

UCSD Department of Sociology
Sociology Graduate Program
Approved Field Exam Topics
Revised & Adopted April 22, 2008

This approved list of field exams was recently revised and recommended by the Graduate Program Committee (GPC), and later adopted by the faculty on April 22, 2008.

The GPC considered two criteria for topics:

1. The topic covers an established sub-field within sociology;
2. and there are at least two faculty members in our Department willing and able to guide and grade a paper on that topic.

Although some of us work on the boundaries of the discipline and beyond, the graduate program in Sociology is committed to providing a solid foundation in the discipline of sociology through the training and development of its students within these approved field topics. Student wishing to be examined in a field other than one of those listed below must petition the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Committee for permission. Among the things the Committee will consider are (1) the department's mission, which is, in part, to prepare students to teach well-recognized, established areas of sociology, and (2) the relationship between the proposed field and the student's anticipated doctoral research. The petition must make the case that the proposed topic is a well-defined subfield of the discipline of sociology and that is not already covered by one or two of the topics listed below. In general, the Committee does not approve narrowly conceived fields and discourages customization.

Field Exam Topics

Comparative/Historical
Culture
Development/Political Economy
Economic Sociology
Education
Family
Gender
Globalization
Inequalities & Stratification
International Migration
Knowledge & Intellectuals
Language and Discourse Analysis
Law
Mental Health
Medical
Methods (Qualitative/Quantitative)

Organizations
(may combine w/ Occupations & Work)
Occupations & Work
Political Sociology
Race and Ethnicity
Religion
Social Movements
Science and Technology
Sexualities
Social Control
Theory
Urban and Community Sociology

NOTE: The university catalogue and graduate program handbook include the relevant details on these examinations; if you have questions, please consult them or with the graduate coordinator.