

Department of Sociology

Graduate Student Handbook

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Department of Sociology
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PART I: DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

Program Orientation

Students who are interested in furthering their understanding of and ability to analyze social phenomena will find UNC's Master of Arts in Sociology relevant. Students will learn to assist in identifying and overcoming barriers within organizations and help the organizations achieve their goals. They will also be able to assess and make reasonable projections concerning social costs and benefits resulting from local, regional and national policies aimed at meeting community or organizational needs.

Our award-winning faculty are committed to providing high quality instruction through active participation in ongoing scholarly and applied research. Faculty research interests include:

- Family and Children
- Gender
- Sport
- Aging
- Social Psychology
- Community
- Teaching and Education
- Immigration and Migration
- Race and Ethnicity
- Social Inequality
- Health and Illness
- Social Movements
- Religion
- Organizations
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research
- Environmental Sociology
- Deviance and Social Control
- Social Change

Target students for the Master's program include:

- Students who plan to pursue doctoral studies in Sociology and are interested in research and instructional positions at a college or university.
- Practicing professionals who wish to enhance their analytical and applied research skills.
- Individuals seeking employment in government or private social service agencies.

Graduates from the Sociology MA program have found careers in all levels of government, non-profit organizations, and industry and have pursued doctoral degrees at other institutions. In addition, the flexible degree plans allows students the opportunity to take courses in diverse areas of interest.

There are two degree plans available to Sociology graduate students at UNC. The first is the traditional thesis degree plan, designed for students who seek to perform original sociological research with the intent on eventually pursuing a doctoral degree in Sociology or a related field, or for students whose professional interests require enhanced analytical skills. The second is the Applied degree plan, designed for those wishing to pursue advance study in Sociology in order to advance their professional goals and opportunities by developing their applied analytical skills.

NOTE: Requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies at University of Northern Colorado as stated in the *Graduate Catalog* (<http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Graduate-Catalog>) apply to all operating procedures of the Department.

Admission Requirements

The sociology program has a continuous admission policy throughout the year as long as space is

available. However, if you need financial assistance, you typically must apply by Oct. 29 for Spring admission or April 1 for fall admission.

The Graduate School and International Admissions (GSIA) Office processes applications from all future graduate students. Your application is valid for one calendar year from the proposed start date.

You must be admitted by both our Graduate School and the Masters in Sociology program (either the applied or thesis emphasis). Consult the Graduate School Admissions Instructions for complete details, including how to register online.

The following are required for admissions consideration:

1. *Graduate School and International Admissions Application:* The Graduate School application is an institutional application required by UNC. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining qualifications for graduate study. To apply, go to <http://www.unco.edu/grad/admissions/applying.html>

2. *Application fee:* A \$50 application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at UNC. The application fee is non-refundable. If you are able to attend the Graduate Fair at UNC in the fall semesters, you can secure a waiver to cover this \$50 fee.

3. *Official transcripts:* All applicants are required to provide ONE official transcript from every accredited college or university attended since completing high school, except UNC. Official transcripts from each college are required, even if courses taken at one institution are listed on another school's transcripts. Students must contact their previous institution and arrange to have that college or university send transcripts directly to graduate admissions at UNC. Transcripts submitted will become the property of the Graduate School and International Admissions and will not be returned to the applicant. Each applicant's transcripts will be used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program.

4. *Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 is recommended:* The department recommends students applying to the graduate program to have earned a minimum GPA of 3.25 from their degree granting institution. The graduate school requires a minimum GPA of 3.0, calculated on the last 60 hours of the Bachelor's degree or GPA from the Master's degree. Each applicant's undergraduate GPA will be used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program.

5. *Career and Personal Goals Essay:* The Career and Personal Goals Essay is the students' opportunity to discuss their fit with the program offered at University of Northern Colorado and why the applicant should be admitted. While students have a significant amount of freedom to discuss anything they would like in their essay, they may want to address their short-term and long-term academic/professional goals, why they would like to attend our program, and how their interests fit with our program. The letter will be reviewed by the graduate committee and will be used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program.

7. *Letters of Recommendation:* Two letters of recommendation are required for each applicant. Letters should be submitted by someone who is able to evaluate the applicant's academic and professional potential. If one of your recommenders is full-time faculty in our Sociology program, you only need one letter.

All application materials are submitted to Graduate School and International Admissions who will

forward completed applications to the Sociology Department.

Undergraduate Students Taking Graduate Classes

Only UNC Junior and Senior undergraduate students who have a GPA of 3.0 are eligible to enroll in 9 credits of 500-level classes for undergraduate credit. Should that undergraduate want the credits to apply to the graduate program: 1) the credits must **not** be necessary for their undergraduate degree and 2) they must submit the "Petition to Count Work" form in the first week of classes (available on the Sociology graduate program website). The credits cannot be applied to both the graduate and undergraduate level, and should they submit the petition, it will change their funding and fees for the course and it cannot be undone. (This could be frustrating for a student who thinks they may want to join the program, submits the petition and changes their mind. The credits cannot be returned to their undergraduate degree.)

If a student wants to take 600-level classes, they must be admitted into the program. Once admitted, they can complete up to 12 credit hours at the graduate-level.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process here: <http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/>

Program Governance

Graduate Program Coordinator:

The Graduate Program Coordinator is voted upon by the Graduate Faculty. His or her duties include:

- Supervision of the Graduate Program in Sociology
- Coordination of recruitment of students and advertisement of the Graduate Program

Supervision of the Graduate Program in Sociology:

The Coordinator is in charge of implementing and enforcing the rules of the graduate program in Sociology at UNC. They must be familiar with the University and Departmental rules concerning enrollment in the program, academic requirements, academic specializations and other aspects of the UNC graduate career in Sociology.

Coordination of Recruitment and Advertisement:

The Coordinator supervises and promotes the production and distribution of material advertising the Graduate Program in Sociology at UNC.

The Graduate Committee:

The Graduate Committee is self-appointed among Sociology Graduate Faculty and works with the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Graduate Committee is the main body of governance for the graduate program curriculum standards and policies regarding the operation of the graduate program. The graduate committee assists the Coordinator in implementing graduate student admission, formulating the graduate program policy, and advising the Department of Sociology on Graduate Program policy issues.

Performance Standards and Scholastic Expectations

The criteria for earning a M.A. degree include completion of the 30-credit hour requirement and successful defense of the thesis or professional paper. In addition to these criteria, students are expected to maintain high performance standards throughout their residence in the program and remain in "academic good standing" at University of Northern Colorado.

In order to achieve and remain in *academic good standing* (and therefore eligible for funding) at University of Northern Colorado, a graduate student must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate coursework attempted. All grades earned in courses taken for graduate credit will be utilized in computing the grade point average. Please note, a 3.0 grade point average is required to be eligible for funding.

Grading System:

Five grades are given in graduate courses at the University. Professors may elect to utilize plus/minus designations in assigning grades:

Grade Denotation

A	Superior
B	Above average
C	Average
D	Poor
F	Failure

Courses for which "C-", "D+", "D", "D-", "F", "U", "W", "NR", or "I" grades are awarded will not count in graduate degree programs and will not satisfy program deficiency requirements.

At the discretion of the instructor, a temporary grade of Incomplete - "I" may be given to a student who demonstrates that they could not complete the requirements of the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control and not reasonably foreseeable. A student must be passing a course at the time that an Incomplete is requested unless the instructor determines that there are extenuating circumstances to assign an Incomplete to a student who is not passing the course. Credits not used to compute grade point average (GPA) and not counted toward graduation. **Students completing an Incomplete grade should not register for the course a second time.**

The instructor must submit to the department chair a written notice of the specific coursework to be completed before the final grade is determined as well as reasons for the Incomplete grade; a copy is kept in the department and one is provided to the student.

To change an Incomplete grade, the instructor must submit the grade change request form to the Office of the Registrar. Grade change requests submitted after the six week period of the subsequent term the student originally enrolled in the course must be approved and signed by the instructor, the school director/department chair and the Dean of the College (or designee). Forms are available within URSA, under the Faculty tab. No grade change request forms delivered by students will be accepted. Additional information is available at www.registrar.unco.edu.

If the course requirements are not completed and the grade change form received in the Office of the Registrar after a maximum of one year, the grade will be recorded on the academic record as a

failing or unsatisfactory grade. Once the incomplete grade(s) have rolled to unsatisfactory/failing, a grade change(s) will not be permitted.

A “NR” is used for theses, dissertations, and other courses that have been granted approval for “NR” grading at the *graduate* level. The “NR” is assigned when the coursework requires longer than a semester to complete. The “NR” will be replaced by the appropriate grade when the work is completed. Once “NR” grades have rolled to an unsatisfactory, grade changes will not be permitted.

A “W” indicates an approved withdrawal from the course and is assigned only when the student has completed the official withdrawal processes. Credits not used to compute grade point average (GPA) and not counted toward graduation.

A full description of the UNC grade policy can be found at <http://unco.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/General-Information/Policies-and-Procedures/Grading>.

Academic Standing:

A graduate student who falls below a 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of any semester during which one or more semester credit hours are attempted will not be eligible for university funding support.

Academic Integrity:

The Graduate Faculty of University of Northern Colorado and the Department of Sociology expect students to conduct academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments. The University’s policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the *Student Code of Conduct*, distributed by the Office of Student Engagement and Dean of Students (<http://www.unco.edu/dean-of-students/pdf/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>). It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand all relevant policies related to academic honesty.

Professionalism and Communication

As young scholars and early professionals, the relationships and communication between students and faculty is assumed to be completely professional. Please see the “Professionalism Assessment Rubric” for tips on maintaining a professional performance during your time at UNC. Furthermore, a key component to professional success is effective communication. Please maintain open communication with your advisor and moving up the chain (GPC, Department Chair) as necessary. We want you all to succeed and may be able to offer you strategies to overcome obstacles, if we know about them.

PART II: THE MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Graduate Student Advisement

For the first semester a student is in the program, they are either assigned a faculty member to serve as advisor on the basis of shared interest or the Graduate Program Coordinator will serve as her or his *advisor*. It is the duty of the advisor to discuss with students required coursework and curriculum objectives relevant to students’ needs. The student, in consultation with her or his advisor, will determine appropriate classes, workshop research plans, discuss which academic

degree track (thesis/non-thesis) is appropriate for the student's intellectual, academic, and career goals. In the second semester, after completion of the Master's Committee Application, the student's requested and approved *chair* becomes the student's advisor.

Master's Committee Application

In a student's second semester, they will submit a Committee Application to the faculty (due either Oct. 1 or March 1). In this application a student chooses whether they will complete the thesis or applied track and they will request committee members. Also, in this application, students will briefly outline their project plan.

Students choosing to complete a research report for the applied track will request only a chair. These projects will be embedded in the application of sociology through an internship and should demonstrate a variety of marketable skills (e.g., research techniques, data analysis, and literature synthesis). The audience of a research report are generally considered to be practitioner in the field being studied, though this may vary. These projects are most suitable for students who are certain to be terminable MA students and are planning to pursue a career where they apply their sociological skillset to the real world.

Students choosing to complete a thesis will request a thesis chair and a second committee reader. These projects will be a completed research project incorporating data analysis and theory and speak to an academic audience. With a more intense focus on the theoretical implications of the data analysis, these projects are most suitable for students considering pursuing additional education beyond the MA. However, like the research report, the thesis should demonstrate a variety of marketable skills and students unsure about their next academic steps should not be dissuaded from completing an applied thesis.

It is the responsibility of students to consult with faculty before submitting the application. In particular, students should begin conversations about research plans with the proposed chair (and committee) before the application is submitted.

Applied versus Thesis Track

The primary differences between the Applied Research Report and the Thesis is the scope of the research and the audience to which the author is writing. An applied project should be grounded in a particular organization (ideally one with whom an internship is taking place) and, through the analysis and with the assistance of sociological theory, should provide practical and specific recommendations to meet particular goals. The audience of the Research Report is the organization and other, similar, practitioners. In contrast, the thesis should speak to broader generalizations and patterns, specifically through the use of theory. The audience for a thesis is academic sociologists who are interested in how your findings build on theoretical models that currently exist.

Applied Emphasis Degree Plan

Required Sociology Credits — 21 credits

SOC 552	Applied Social Theory	3
SOC 539	Seminar in Soc Practice	3
SOC 595	Special Topics in Inequality	3 (other course numbers can substitute, see advisor)
SOC 660	Applied Social Research	3
SOC 691	Research Internship	1- 9 (take 6 credits)

Take one of the following (both preferred):

SOC 562	Social Statistics	3
SOC 563	Qualitative Methods	3

Elective Credits — 9 credits

Elective credits may be any 500 or 600 level courses in Sociology or other approved department.

Research Report

The research report is an original research work that demonstrates the candidate's application of sociological skills in a professional setting. This degree plan is designed for students either wishing to pursue advance study in Sociology in order to advance their professional goals and opportunities by developing their applied analytical skills. Students who are interested in conducting a research report must consult their advisor and apply for this option to the Sociology graduate faculty during their second semester of study (MA Committee Application due either Oct 1 or March 1). In consultation with their advisor, students work with their internship site supervisor to plan and conduct a research project which culminates in a professional research report. The research report should be an exemplar in applied sociology, demonstrating how sociology can be applied to organizations and groups to improve their performance, functionality, efficiency, etc.

Research Report Chair

Selection of the chair depends on student preference and faculty availability and expertise. After a faculty member agrees to serve as chair. There is only one required faculty member for a research report, however two faculty members must offer final approval of the research report. This role can be fulfilled by a faculty member, the GPC, or Department Chair will facilitate as second reader. The chair must be approved by the department.

Research Report, Proposal, and Defenses

The research report requires six SOC 691 credit hours to be taken in 3-credit increments (though all 6 hours may be taken in one semester, if necessary). It is at the discretion of the chair whether a student registers for internship hours before or after the student has defended a proposal. It is at the discretion of the chair when a student is required to complete IRB, if necessary.

The student will prepare a research proposal which will specify the topic, detail the purpose of the proposed investigation, describe the proposed method(s) of investigation, indicate the relationship of study to internship, and how the findings and analysis will benefit the site of analysis. This proposal will should first be approved by the faculty chair and then offered to the second reader. The second reader should be offered 1-2 weeks to review the proposal before the defense. The approved proposal will be defended before the faculty committee, though may be open to all members of the department at the discretion of the advisor.

Candidates should work closely with their chair during the completion of the research report. Candidates should allow the committee ample time to review draft versions of the report. The candidate should submit the completed research report to the committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense. At the discretion of the advisor, these defenses will be open to all members of the department. Students must complete their research report and pass the defense by the comprehensive examination deadlines set by the UNCO Graduate School:

<http://www.unco.edu/grad/forms/deadlines.html>

The length and format of the research report should be confirmed between student and faculty

chair.

Thesis Emphasis Degree Plan

Required Sociology Credits — 21 credits

SOC 552	Applied Social Theory	3
SOC 539	Seminar in Soc Practice	3
SOC 595	Special Topics in Inequality	3 (other course numbers can substitute, see advisor)
SOC 660	Applied Social Research	3
SOC 699	Thesis	1- 6 (take 6 credits)

Take one of the following (both preferred):

SOC 562	Social Statistics	3
SOC 563	Qualitative Methods	3

Elective Credits — 9 credits

Elective credits may be any 500 or 600 level courses in Sociology or other approved department.

Thesis

The thesis is an original research work that demonstrates the candidate's theoretical, methodological and substantive skills in the discipline. This degree plan is designed for students who plan to continue graduate education or whose professional interests require enhanced analytical skills. Students who are interested in conducting a thesis project must consult their advisor and apply for this option to the Sociology graduate faculty during their second semester of study.

Thesis Committee

Selection of the chair depends on student preference and faculty availability and expertise. After a faculty member agrees to serve as chair, the student will select the other committee members with guidance from the chair. The committee must then be approved by the department.

Thesis, Proposal, and Defenses

The thesis requires six SOC 699 credit hours to be taken in 3-credit increments (though all 6 hours may be taken in one semester, if necessary). It is at the discretion of the chair whether a student registers for thesis hours before or after the student has defended a proposal. It is at the discretion of the chair when a student is required to complete IRB, if necessary.

The student will prepare a thesis proposal which will specify the topic, detail the purpose of the proposed investigation, describe the proposed method(s) of investigation, indicate the relationship of study to relevant research and findings of scholars in the student's area of concentration, and provide a commentary on source materials and/or facilities available for the successful completion of the research. This proposal will should first be approved by the committee chair and then offered to the second committee member. The second reader should be offered 1-2 weeks to review the proposal before the defense. The approved proposal will be defended before the faculty committee, though may be open to all members of the department at the discretion of the advisor.

Candidates should work closely with their chair during the completion of the thesis, and second

reader as advised by the committee. Candidates should allow the committee ample time to review draft versions of the thesis. The candidate should submit the completed thesis to the thesis committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled defense. At the discretion of the advisor, these defenses will be open to all members of the department. Students must complete their thesis and pass the formal oral defense by the deadlines set by the UNCO Graduate School: <http://www.unco.edu/grad/forms/deadlines.html>

The length and format of the thesis should be confirmed between student, faculty chair, and second committee reader. However, UNC theses guidelines must be followed. For a detailed overview of these guidelines and tools that will assist students in their authorship of a thesis, access the library's UNC Thesis Guidelines and Tools website: http://www.unco.edu/grad/new_current/resources/.

PART III: GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Sociology offers a limited number of graduate assistantships to students who have been admitted to the Graduate Program. Most assistantships pay a 4-month stipend for in-state students and are awarded based on qualifications. Out-of-state assistantships are available in some cases. Graduate assistants work closely with professors in teaching and/or research activity and are appointed on a semester-by-semester basis.

Students seeking assistantships must submit a formal application for each semester. Application forms are available on the Sociology Department website. Deadlines to apply for assistantships generally occur late October for the following Spring semester and before April 1 for the following Fall semester. Potential applicants should review the departmental web site for specific deadline dates.

Assistantship Obligations

Graduate assistantships provide the opportunity for students to work with faculty members. Graduate students receiving departmental support are expected to actively engage in departmental research and/or perform services assisting professors' instruction. Assistantships require that the student be enrolled 6-9 credit hours per semester. Audited courses do not count toward assistantship credit hour levels.

Each semester (Fall and Spring), all half-time assistants are expected to be available and perform services related to teaching and/or research for an average of 8 hours per week.

NOTE: Faculty with grant funds may support summer assistantships or wage payroll positions for graduate students.

Teaching Assistantships: Canvas and Email

If you are performing the role of Teaching Assistant and you need access to Canvas, you must have a first.last name email address and have it selected as your preferred email contact. Please see Lisa or contact IT if you have any questions.

Termination of Assistantships

A student's assistantship may be terminated for a variety of reasons, some of which are beyond the control of the student. Teaching and research assistants are expected to maintain academic standing of GPA of 3.0 or above, obtain grades of A or B in each class they take, possess high levels of academic

integrity, and perform their assistantship duties responsibly. Failure to meet these criteria may be considered grounds for assistantship termination. Assistantships may also be terminated due to financial and/or bureaucratic exigencies of the Department and/or the University.

Matriculation Timeline & Satisfactory Academic Progress

The following guidelines reflect optimal scheduling of coursework for students making satisfactory academic progress for a Master's of Arts degree in Sociology. The degree requires a total of 30 credit hours beyond the Bachelor's degree. Students should utilize these guidelines under the advisement of the Sociology Department Graduate Program Coordinator and/or their advisor, which whom they should meet to discuss their progress every semester. Students may coordinate with their advisor, the Graduate Program Coordinator and/or the chair a substitution for the required courses listed below.

Note: students must be registered for 9 hours/semester in order to be considered full-time. Part-time students should follow the sequence of courses over her/his extended time period.

End of the First Semester

1. Completed at least two of the following Required Sociology Credits:

- ☐ SOC 552: Applied Social Theory
- ☐ SOC 562: Social Statistics OR SOC 563: Qualitative Methods
- ☐ SOC 539: Seminar in Social Practice
- ☐ SOC 595: Special Topics in Inequality (you may substitute this course number for others, see advisor)
- ☐ SOC 660: Applied Social Research

2. Completed a minimum of 9 credit hours that count toward M.A.

Electives encouraged:

- ☐ SOC 593: Practicum in College Teaching
- ☐ SOC 562: Social Statistics OR SOC 563: Qualitative Methods

3. Achieved a GPA of 3.0 in graduate classes

End of the Second Semester

1. Completed all of the following Required Sociology Credits:

- ☐ SOC 552: Applied Social Theory
- ☐ SOC 562: Social Statistics OR SOC 563: Qualitative Methods
- ☐ SOC 539: Seminar in Social Practice
- ☐ SOC 595: Special Topics in Inequality (you may substitute this course number for others, see advisor)
- ☐ SOC 660: Applied Social Research

2. Completed a minimum of 15 hours that count toward M.A.

Electives encouraged:

- ☐ SOC 593: Practicum in College Teaching
- ☐ SOC 562: Social Statistics OR SOC 563: Qualitative Methods

3. Achieved a GPA of 3.0 in graduate classes

4. Submit Committee Application form to the Graduate Program Coordinator

End of the Third Semester

1. Presented a prospectus to advisor

2. Completed a minimum of 3 credit hours of SOC 691: Research Internship OR SOC 699: Thesis
3. Completed a minimum of 24 hours that count toward M.A.
4. Achieved a GPA of 3.0 in graduate classes

End of Fourth Semester

1. Completed a minimum of 6 credit hours of SOC 691: Research Internship OR SOC 699: Thesis
2. Completed a total of 30 credits that count toward M.A.
3. Achieved a GPA of 3.0 in graduate classes.
4. Satisfactorily completed the professional research report/defend thesis.
5. Apply for graduation (usually early September for Fall, mid-January for Spring, mid-June for Summer)
6. Submit comprehensive exam/thesis to Graduate School (usually due mid-November or early April)

Graduate Student Progress Matrix

Students are encouraged to measure their progress through the program by maintaining an updated version of the Sociology Department Graduate Student Matrix. The items on this matrix are considered important reflections of students meeting our learning objectives and can certainly demonstrate students' success upon graduation. The current Matrix can be found on the Graduate Program website.

Conferences, Paper Awards, and Travel Funds

Professional conferences are a critically important professionalization opportunity for students. In addition to getting to prepare and present your own research, they offer a chance to engage in academic dialogue about the value and contributions of your work, witness high (and sometimes low) quality presentations, network with other graduate students and faculty, and overall gain practice being a professional. Also, for academic folks like us it can be really fun! Please see the "Conferences and Paper Awards" document on the Sociology MA website.

Paper Awards

Particularly for students interested in pursuing a Ph.D., please be aware of graduate student paper award opportunities. If you have a paper that you think it appropriate for consideration, speak with your advisor about the nomination process. Such awards can really position you as an emerging expert in a particular area.

Travel Funds

Students are responsible for seeking out funding for conference travel. The UNC Graduate Student Association (GSA), the Sociology Honor Society—Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), paper award winners, and, when available, the Sociology Department proper. Please be attentive to these deadlines and the requirements necessary for seeking these funding options.

Impostor Syndrome

Graduate school can be a challenge for everyone for many reasons, not the least of which is Impostor Syndrome. Please see the article "Impostor Syndrome is Definitely a Thing" to assist you in naming your anxieties and know that you are not alone. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Impostor-Syndrome-Is/238418>

Communities and Support

There are a number of resources available for graduate students that facilitate communities and can provide various types of support (including, sometimes, conference travel!). In our department, consider joining and participating in Sociology Club/AKD. There are several activities this

organization does throughout the year, each with a sociological bend. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) has various community building events throughout the year for other UNC students often facing similar demands and challenges in graduate school life. There are numerous cultural associations on campus including: the Native American Student Services (NASS), Asian/Pacific American Student Services (A/PASS), Gender & Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), Women's Resource Center (WRC), Stryker Institute for Leadership Development, Cesar Chaves Cultural Center (CCCC), Veterans Services (VS), and the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (MGCC). Links to each of these can be found here: <https://www.unco.edu/equity-inclusion/>

Counseling Center

Should you need confidential support to provide you with self-healing strategies for improvement/strength, please consider reaching out to the UNC Counseling Center: <https://www.unco.edu/counseling-center/> Counseling services are free to all UNC students.

After the MA...?

The American Sociological Association (ASA) has a bunch of resources available about careers available to sociologists as well as research on career experiences for sociologists. We encourage you to utilize these resources and the input and experience from your faculty advisors as you prepare to navigate your next steps. It is the mission of our graduate program to help you be successful in whatever avenue you choose next—work with us to figure out what those next steps might entail so that we can offer you the best guidance we can. <http://www.asanet.org/career-center/careers-sociology>