355	US-Mexico Borderlands in Change	3
tba	Health and Health Care Policy	3
SOCI 6360	Gender	3
SOCI 6340	Demography	3
SOCI 6381	Cartography & Visualization	3
tba	Global and Transnational Society and Culture	3
tba	Mapping Social Data with GIS	3
tba	Sociology of Disability	3
tba	Energy, Infrastructure, and Environment	3
tba	Migration and Mobility	3
SOCI 6363	Environmental Justice	3
SOCI 6364	Sociology of Health	3
SOCI 6341	Special Graduate Topics	3
SOCI 6320	Seminar in Advanced Research Methods	3
	Cognate graduate courses from other Departments at UTEP (with approval of Director of Graduate Studies)	3-6

## Expected Progress through the degree

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-6
<b>Core courses</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Complete coursework</b>	<b>Continue research</b>	<b>Second Professionalization course</b>
<b>First professionalization course</b>	<b>Present at professional meeting</b>	<b>Comprehensive exams</b>	<b>Present at professional meeting</b>	<b>Complete and defend dissertation</b>
<b>Prescribed electives</b>	<b>Submit an article to a journal</b>	<b>Defend dissertation proposal</b>	<b>Submit an article to a journal</b>	<b>Present at professional meeting</b>
		<b>Begin dissertation research</b>		<b>Submit an article to a journal</b>
		<b>Present at professional meeting</b>		<b>Apply for jobs</b>
		<b>Submit an external grant application</b>		

## TO APPLY

Applications for admission to the PhD program should be sent to the Graduate School at <https://www.utep.edu/graduate/apply-now/apply-now.html>. Applicants must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

The application must include:

- Letter of intent and research interests and
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts and diploma/certificates of all universities and colleges attended prior to application
- TOEFL/IELTS if all degrees are conferred in non-English speaking countries.

We do not require GRE scores but applicants are welcome to submit them. A writing sample will strengthen and help the admissions committee to evaluate your application. Writing sample should be sent to [SocPhd@utep.edu](mailto:SocPhd@utep.edu).

The final deadline for applications is March 15 but complete applications will be reviewed as they are received.