

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Students in the Science Studies Program are subject to the same general requirements as other students in the Department of Sociology. However, since the Program curriculum and regulations differ from those of the Department, these notes indicate the specific way in which Department rules will be interpreted by the Sociology/Science Studies Graduate Advisor. Where these notes do not refer to particular Department requirements, it can be assumed that Program students will follow current Department rules.

Requirements for the Qualifying Examination:

A. The Qualifying Examination Requires Three Papers

{i} The first is intended to be in a major area of sociology related to research in science studies. Typically, it will be recommended that students offer a field in classical or modern sociological theory, the sociology of knowledge, or the sociology of culture; however, where individual cases justify it, any sociological sub-discipline may be offered to satisfy this requirement, e.g., the sociology of work, organization, gender, socio-linguistics, methods, etc.

{ii} The second paper will be in the sociology of science (in specific cases "science" can be construed to include a major concentration upon medicine or technology).

{iii} The third paper is, broadly, in "history and philosophy of science", and it is expected to derive from and to develop students' work in seminars in the history of science or philosophy of science. This paper may be a critical review of literature in one or both of the relevant fields. Alternatively, it may be a substantive paper based upon empirical and/or theoretical work which shows significant competence in the history or philosophy of science. Extended essays deriving from the Seminar in Science Studies or Internship may—subject to the approval of the candidate's Chair of Qualifying/Thesis Committee—be used to satisfy this requirement.

B. Nature of the Papers

Subject to these guidelines, the specific details of each of these papers will be agreed with the relevant member(s) of the student's Qualifying/Thesis Committee. It is expected that they be from 25 to 35 pages long, their length depending partly upon field and purpose. In the case of a literature review, the reading list will be agreed with faculty committee member(s), and, in the case of empirical/interpretive essays, the topic and general plan of the essays will also be so agreed. It is not expected that essays previously written for research seminars will normally fulfill the requirements for qualifying papers {i} and {ii}, though it is possible that such essays may form the basis for one or more qualifying papers.

C. Prospectus

In addition to the three papers, the student will also be required to prepare a thesis prospectus. This may be both provisional and brief (as short as ten pages). But students are strongly encouraged to make the prospectus as detailed and as representative of the proposed dissertation as possible.

D. Oral Qualifying Examination

The oral examination will assess {i} the student's competence in each of the fields represented in the three qualifying papers, and {ii} the student's readiness to proceed to dissertation work as represented in the prospectus. In the Oral Examination, faculty will seek to determine the student's comprehensive knowledge of each field. Each of the examining faculty may ask questions in any of the three areas presented by the student; these questions may address fundamental issues in the field, even if these are not covered directly in the student's papers.

E. Timing

The qualifying examination must be taken by the end of Year 4 of graduate study.

F. Composition of Committee

The Qualifying/Thesis committee comprises five members: three Sociology Department members and two external members. At least two internal members and at least one external member should be members of the Program. Students should refer to departmental and university policies for additional rules concerning the composition of committees.

G. Applicability of These Requirements

These requirements wholly replace the previously existing requirements for Sociology/Science Studies students who enter the Program in September 1994 or later. Students who entered the Program before September 1994 may opt to be subject to the new regulations, but those so choosing will be subject to all the above requirements, i.e., they may not select among them. Such students opting for the new requirements must notify the Sociology/Science Studies Graduate Advisor in writing of their intention to do so.

H. Interpretation of Requirements

Students in doubt about how any of these regulations are to be interpreted are to consult with the Sociology/Science Studies Graduate Advisor or OGSR.

Agreed in May 1994 by Department of Sociology Graduate Committee and by Sociology/Program members attending meeting on 31 May 1994, and circulated to Prof. Chandra Mukerji for her approval.*

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