

Sociology Graduate Professional Seminar Series

Purpose of Seminar

Graduate school helps students to develop a set of transferrable skills that can be applied not only in Academia, but also in a wide range of job settings. The purpose of this Professional Seminar is to acquaint you with the core aspects of the profession and to add to your professional training in practical ways that will help you compete for faculty and non-academic positions and be productive social scientists.

The seminar series is a required Milestone of the PhD program that consists of two parts.

1) Ongoing professional activities: Every academic year, doctoral students in years 1-4 are required to attend a minimum of 8 professional activities offered in the department. We encourage you to choose a variety of activities. Sign-in sheets will be circulated at each activity. Dates will be announced on the department website. These professional activities include:

- Sociology Colloquium Series
- Doctoral Thesis Proposal presentations
- Job talks by faculty candidates
- Graduate Publication Workshop (GPW)
- Presentation of a paper at the Sociology Graduate Student Conference
- Presentations by campus supports such as WEC (Wellness Education Centre), Equity and Human Rights Services, and the Office of the Ombudsperson

2) Required sessions: the sessions listed in the table below are typically offered every other year (2017/18; 2019/20). Each session needs to be attended at least once during your 4 years in the program. Optimal stage in program will be suggested when sessions are announced. MA students are encouraged to attend relevant sessions.

Session 1: Publishing

This session covers topics such as writing journal articles (basic structures, choosing journals, journal quality, collaboration, the peer review system) and books (choosing a publisher), authorship, working with your supervisor (positives and potential pitfalls), the role of conferences

Session 2: Applying for academic jobs or postdocs, the job interview, being a new postdoc/faculty member

This session covers topics such as taking a job versus a postdoc, the hiring cycle, application preparation and cv building, the job talk and interviewing, how to be the new person in the department.

Session 3: The Graduate program, supervision, scholarships, dissertation proposal

This session covers topics such as timeline and milestones for year 1 & 2, supervision, scholarships, comprehensive exams, the Dissertation proposal, time management, conflict management, professionalism

Session 4: Research ethics

This session will be integrated into the Qualitative Methods Course. It covers topics such as ethics review boards, the ethics applications process, navigating research ethics issues.

Session 5: Writing abstracts, presenting and giving feedback

This session covers topics such as what makes a good presentation and how to prepare.

Session 6: What have you learned in grad school? Identifying skills and employment options

This session focuses on how to recognize the skills you are acquiring in graduate school and preparing for a non-academic career path. Returning alumni share their experiences and advice.