

## Frequently Asked Questions (Ph.D.)

### **Do I need to have a master's degree in order to be admitted into your Ph.D. program? Can I directly apply to the Ph.D. program with a bachelor's degree?**

We do not require a master's degree for admission to our Ph.D. program. We only require a bachelor's degree in sociology or its equivalent. You can apply to the Ph.D. program with a bachelor's degree and earn your master's degree in the course of getting your Ph.D. degree. If you have a master's degree, you can transfer appropriate credit hours after satisfactorily completing a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework at TWU and filing the degree plan.

### **My Bachelor's degree is not in Sociology. Can I still be admitted into your Ph.D. program?**

Yes. We consider promising students with a bachelor's degree in other fields. Quite a few of our current students have a degree from other disciplines.

### **My GPA is below 3.5, can I be considered for admission?**

If your GPA of the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework is at least 3.0 but below 3.5, you may be considered for conditional admission, assuming that you meet other admission criteria. You may be asked to submit additional evidence to demonstrate your ability to do graduate work. You may be required to take some prerequisite courses before enrolling in courses for the Ph.D. program.

### **When is the deadline of application?**

We do not have a fixed deadline. We admit graduate students all year long in fall, spring, and summer. However, we strongly recommend prospective students to apply at least two months before the starting date of a semester in order to ensure sufficient time to process the application and to prepare for enrollment. New international students need to apply at least six months before the starting date of a semester because visa application takes much longer to complete. Check with the TWU Office of International Education at <http://www.twu.edu/international-education/new-admit-international-students.asp/> for deadlines of graduate and visa application.

### **Where do I submit my graduate application?**

You must submit your Graduate Application Online through *Texas Common Application* at <http://www.applytexas.org>.

### **What other application materials are required?**

The following materials should be sent to:

TWU Admissions, P.O. Box 425649, Denton, TX 76204

- Official transcripts of all prior undergraduate and graduate coursework from each college attended
- GRE scores
- Graduate application fee of \$50
- Application for Assistantship (if desired)

In addition, the following materials should be sent to:

Dr. Philip Q. Yang  
Sociology Graduate Advisor  
Department of Sociology and Social Work  
P.O. Box 425887  
Denton, TX 76204

- 3 letters of recommendation
- A statement of purpose (2-3 pages)

**Can I waive the GRE?**

No.

**What is the minimum GRE score required for admission?**

There is no minimum GRE score required.

**My GRE scores are not very high. Should I still apply?**

Yes.

**Do I have to take the GRE Subject test in Sociology?**

No.

**Can I waive the TOEFL?**

The TOEFL can be waived if one of the following conditions is met: 1. You are from a country where English is the primary language of instruction and is the language spoken at home and by the indigenous population. 2. You have earned a degree from an accredited U.S. college or university. 3. You submit a satisfactory GRE verbal score (500 or higher), GMAT (50th percentile or higher), or a satisfactory score on one of the other tests accepted by the Graduate School.

**I submitted most of my application materials, but a few items are still missing. Will my application be considered?**

No.

**What areas of concentrations do you offer?**

Our areas of concentration include Race and Ethnic Relations, Social Inequality, Migration, Deviance/Criminology, Social Psychology, Women and Children's Health, Sociology of Disasters, Family Violence, Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Culture, and Urban and Community Sociology.

**Do you offer financial support?**

Yes. We offer graduate teaching assistantships to outstanding students who have been accepted into the Ph.D. program. Financial support includes a monthly stipend and tuition waiver (out-of-state) for the time of employment. Some research assistantships are available from faculty members who have research grants. In addition, the department offers some scholarships (visit <http://www.twu.edu/sociology/scholarships.asp> for details).

**When are the deadlines for the application of teaching assistantships?**

October 15 and March 1.

**When is the deadline for the application of departmental scholarships?**

Normally October 30. Check the announcement on the sociology homepage.

**Is financial assistance available for international students?**

Yes, but more limited, especially for the first year.

**What is important to the admission committee?**

The committee considers the whole record of each applicant rather than just one single indicator. Statement of purpose, recommendation letters, GPA, and GRE scores are among the most important factors to consider.

**When can I expect to hear from you about my application?**

Once your application file is complete, you will receive a notification from the Graduate School within one and a half months. You can also check your application status online through <http://www.applytexas.org>.

**Do you offer a master's or Ph.D. degree in social work?**

No.