MS in Rural Sociology

Degree Requirements

Professional Master's Degree

The principal master's degree in rural sociology is the 39-credit-hour professional master's degree. The program is designed to prepare students for positions in the public and private sectors, and it is particularly useful for positions that include applied research, policy analysis or community development. Students who wish to complete a master's degree in rural sociology followed by a doctoral degree in the program also are encouraged to pursue the degree.

The professional master's degree has two options:

1. The community facilitation option for individuals interested in working for government, extension and non-governmental agencies in the field of community development

2. The analytical processes option for students wishing to do policy analysis for government agencies.

Students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or greater and must have completed at least 15 hours of coursework at or above the 8000 level. Both programs require an internship.

Traditional Master's Degree

A 30-credit-hour traditional master's degree, requiring a thesis, is also offered. The degree primarily is intended for those who intend to pursue doctoral studies or who have a special reason for wanting a thesis degree. Although it requires fewer credit hours, a thesis degree normally requires one semester longer to complete than the professional master's degree.

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>15-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RU_SOC 7325</td>
<td>American Community Studies 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RU_SOC 7341</td>
<td>Building Communities from the Grassroots 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RU_SOC 8450</td>
<td>Research in Rural Sociology (internship) 3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>RU_SOC 8510</td>
<td>Research Methods and Design 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUB_AF 8195</td>
<td>Economic Analysis for Public Policy - Mid Career 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Core Courses (must take three courses) 9

- RU_SOC 7120 Social Statistics 3
- RU_SOC 7335 Social Change and Development 3
- RU_SOC 7446 Community Sociology 3
- RU_SOC 8287 Seminar on Sustainable Development 3
- RU_SOC 8436 Community, Natural Resources and Sustainability 3
- RU_SOC 8444 Agriculture, Food and Community 3
- RU_SOC 8447 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Rural Sociology 1-99
- RU_SOC 8610 Economic and Sociological Approaches to Collective Action 3

Community Facilitation Option (additional requirements)

Must take three of the following:

- RU_SOC 7342 Empowering Communities for the Future

Non-Thesis Requirements

- RU_SOC 8130 Advanced Social Statistics
- RU_SOC 8190 Economic Analysis for Public Affairs
- PUB_AF 8195 Economic Analysis for Public Policy - Mid Career
- AG_ED_LD 8430 Evaluation of Educational Programs
- SOCIOL/RU_SOC 7120 Social Statistics
- RU_SOC/AG_ED_LD 8540 Methods of Qualitative Research

Analytical Process Option (additional requirements)

Additional Requirements:

- RU_SOC 8130 Advanced Social Statistics
- RU_SOC 9480 Community Survey Research
- PUB_AF 8320 Spatial Analysis for Public Affairs
- AG_ED_LD 8540 Methods of Qualitative Research

Must take two of the following:

- PUB_AF 8150 Collaborative Governance
- PUB_AF 7340 Regional and Economic Development Policy
- AAE 8060 Quantitative Tools for Decision Making and Performance Evaluation
- ESC_Ps 9650 Application of Multivariate Analysis in Educational Research

TRADITIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE

Required Courses

- RU_SOC 8130 Advanced Social Statistics

Entering graduate students should already have a basic statistics course. No credit will be received for:

- RU_SOC 7120 Social Statistics
- RU_SOC 7335 Social Change and Development
- RU_SOC 7446 Community Sociology
- RU_SOC 8287 Seminar on Sustainable Development
- RU_SOC 8436 Community, Natural Resources and Sustainability
- RU_SOC 8444 Agriculture, Food and Community
- RU_SOC 8447 Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Rural Sociology
- RU_SOC 8610 Economic and Sociological Approaches to Collective Action

Thesis/Non-Thesis Requirements

Non-Thesis Requirements

The Professional Master of Science degree does not require a thesis. Instead students are required to complete an internship.

Thesis Requirements

Students pursuing the Traditional Master of Science degree must complete a thesis. The thesis take approximately 1-3 semesters to complete.

Admissions

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MS in Rural Sociology program (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/degreecategory/rural-sociology/) and the minimum requirements of the Graduate School (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process/). Because requirements vary, you must refer to a degree program's graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Your application materials will be reviewed by both the Graduate School and the degree.
program to which you've applied before official admission to the University of Missouri.

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