

### Minimal Expectations for students entering program without M.S.<sup>1</sup>

#### Year 1:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
  - SO 8103 Graduate Theory I
  - SO 8213 Research Design
  - SO 8274 Graduate Social Statistics I
  - SO 8900 Professionalization Seminar
  - Electives chosen in consultation with Major Professor and Handbook
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities<sup>2</sup>
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Identification of Major Professor by *Spring Semester*
- Development of thesis topic

#### Year 2:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Formation of a thesis committee
- Defense of a M.S. thesis proposal by *Fall Semester*
- Defense of a M.S. thesis by *Spring Semester*<sup>3</sup>
- Attend a regional conference (AMSA, MSSA, SWS, SSS)
- Attend professional development event on campus
- For non-thesis track students, take exit exam by *Spring Semester* and complete M.S. degree
- Enroll in library course on thesis formatting for graduation if graduating.
- Apply to Ph.D. program if desired (and after M.S. is completed)

#### Year 3:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses) (If planning to continue on to PhD program, see requirements and take those courses in consultation with Major Professor)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Defense of M.S. thesis if not yet defended.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is modeled from University of Georgia's Department of Sociology. It is a recommended progress plan for full-time students.

<sup>2</sup> For graduate teaching assistantships, typically students with their MS degree teach independently after two years of assisting faculty with teaching.

<sup>3</sup>Students conducting theses involving original data collection often defend final theses the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

- Completion of M.S. degree no later than **November of Fall Semester**
- Apply to Ph.D. program if desired (following completion of M.S.)
- Preparation of the M.S. thesis and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Attend professional development events as appropriate
- Attend a regional conference (AMSA, MSSA, SWS, SSS)

*If continuing to Ph.D. program...*

Year 3/4:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
  - SO 8113 Graduate Theory II
  - SO 8223 Quantitative Analysis
  - SO 8233 Qualitative Analysis
  - SO 8284 Graduate Statistics II
  - SO 8900 Teaching Sociology (should take your first summer of the program if possible)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Begin studying for prelims (ideally **Spring Semester of Y3**)
- Successful completion of prelim examination (ideally **by Fall Semester of Y4**)
- Development of dissertation topic.
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or engagement in other activities relevant to future goals (remember how long it takes for articles to be published so start early)
- Attend a conference as appropriate
- Attend professional development events as appropriate
- Consistent progress toward dissertation proposal
- Formation of dissertation committee
- For qualitative dissertations involving data collection, recommended dissertation proposal defense by **Spring semester**.

Year 5:

- Dissertation proposal defense by **Fall semester**. (Must be no more than two years after passing prelims but recommended time frame is within one year)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Attend a conference as appropriate
- Attend professional development events as appropriate
- Evidence of ongoing efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication and/or engagement in other activities relevant to future goals(remember how long it takes for articles to be published so start early)

Year 6 and beyond:

- Evidence of on-going efforts towards completion of dissertation project.
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities as applicable.
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication and/or engagement in other activities relevant to future goals
- Attend a conference as appropriate
- Attend professional development events as appropriate
- Dissertation defense and completion of Ph.D. in consultation with Major Professor and dissertation committee.
- Enroll in library course on dissertation formatting for graduation.

*For students interested in entering the academic job market, please keep these goals in mind as well. By the time you apply for jobs, in addition to your dissertation nearly completion, you should also strive for:*

- 1-2 peer reviewed publications (often take more than a year or two for a paper to go from submission to acceptance-plan ahead if you want this on your CV for job market)
- 3-4 conference presentations
- 2-4 courses taught as Instructor of Record
- Research Assistant experience

*For students interested in entering the broader job market, please discuss your plans with your Major Professor and other faculty and strive to accomplish goals relevant to the jobs that appeal to you. This might include unique applied experiences, learning new methods, public engagement and community events, attending specialized conferences, taking courses in different departments, working in research centers or other units on campus, gaining certifications, etc.*

### **Minimum Expectations for students entering directly to Ph.D. program**

Year 1:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful completion of required and elective coursework
  - SO 8103 Graduate Theory I
  - SO 8213 Research Design
  - SO 8274 Graduate Social Statistics I
  - SO 8900 Professionalization Seminar
  - Electives chose in consultation with Major Professor and Handbook
  - SO 8113 Graduate Theory II
  - SO 8223 Quantitative Analysis
  - SO 8233 Qualitative Analysis
  - SO 8284 Graduate Statistics II
  - SO 8900 Teaching Sociology (should take your first summer of the program if possible)

- See handbook for other requirements
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities<sup>4</sup>
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Identification of Major Professor by *Spring Semester*
- Begin reading and thinking about ideas for dissertation research
- Take Maymester Teaching Sociology course (required if plan to teach)

## Year 2:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful completion of required and elective courses
- Successful performance of teaching/research assistantship responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Preparation of the M.S. thesis and/or other research paper for presentation and publication
- Develop dissertation ideas in consultation with Major Professor
- Attend a regional conference (AMSA, MSSA, SWS, SSS)
- Participate in professional development event

## Year 3:

- Earn grade of A in coursework (Must earn B or higher in all required courses)
- Successful *completion of* required and elective coursework
- Develop ideas for dissertation and begin thinking about proposal
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship/lecturer responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Submission of at least one paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or engagement in other activities relevant to future goals (remember how long it takes for articles to be published so start early)
- Begin studying for prelims (ideally *Spring Semester of Y3*)

## Year 4:

- Successful completion of prelim examination (ideally *by Fall Semester of Y4*)
- Formation of dissertation committee.
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship/lecturer responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department.
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication(remember how long it takes for articles to be published so start early)
- For qualitative dissertations involving data collection, recommended dissertation proposal defense by *Spring semester*.

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<sup>4</sup> For graduate teaching assistantships, typically students with their MS degree teach independently after two years of assisting faculty with teaching.

## Year 5:

- Dissertation proposal defense by **Fall semester**. (Must be no more than two years after passing prelims but highly recommended time frame is within one year)
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship/lecturer responsibilities
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication
- Evidence of on-going efforts toward dissertation project
- Attend a conference as appropriate
- Attend professional development events as appropriate

## Year 6 and beyond:

- Evidence of on-going efforts towards completion of dissertation project.
- Successful performance in teaching/research assistantship responsibilities as applicable.
- Demonstration of ethics and a professional attitude, as well as engagement in the intellectual life of the department
- Evidence of on-going efforts to revise/submit research papers for publication and/or engagement in other activities relevant to future goals
- Attend a conference as appropriate
- Attend professional development events as appropriate
- Dissertation defense and completion of Ph.D. in consultation with Major Professor and dissertation committee.
- Enroll in library course on dissertation formatting for graduation.

*For students interested in entering the academic job market, please keep these goals in mind as well. By the time you apply for jobs, in addition to your dissertation nearly completion, you should also strive for:*

- 1-2 peer reviewed publications (often take more than a year or two for a paper to go from submission to acceptance-plan ahead if you want this on your CV for job market)
- 3-4 conference presentations
- 2-4 courses taught as Instructor of Record
- Research Assistant experience

*For students interested in entering the broader job market, please discuss your plans with your Major Professor and other faculty and strive to accomplish goals relevant to the jobs that appeal to you. This might include unique applied experiences, learning new methods, public engagement and community events, attending specialized conferences, taking courses in different departments, working in research centers or other units on campus, gaining certifications, etc.*