

Tips for Arizona Sociology Graduate Students

Last updated by Robin Stryker, August 5, 2017

These "tips" are a compilation of advice from previous and current DGS and are intended to supplement the Sociology's Graduate Program Requirements. You should consult that document about official procedures and requirements. In the event of any conflict between the two, the Graduate Program Requirements take precedence. See Graduate Program Handbook, version 2016.1 at <http://sociology.arizona.edu/graduate>.

DGS and Program Staff

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS): The DGS is a member of the faculty and is available to advise you on graduate student matters throughout your graduate career. The current DGS is Robin Stryker, restryker@email.arizona.edu 621-3531, Social Sciences 428.

Vienna DeLuca, vienna@email.arizona.edu, Manager of Administration, 621-3014, Social Sciences 405 and Raquel Fareio, pinar@email.arizona.edu, Administrative Associate, 621-3531, Social Sciences 400. These staff members help to administer the graduate program, so please review carefully all emails you receive from them.

General Topics

Attendance and Presence on Campus for Courses and Employment

Class attendance and availability for work on campus during the fall and spring semesters is mandatory for all students who are either enrolled in courses or employed as graduate assistants. Residence off campus during the semester is only possible if: (a) the student has completed all required coursework; AND (b) the student's employment arrangements make this possible, e.g. teaching an online course or employment outside the UA.

What does residence "during the semester" mean? That depends on both your class schedule as a student, and on your employment contract. Do not assume that you can arrive on the first day of classes or depart on the last day of classes.

If you are funded as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or as a Graduate Instructor, the start/end dates will be listed on your Notice of Appointment (NOA) form which is sent to your UA email account. The start date typically precedes the first day of classes by about a week, and you are expected to be available for preparatory work. Likewise, you must be available to work during the final exam period, through the end date of your formal appointment. Be sure you know what your responsibilities are with respect to grading and ensuring timely completion of final grades.

Start/end dates for graduate research assistants will be determined by the faculty member in accordance with his/her grant requirements. Inquire on expectations and plan

accordingly. A Notice of Appointment (NOA) form will be generated and sent to your UA email account.

Mark the dates in your calendar and review your NOA thoroughly. Then “accept” the position where indicated, this will activate your contract. If you fail to do so, you will not be funded nor will you receive health benefits. The form is *time-sensitive*.

IF a situation arises that will delay your arrival or requires you to depart early in the semester, you *must* email the DGS and the Manager for approval *before* you make your travel plans. TAs must also seek the approval of the faculty members for whom they TA in that semester. All parties must agree before the request can be approved. Be aware that any changes could potentially affect your pay and benefits. In some instances, reimbursement to the University is required. Likewise, unapproved absences during the semester can also jeopardize program status, pay, and benefits.

Regular attendance for courses in which you are enrolled is also required. Check with instructors about final exam dates if relevant. Unforeseeable absences should be promptly reported and explained to the instructor and arrangements should be made to make up missed work.

Students sometimes misunderstand or poorly plan travel in ways that conflict with their course obligations and employment contracts. Don’t allow that to happen. Get informed before you plan travel as to what dates you need to be on campus. Plan travel for either research (fieldwork, conferences) or personal reasons (vacation, wedding) such that it does not conflict with mandatory attendance and work availability. **Exceptions should be requested in advance and travel plans should not be made until approval has been confirmed.**

Friday Brownbag

The weekly "brownbag" speaker series in the UA School of Sociology has a reputation as one of the best departmental seminars in the country. That's in part because faculty and graduate students attend regularly. There are numerous benefits for you: you get to know the faculty and other graduate students better; you observe a wide array of presentational styles and techniques; you can see what types of questions scholars ask and how presenters respond to them; and you get exposed to substantive issues and methodological techniques that may not be covered in our graduate course offerings. **You are strongly encouraged to attend every Friday at noon. If you are in your first or second year, attendance is essential for successful professionalization.**

Grants and Fellowships

SBSRI (the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute) has a Funding Database where you can search for funding that you may be eligible for. For more information, please visit their website at <http://sbsri.sbs.arizona.edu/>. It's a terrific source of

information about all kinds of grant and fellowship opportunities. For further information, please contact Director Elizabeth (Beth) Stahmer, estahmer@email.arizona.edu, 621-1135.

Business Manager Miguel Larios, larios21@email.arizona.edu, (520) 621-1543 can help with preparing budgets for grant applications.

Fellowships

Most fellowships require the completion of the Federal Application for Financial Student Assistance (FAFSA) online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> to be considered. If you do not show need according to the FAFSA guidelines (due to many different circumstances) you may complete the following forms using your projected income for the coming academic year rather than last year's income: Resource Re-Evaluation; Cost of Attendance (Budget) Re-Evaluation forms found at: <http://financialaid.arizona.edu/forms>

Travel Money

The Graduate College awards travel grants to graduate students who are presenting their research at academic conferences. Grants may also be awarded for attending a conference if the applicant and supporting faculty explicitly explain the importance of attendance for the student's professional development. Applications can be submitted several times per year. See, <http://www.gpsc.arizona.edu/travel-grants>

Conferences

It's a very good idea to attend several conferences during your graduate--school years. Conferences, including presenting your research, are part of being an academic. The American Sociological Association, <http://www.asanet.org/> holds its annual meeting in August each year; paper proposals are due in January. There also are various regional sociology associations, as well as various area- or issue-specific ones that you can learn about from faculty, other graduate students, or via the web.

Office Supplies and Photocopying

You are allowed to use sociology office supplies (printer paper, pens, envelopes, etc.) and the photocopy machines, scanner, and fax machine for your work as an "instructor", Teaching Assistant (TA), or Research Assistant (RA), but **not for your own work as a student**. The one exception is postage for students who are on the job market. Be prepared for the staff to inquire thoroughly on what you are copying, and the purpose. Please be in compliance with the listed allowances.

Information Technology Support

Requests for information technology support -- webpage creation and update, antivirus/antispyware software installation, virus/spyware removal, other software or hardware installation, projector setup for Powerpoint presentations, and so on ---will be handled by the Office of Student Computing Resources (<http://www.uits.arizona.edu/departments/oscr>, 621-727).

Emergencies that impact your ability to teach your class or do research for a professor are handled on a case-by-case basis. You need to submit a trouble ticket via the SBS College IT support request system on line at <http://web.sbs.arizona.edu/college/node/6>

Research: Human Subjects Protection

University policy requires that any research involving human subjects -not just clinical work but also surveys, interviews, etc. -must be reviewed prior to study in order to fulfill the university's obligation to protect human subjects. Each student who wishes to conduct research with human subjects must have her/his own approval. If an M.A. paper or dissertation involves human subjects, the approval or exemption notice from the Human Subjects Protection Program (HSSP) must be indicated on the relevant Graduate College form. See <http://orcr.arizona.edu/hssp> or call 626-5515 for information.

Join the American Sociological Association (ASA)

You can join ASA at a discounted rate. See <http://www.asanet.org/> This gives you access to *Footnotes*, a monthly publication, as well as to TRAILS, the Teaching Resources and Innovation Library for Sociology. There you will find a range of teaching materials, including but not restricted to syllabi. You have to be a member to attend the annual conference or pay a significantly higher registration fee. You should also consider joining an ASA section or two that reflects your interests. These substantive sections are smaller communities in which there are wonderful opportunities for graduate students to play important roles and to network with senior scholars. It typically costs little to join a section as a student member once you are an ASA member. Some sections periodically do membership drives in which they sponsor student members on their dime.

Bowers Paper Award

The Bowers Graduate Student Paper Award was established some years ago by Professor Emeritus Raymond Bowers to honor graduate students in our program who have written outstanding papers. Papers submitted for consideration are judged by a panel of faculty. First and second place cash awards or travel funding, worth \$300 and \$200, are awarded to the students judged to have written the best papers. Any paper you have written while in the graduate program at Arizona is eligible for consideration. You may submit one paper

that is single--authored and/or one co--authored paper (i.e., co--authored with another student, *not* with a faculty member). Papers must be prepared in standard journal format, and should not exceed ordinary article length. The submission deadline is usually mid--April. You will receive several emails announcing the award.

Bunis Teaching Award

The William K. Bunis Teaching Award was established in honor of a former graduate student and instructor in the school. It is awarded each year to a graduate student who demonstrates excellence in teaching. The recipient must have taught at least two classes for the school and have not been a previous winner of the Bunis Award. Nominations are accepted by faculty, fellow graduate students, and undergraduate students. *No self-nominations, please.*

Tips for First Years

General

First-year students will get lots of advice from the DGS during the weekly proseminar in the fall. In addition, all first year students are assigned a temporary advisor who they are strongly encouraged to consult at the beginning of their first semester. As well, they may make appointments to consult with the DGS about program requirements or other graduate program and professional issues. First year students must consult with the DGS if they wish to transfer credits or substitute an MA thesis from a prior MA program. (See below for more on this.)

Here are some additional suggestions:

Take the required methods and theory courses seriously. For most grad students, these courses aren't the primary thing you came to graduate school to do, so it is tempting to focus your attention elsewhere. Try to resist this temptation. These courses are critical to helping you become a good social scientist. They provide you with tools to better answer the substantive questions you are interested in.

Take as many classes as you can, including some outside your area. For most students, three classes each semester is plenty. But if you've got the time and interest, consider auditing an additional class. And consider taking courses outside what you think are your main area(s) of interest. Now is the best time to explore. After the first year, your coursework will be more specialized.

Think about every course paper as a potential publication. You needn't get something published immediately, but it is important to begin writing and submitting manuscripts for review in your first couple of years. Moving things from the initial idea to a completed paper to send out for journal review takes time. As well, the review process itself typically takes substantial time. You may have to do multiple revisions—each of which must be peer-reviewed—before a manuscript is accepted for publication.

Be aggressive in seeking out external fellowships and grants. Consider applying for an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, a three year pre-doctoral fellowship, if you are eligible. To identify other funding opportunities, take advantage of resources at SBSRI.

Get to know faculty and other grad students. This is a friendly unit. Take advantage of those opportunities.

Seek out "hands on" research opportunities to get a sense of the requirements and rhythms of sociological research. There are multiple routes to "hands on" research experience under faculty guidance: work as a research assistant on someone's external grant, or

volunteer your time. You can even do the latter for course credit in SOC 900, so keep reading!

Approach faculty whose research interests you and ask them to keep you in mind should they need research assistance. If they cannot offer a paid assistantship, ask them to consider doing a "research apprenticeship," for which you can receive course credit (SOC 900—research unconnected to your MA or PhD thesis). This usually will not happen in the first year, when students are busy with core courses and elective seminars. But now is the time to gather information about potential opportunities. SOC 900 has been a good vehicle for graduate students to develop co-authored research publications with faculty members.

Take professionalization seriously. Being a professional social scientist involves more than just doing research. It also includes assessing others' research, presenting your research, teaching, and serving on various types of committees. We try to help prepare you to do these things. But it's good to be proactive. Ask questions of faculty and more senior grad students. Consider serving on a sociology committees (such as Graduate or Undergraduate Studies).

Credit for Prior Graduate-Level Work

Students may request credit for up to nine hours (three courses) of prior graduate-level coursework. Minimum grades must be an A or B from the awarding institution. The DGS must also approve transfers as equivalent to a graduate course at UA.

Provide syllabi for courses you wish to transfer, and a copy of your transcript for confirmation of credits and grades. Once the DGS reviews and indicates approval of your transfer credits, you must submit a Transfer Credit form through "GradPath," which will then be routed to the Graduate College for final review and approval. Normally, transferred credit is applied toward reducing the number of elective courses you would have to take to complete the PhD program. **It is rare that students are exempted from one of our required courses on the basis of prior coursework.**

If you are entering the program with a prior M.A., you may also be able to substitute the M.A. thesis you wrote in lieu of our required M.A. paper. Check with the DGS early in the fall semester of your first year about this. Please do not delay.

Students who enter with MAs sometimes elect to take the first written comprehensive exam, normally taken in the third year, during the second year instead. Students planning on doing so should consult with the DGS in the spring of their first years as to their intended field(s) and semester in which they plan to take it.

GradPath

"GradPath" is the Graduate College's paperless degree audit processing system. Students

are required to complete and submit forms required for their program online using their UAccess Student account. To learn how to navigate to the forms please review http://grad.arizona.edu/system/files/GradPath_student_faq.pdf. The first form you must complete is the Responsible Conduct Research Statement (RCRS) form. Complete the RCRS form in the first semester of your first year. Once you submit this form, you are able to access the next available form in your program. If you have any questions or need assistance, please see the Administrative Associate or Administrative Manager.

MA Degree

The Sociology MA will not automatically show on your program because you are a PhD student. To remedy this, you must complete and submit the ***Change of Program*** form, which adds the MA to your program. The Admin Associate will ask you to complete this form during the new graduate student orientation. If you have any questions, please see Raquel Fareio (Administrative Associate) or Vienna DeLuca (Administrative Manager) for assistance.

NSF Fellowship

Consider applying for an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen and a first or second year student without having already earned an MA degree. The application deadline usually is in November. SBSRI typically holds a "proposal preparation" workshop for this fellowship early in the fall semester. For more information, please check the Graduate College website at: <https://grad.arizona.edu/financial-resources> and fill out their "Application Support for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)" survey to register for application support.

Tips for Second Years

M.A. Paper and Degree Procedures and Timeline

You may use SOC 696d (3 credits, MA Preparation and Dissertation Proposal Preparation), offered in the fall semester of every year, to facilitate your design and completion of your MA paper. This course is designed to help you move from some more general research topic you may have in mind to a research question, as well as to situate that question within an appropriate sociological literature, and to choose appropriate methods and data to answer your research question. MA students taking this course typically find that they can use it to craft an initial draft of the "front end" of their MA papers. But be aware that it will be your MA Chair and Committee that will approve your MA paper. So while you are taking SOC 696d you also should be choosing (or already have chosen) the Chair of your MA committee and you should be consulting with your Chair throughout the semester so that there is a good match between what you are doing to fulfill assignments in SOC 696d and how your Chair envisions the MA paper you are producing in the second year.

The MA Paper must be defended via an oral examination before the end of the spring semester of the second year. It is an internal departmental requirement, and is not a

formal thesis as defined by the Graduate College. Therefore it is not filed with or reviewed by the Graduate College.

The student must assemble an MA committee consisting of a chair and two other members. The student is responsible for asking faculty to serve. Upon establishing an MA committee, you must complete the *Sociology Graduate Committee* form, no later than **November 1**. The selection of the committee is subject to the approval of the graduate studies committee. This is an internal form, not part of GradPath. See the Administrative Associate for this form.

The M.A. paper defense occurs at the end of the spring semester of the second year. You must coordinate a date/time (2 hours) for your defense with your committee and reserve Rm 407A for your oral by logging this information on the large calendar in Rm 407. See staff to gain access to that office if it's locked. Don't delay in scheduling a date, as faculty's calendars fill up with defenses for other M.A. orals, oral comprehensive exams, dissertation proposal defenses, and final dissertation defenses.

Complete and submit your *Master's Plan of Study* form and the *Master's/Specialist Committee Appointment* form in "GradPath" at least **3 weeks** BEFORE your defense date.

The Chair of the MA Committee is responsible for determining when the student has fulfilled all requirements for the MA degree, and to complete all necessary written documentation to that effect.

A *Master's Completion of Degree Requirements* form will be completed by the Administrative Associate for everyone who has successfully passed their MA Oral Defense at the end of the spring semester.

M.A. Paper Advice

Choose a faculty chair for your MA paper committee early. You should have done so by early in the fall semester of your second year at the latest. Meet with her/him to discuss your M.A. paper idea. Be sure she/he knows that you want her/him to be the chair, and not just to be on the committee. You can change the committee chair later if you want to, but we've had cases where a faculty member didn't realize she/he was a student's committee chair until a few weeks before the MA paper defense. Don't let that happen to you.

You need two other faculty members for your MA committee. Usually it's a good idea to ask the chair for advice about this, though that isn't required. Here too it's wise to ask faculty relatively early, as some end up getting asked by quite a few students and are thus less likely to be able to say yes to you if you delay.

You must be in regular contact with your committee chair regarding the progress of the paper. If you are taking SOC 696d, ask if your MA chair would like you to share the

assignments you are doing in the class with him/her. Whether or not you share your assignments, you should discuss with your chair how your MA ideas and plans are developing through taking the class, and make sure your MA chair likes the direction you are going.

How closely you work with the other members of your MA committee is up to you and them. Some students get regular feedback from them; others have little or no contact with them until the MA paper is essentially done. You also need to negotiate a schedule for delivering drafts to the chair. A general rule of thumb is that you should have a full draft of the MA paper, including your results and your discussion and conclusion sections, for her/him no later than spring break. Be aware, however, that your chair may have other preferences.

Consult with your chair as to when to share your draft with the full committee. At the very latest, you should plan to submit a complete draft of your thesis—preferably already revised in consultation with your chair—to everyone on your committee no later than **three weeks** prior to the defense. This gives them time to read it and to let you know if any changes are needed before the defense.

Committee members should receive the FINAL version of the M.A. paper no less than one week prior to the defense. Some faculty may need more time depending on other commitments—check with your committee members well in advance as to by when they need the paper in order to review it before your defense. **You must make copies at your own expense since this would fall under your status as a graduate student.**

In early April notify Raquel Fareio and Vienna DeLuca if you plan to participate or not participate in the SBS College Convocation in May. The Admin Associate must notify the SBS staff accordingly.

Advice on Elective Courses

Be sure to select enough elective seminars within sociology to meet the minimum units within sociology for the MA. Most students will take 38 credits in their first two years, so this still leaves units of additional elective credit that can be applied toward the doctoral degree. These could be additional courses in sociology, or be applied toward research apprenticeships or independent study within sociology, or coursework outside of sociology during the second year.

Be mindful of the requirements for the *doctoral* degree as well as the MA degree when selecting electives. Courses taken at the MA stage are also applied toward the doctoral degree.

Other things being equal, it is helpful in the second year to enroll in elective courses that will help prepare you for comprehensive exams (see page for third years for more details on comps). However, courses are useful for purposes other than comp preparation, and it is possible to comp in fields in which you have not taken a course. Enroll in a range

of courses to expand your knowledge of the discipline; but be aware that coursework now should be preparing you for the comps and dissertation.

The second and third years are a good time to arrange research apprenticeships (SOC 900) with individual faculty to receive hands-on training. Talk to faculty with whom you are interested in working to see if they have any research opportunities for you.

Be cautious about requesting independent study (SOC 699) with faculty. Independent studies are very time consuming for faculty, reduce student enrollment in regular course offerings, and on balance are an inefficient use of faculty time. Independent study is only appropriate in limited situations in which faculty agree to supervise reading and discussion on topics for which we do not offer relevant formal coursework. **It is *not* appropriate to arrange independent studies solely for the purpose of studying for comps.**

Note you may take a maximum of 9 credits combined of SOC 900 and SOC 699.

Preparing to Teach

All graduate students must take the Teaching Seminar, a one credit course, SOC 596C offered in the spring semester, before they teach. Students who entered the program in fall of 2010 or following must take the Teaching Seminar in the spring of their second year.

Also note that you cannot teach until you receive your MA, and you cannot receive the MA if you have any incomplete courses. Thus, it is especially critical that students who hope to teach in the summer after their second year have completed *all* degree requirements by the end of the spring semester.

Preparing for Comprehensive Exams

In the spring semester, notify the DGS, the Manager, and the Administrative Associate of the written comprehensive exams you plan to take in the upcoming fall and spring semesters. Request to receive copies of previous exams, to help you prepare for the comprehensive exams.

Students who enter with an MA sometimes elect to take the first written comprehensive exam in the spring of the second year instead; this should be discussed and arranged through the DGS no later than the fall semester of the second year.

Tips for Third Years

Program of Study Form

You must complete and submit the ***Doctoral Plan of Study***, indicating the courses you plan to apply toward your degree requirements, through “GradPath” at the beginning of your

spring semester, by the end of January.

Comprehensive Exams

Most students take their two written comprehensive exams in their third year. The norm is to take one in the fall and the other in the spring, but you are allowed to take both in the same semester if you prefer. You are strongly advised to consult with the DGS and your advisor prior to deciding on this option.

After you've passed two written comps, you do an oral comprehensive exam. The committee consists of four faculty members -- the two graders of each of your two written exams. Typically students do the oral comp at the end of the spring semester in their third year. You must coordinate a date and time (2 hours) with the four faculty serving on your committee, and be sure to reserve the small conference room (Rm 407A). Do not delay scheduling your defense, as it may be difficult to find a date and time that works for everyone, late in the semester. See staff to gain access to that office if locked.

You must complete and submit a *Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee* form through "GradPath" upon passing your second written comprehensive exam. On this form you will need to indicate which faculty member has agreed to serve as the Chair. Please discuss this with your faculty members before you list a person as the Chair. Once the *Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee* form has been processed through "GradPath," your next step is to submit your *Announcement of Doctoral Comprehensive Exam* form online. This form must be approved by Graduate College, before you can take your oral comprehensive exam.

After your defense, your Chair will record the results on the *Results of Comprehensive Oral Exam* form through "GradPath" on behalf of the committee.

Research Presentations

SOC 595b (1 credit), trains sociology graduate students in the science and art of making effective research presentations. All students will prepare and deliver research presentations of their MA papers or an appropriate equivalent. This course will be offered in the fall semester.

Fourth Year and Beyond

Dissertation Proposal

Students need to identify a dissertation topic, identify a chair and other committee members, and write and defend a proposal by the end of the spring of the fourth year. To make this happen, students should at a minimum identify the Chair of the Dissertation Committee during the fall semester of the fourth year, and the remaining committee members by early spring.

If you find you are having trouble coming up with a dissertation topic, consult with other graduate students AND with faculty. Faculty members usually have lots of ideas for dissertations in their areas. If you talk to a faculty member and their idea grabs you, you can then ask that faculty member to Chair your committee and go from there.

Don't be overwhelmed by the seeming magnitude of the task. A dissertation can be excellent with three substantive chapters plus an introduction and conclusion.

Some students form dissertator groups. If you're interested in being part of such a group, ask around about these. If there aren't any established or if they're already "full," consider starting one yourself.

A few samples of dissertation proposals are on file in the Sociology Graduate Library, Social Science 418. If you borrow a proposal, please **RETURN** it so others have the opportunity, to review them as well. If you wish to add your dissertation proposal to the Sociology Graduate Library for others to use, please do so after it has been accepted by your committee.

You must complete the *Committee Appointment* form in "GradPath" once your committee is determined. Your dissertation chair and other committee members must be tenured or tenure--track faculty UA members. See the Graduate College's website about Dissertation Committee <http://grad.arizona.edu/academics/program-requirements/doctor-of-philosophy/dissertation-committee>

Coordinate a date/time (2 hours) with your committee and reserve the date/time for Rm 407A, on the large calendar in Rm 407. See program staff to request the **Sociology Proposal Defense form** (internal form) prior to the defense. After you have successfully defended your proposal submit your signed Dissertation Proposal form to the Admin Associate or Manager. They will complete a *Dissertation Prospectus Proposal* form, to report to the Graduate College, that you have satisfied that requirement.

Dissertation Proposal Workshop

SOC 696d is a three credit course that (in addition to helping to guide MA students in designing and writing the "front end" of their MA paper) helps to guide doctoral students through the design and writing of a dissertation proposal. It offers practical experiences with proposal writing, obtaining IRB approval, and seeking research funding. This course is offered every fall semester. You may take it more than once, so if you already have taken it in connection with your MA, you may take it again. However, you may count it toward your plan of study only once. When you take SOC 696d, you get substantial useful feedback from your instructor and also from your peers in the course.

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

Consider applying for an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. These are offered not only through the NSF Sociology program but also through cognate programs—for example, Law & Social Science—for which you might be eligible depending on your dissertation topic. These grants provide funding for expenses associated with conducting the dissertation research, including such items as collecting data, transcribing data, paying subjects, doing field work, conducting a survey, purchasing software, creating and merging datasets and files, purchasing microfilm, research-related travel (e.g., travel to archives), research expenses incurred at sites other than your home university, and courses providing specialized skills such as those offered at ICPSR. See <https://www.nsf.gov>

The maximum funding amounts and the submission dates have been varying depending upon the program and the year. Currently, for example, the Sociology Program offers up to \$12,000 while the Law & Social Science Program offers up to \$20,000. Many programs seem to be moving from two submission dates per year to only one. Consult the NSF website early to find out what the upcoming submission dates are and which is best for you. You cannot apply for a DDRIG through more than one NSF program, so if you think you may be eligible for and are considering more than one, consult with your advisor before you decide which program could work best for you and be aware that you may have to “frame” your proposal a bit differently depending upon which program you choose.

Other Foundations

Also take a look at the Marshall Foundation Dissertation Fellowships. They provide fellowships of approximately \$10,846 plus full base graduate tuition to PhD students in the process of writing their dissertation. See <https://grad.arizona.edu/funding/opportunities/marshall-foundation-dissertation-fellowship-and-dr-maria-teresa-velez-marshall>. The most recent application period was spring, 2017. Calls are issued annually and late applications are not considered.

There are many other foundations that provide research grants and fellowships to doctoral candidates. These include Spencer, Sloan, Ford, the American Bar Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and many others. Faculty and advanced graduate students are a great resource for suggestions about funders for particular substantive areas or topics. SBSRI staff members are another resource. If you put in a little time making inquiries and doing web searches, typically you will be rewarded with multiple opportunities. Since external grants and fellowships are hard to get, apply for multiple opportunities for which you are eligible. You can do this efficiently by reworking material on ONE basic project, so that it fits the format and guidelines of multiple agencies.

For more information on both internal and external grant and fellowship funding for dissertation research, see <https://sociology.arizona.edu/graduate/current/awards>

Teaching

If you are teaching for the first time, it likely will require a considerable amount of preparation and effort. It's important to do a good job, but try not to let it interfere with your research.

Two suggestions to help you save a little time: First, if you know someone who has taught the course before, consider asking if you can borrow her/his lecture notes. Don't follow them to the letter, of course; you'll want to teach the course in your own way. But they can be a big help in preparing lectures. Second, build class participation into your lectures. This is a good thing to do in any case; it tends to help students learn. Samples of syllabi are on file in the Sociology Main Office. You may scan them for your records but do not remove them from the office. **RETURN** all syllabi to their proper files in the Main Office.

The ASA TRAILS website also is a great source for teaching materials. See <http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Job Market

When should you go on the market? Consult with your dissertation advisor (and others) about this and notify the DGS as well as the Administrative Associate and the Administrative Manager.

Get your name and contact information onto the "PhDs on the Market" link on our sociology webpage. Ideally you should have a homepage to link to, but at the very least you need an up-to-date C.V. The principal way to find out about job openings is via the ASA's online "Job Bank." You have to be an ASA member to access the listings.

In the spring of every year, the DGS offers a one credit job market workshop, **SOC 595c**. You should try to time taking this seminar for the year **before** you are on the job market. The job market workshop will include everything from deciding what job market niche you want to target, writing cover letters and application materials, "dos and don'ts" for negotiating the job market and interviewing, etc. In short, this course familiarizes sociology doctoral candidates nearing completion with job market processes. Students receive training in developing effective job market materials, in effective interviewing and negotiation techniques and in job-market related professional norms and ethics.

Reference Letters

When you get to the point of applying for academic jobs, you'll need three letters of reference. It's helpful to think about whom you'd like to have letters from before you get to that point. Your dissertation committee chair obviously should be one. Other members of your committee also are logical choices, though in some instances they might not be the best choices. Whoever your choices are, be sure they know a good bit about you before you ask them to write a letter. You want the letter they write to be an informed and detailed one,

not simply a short "form letter." At a minimum, that means you should have had more contact with them than one or two brief chats and a dissertation proposal defense. You also should have a candid discussion with those whom you would like to serve as references to ensure that they are comfortable writing the kind of letter that will help you on the market. Typically, if a faculty member cannot write a positive letter for you, that faculty member will tell you so that you can choose someone else. But don't be afraid to broach the subject with them.

The Administrative Associate will inform you of the procedures she will need you to follow so she can process your reference letters in a timely manner. You'll need to give her a list of names, addresses, and deadlines in an Excel file. She will provide you with a template on how to setup your data.

Sociology will cover the postage costs for academic job applications. The applications are mailed by the school through regular USPS mail. Be aware that you **cannot** be reimbursed by sociology if you choose to express mail your admission packets. If you choose to do so, it will be at your own expense.

Job Talk

Early in the semester when you begin applying for jobs, you are highly recommended to request that the DGS schedule a full version of your job talk for the School of Sociology (faculty and graduate students). You will want to give your "practice job talk" sufficiently in advance of potential interviews so that you can alter your talk consistent with the thoughtful and experienced recommendations of those who attend your practice job talk so that you "ace" your job talk when it counts.

Announcement of Final Oral Defense

You must complete in "GradPath" your ***Announcement of Final Oral Defense*** form at least 2 weeks prior to your defense date. Coordinate with your committee a date/time (2 hours) for your defense. Reserve Rm 407A, the small conference room for your defense, on the large calendar in Rm 407. See staff to gain access to that office, if locked.

Notify the Administrative Associate and Manager if you plan to participate or not participate in the SBS College Convocation. The Administrative Associate will notify the SBS staff accordingly.

When your job market search comes to a successful conclusion and you accept a job, be sure to inform the Administrative Associate and Administrative Manager as well as the DGS. We will want to announce your new job through our listserv and we will also want to list it on our website. As well, please provide the staff with your new mailing address, phone number, and email address, once you are settled into your new job. This information is essential, should you need to be contacted, about University business following your departure.