
Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Defense Checklist

The Sociology Department deadline for Ph.D. students to defend qualifying exams is October 15, during their 5th semester in the program.

Students officially appoint dissertation committee members by completing the Graduate Student Supervisory Committee Appointment Form in their 4th semester. The committee must consist of a minimum of three Sociology Department faculty and one outside person (academic faculty outside USF and/or outside sociology). Faculty mentors will become dissertation chairs, co-mentors will become co-chairs. Academic faculty who are classified as emeriti, professors of instruction or are outside USF must be approved as affiliate graduate faculty *prior to* appointing the committee. Please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator for assistance with getting approval.

In consultation with dissertation chair(s), students select two different (not overlapping) specialty areas within sociology that correspond to substantive ASA sections and will inform the planned dissertation research. Specialty areas should be narrow enough to allow for development of comprehensive knowledge in traditional or newly established subfields in sociology, and wide enough to help students develop niches that are recognized and valued in the discipline (and respond to the job market). One recommendation is to develop specialty areas based on substantive

AND IN CASE:

If the qualifying exam defense is not successful, the defense of a revised exam must be scheduled and announced again exactly as described above. Ph.D. qualifying exam defenses can only be rescheduled once. If a qualifying exam is not considered acceptable at the second defense, the student will be dismissed from the program.

WHAT ELSE?

Ph.D. students who have formally advanced to candidacy *must* enroll in a minimum of two (2) credit hours every semester following their advancement, including summers, until (and including) the semester during which they graduate. This is a university rule.