

FAQs

Application Questions:

When is your application Deadline?

The deadline for prospective students interested in funding opportunities is January 15th. If you would like to be considered without funding, the deadline is March 15th.

Does PITT offer an application fee waiver?

The University does not offer any itself, but we recognize the following national programs:

- Gates Millennium Scholars Program
- McNair Scholars
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans

Can I apply for admission in the Spring term?

Our department only offers admission in the Fall term

I see that I can upload my application online or mail my materials to your office; do I need to do both?

You can either upload the materials online **OR** send them to the address below, whichever is more convenient. The committee does not need the same information sent twice, by two different mediums. We will throw out duplicate work, unless it is explicitly indicated that it is an update to submitted work.

Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Sociology
University of Pittsburgh
2400 Wesley Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

How many students apply and how many are admitted each year?

Typically, our department has 100-150 applicants and we admit 3-7 students per year. This includes both international and domestic students.

What is the Average GRE/TOEFL/GPA Scores of incoming applicants?

Past Two Incoming Cohorts Averages:

GRE Verbal	GRE Quantitative	GRE Analytical
160	151	4.3
TOEFL Internet	TOEFL- Paper	GPA
100 (MIN 90)	600	3.71 (MIN 3.0)

*****IMPORTANT NOTE:** The University REQUIRES at least a 3.0 GPA, s score of at least 90 with at least a 22 in each section, or 577 paper based test, on the TOEFL in order to be considered for funded positions.

What is your school code for submitting GRE/TOEFL Scores?

The code for the University of Pittsburgh is 2927

I am an international student currently studying at another United States institution or an Institution where the official language is English; do I need to submit my TOEFL scores?

No, if you have been admitted and are currently attending an accredited US or official English speaking institution, your TOEFLs are not required.

Program Questions

What are the major fields of study of the professors in this program?

The program has two main areas of focus: Social Movements as well as Politics and Culture. We are most likely to admit students who can demonstrate research interests in those two areas. The personal statement and writing sample are the places to signal those interests.

I am looking to receive a Master's Degree, do you offer one?

Our department does not offer a terminal Master's program, meaning we only accept students who wish to receive their PhD. Students in the graduate program in Sociology at Pitt earn the MA degree on the way to the PhD (the first 36 of 72 graduate credits, including 6 credits for writing an MA thesis).

I already have a Master's Degree; can this transfer towards the PhD?

This is determined by the Graduate Committee after acceptance into our program. Generally speaking, if the Master's is NOT in Sociology, we can only accept 6 credits. If in Sociology we can accept 18-24 credits.

More Information on transfer credits can be found below:

There is no guarantee that we can transfer earned credits towards a PhD Degree. We require that you submit a petition to the graduate committee, stating precisely toward which requirements previous work is to be applied, with a detailed description (syllabi, reading lists, and thesis) of the relevant earlier work to aid the graduate committee in its decision. Note that transfer credit will not be accepted for courses in which a letter grade of B or lower has been received; grades and quality points are not recorded for credits accepted by the transfer. Please also note that this process happens AFTER you are accepted.

Generally speaking, if you have your previous MA degree in sociology and you have completed an independent thesis, then we tend to accept 18-24 credits from that degree. If you have a degree outside sociology it is at the discretion of the committee to accept your Master's thesis. If they accept you are again eligible for a maximum transfer of 24 credits. If they deny your thesis then you will be required to pursue an MA here at Pitt and are only eligible for a 6 credit transfer. Typically, if your MA is not in sociology we do not accept you MA thesis and require you to pursue the MA at Pitt.

What kind of funding is available for incoming students?

The department funds most of its doctoral candidates through a mix of teaching assistantships, teaching fellowships, departmental fellowships, and research assistantships. Funding is not guaranteed and determined on a case by case basis. If you are accepted with funding, positions include full tuition waiver and health benefits or provision for benefits and appointments typically last for 3-4 years. If admitted with funding, you must teach undergraduate students for a set number of years in English, making the TOEFL scores important to success at the University of Pittsburgh. You are also encouraged

to apply for external funding a list of some of our most popular can be found here <http://www.sociology.pitt.edu/graduate/NondepartmentalAwards.php>.

I would like to work with a specific professor at PITT, should I contact them?

Faculty members are overwhelmed with emails from current students and related to their other work, so they cannot always respond (quickly) to inquiries from prospective students. Professors certainly would like to respond, but it is not always possible. Once our department has identified students we hope to admit, faculty members tend to get more involved and are able to spend more time on individual inquiries.

How long does it typically take to complete the program?

Typically we can provide up to five years of funding for graduate students, and many students apply for grants to give them more time to do their dissertation research. Most students finish the program in 5-7 years.

What types of jobs do students typically receive after graduation?

Many students seek jobs in academic programs teaching and doing research in sociology. However, a degree in sociology prepares students for many other career paths in social research, education, and policy work. You should visit the American Sociological Association's website for more information about various careers in sociology. In particular, see: <http://www.asanet.org/employment/careers.cfm>

Where can I get more information?

To learn about our program and application process, please visit <http://www.sociology.pitt.edu/graduate/index.php>. It offers general information as well as specific requirements about our department, and the study of sociology. It is a good way to assess whether the Pitt sociology training is a good fit for you.