

Senior Thesis Application
Sociology - 2026-2027 Academic Year

STEP 1: Develop your preliminary plan by answering the following questions (Limit responses to 100 words per question).

1. **Background:** Please list some relevant readings/coursework that you have done that will be helpful for your thesis?
2. **Research Topic:** What research question/problem/hypothesis are you interested in exploring? Why?
3. **Methods:** What research method(s) are you thinking about using for your senior thesis? What kind of data will you need to address your research question? Why?
4. **Data:** When/how would you collect the data for your senior thesis? What is your goal due date for collecting your data? If your initial plan for collecting data falls through, what alternative data source do you plan to explore?

It is not required to have your data collected before the beginning of Fall/398-1. However, many students do build on prior research from Summer Undergraduate Research Grants or other independent research projects, so please discuss if you have/will be collecting data before Fall/398-1.

5. **IRB:** To the best of your current understanding, will the nature of your research require you to work with [IRB](#) in some way? If you will need to work with the IRB, when do you plan to do your [CITI](#) training? When do you plan to submit your protocol to IRB?
6. **Funding:** Do you have or are you planning to apply for funding? ([Summer/Undergraduate research grants/Academic year grants.](#))

STEP 2: Meet with a sociology faculty member (Must be done before Step 3).

- You must meet with a sociology faculty member to discuss your plan and who can endorse your thesis application.
- *Note: The sociology faculty member does not have to be your final thesis advisor. However, it is helpful to start thinking about whom you can work with.*

STEP 3: Submit application by June 1, 2026

- Submit answers to the questions from **STEP 1** here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019df41643b77340ab7a4908446279f1>
- Your email submission must also include contact information for the Sociology faculty member you met with for **STEP 2** and the date of your meeting. *No applications will be reviewed without this information.*