

College of Arts and Sciences
Sociology, Gerontology & Gender
University of Missouri – St Louis
One University Blvd
St Louis MO 63121
314-516-6363 (office)
314-516-7235 (fax)



Degree with Distinction in Research, Scholarship or Creativity in the Arts

Guidelines for a Degree with Distinction in Sociology

A degree with distinction in research, scholarship or creativity in the arts is an honor that recognizes a student for outstanding accomplishments in research and/or other creative endeavors. Students majoring in Sociology who meet the following criteria may apply for candidacy for a Degree with Distinction during their final year before graduation. The following are the basic requirements.

1. Have obtained a minimum of 75 credits
2. Have a faculty mentor to support their effort
3. Have begun research, scholarship or creative endeavors of exceptional quality as determined by a faculty mentor
4. Have a minimum GPA of 3.5

Candidates must produce a novel body of work that includes publication-quality research data from which to write a capstone paper. Candidates may use research or accomplishments developed through papers or projects done for Sociology courses, as well as Independent Research (**SOC 4350 Special Study: 1-10 semester hours**), or Internships (**SOC 4385 Internship in Sociology: 1-6 semester hours**). Candidates must present and successfully defend a capstone paper to a faculty review committee.

The faculty review committee will consist of the faculty mentor in the Sociology Program and at least two faculty members from the Sociology program (or other programs/departments) who work within a relevant field of study and are qualified to examine the candidate's body of work. Mentors will identify at least two faculty members who are an appropriate fit and are willing to serve on the committee. These recommendations should be included on the application for candidacy. Interested students must submit an application for candidacy to their

departmental chairperson, or program director, at least one semester before graduation, and the candidates must successfully defend or present their work no later than six weeks before the end of the semester in which they graduate.

Students awarded the Distinction designation will have such an acknowledgment placed on their transcript and their degree and will be so recognized at graduation.

Sequence for completion of for a Degree with Distinction in Sociology

1. Find a Sociology faculty mentor willing to guide or accommodate you through your specific research endeavors. You may be required to enroll in independent research or independent studies courses.
2. Begin or continue your research.
3. Apply for candidacy once you have earned 75 credit hours.
4. Fulfill the requirements for the capstone paper
5. Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
6. Defend your capstone paper and submit the Preliminary Approval for the Degree with Distinction form to your College Dean no later than 6 weeks prior to commencement.
7. Graduate with a Degree with Distinction.