

## UGA - SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM PRACTICES

Questions 1A, 1B - Communication with Potential Doctoral Students

Questions 2A, 2B – Admission

Questions 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D – Orientation and Advisement

Questions 4A, 4B – Social Interactions

<b>Questions</b>		<b>Answers</b>
1A	When potential graduate students contact your department for information, who handles the inquiries? (Please provide the title rather than names)	Degree Program Assistant
1B	What type of information is usually sent in response to such inquiries?	The Sociology Graduate Program booklet, Teaching Assistantship application, a letter summarizing the key points of our graduate program and our website with more information. We will do an application request to graduate admissions for the application packet.
2A	Who in your department makes the decision about which applicants to admit (or to recommend for admission)? (Please provide the title rather than names).	The Graduate Program Committee
2B	What criteria are used in making this decision?	The GRE, transcripts, TOEFL, personal statement, letters of recommendations, the right match of student interest with faculty support.
3A	How does your department orient new students to graduate study?	We host an overnight informational trip for potential candidates giving them information concerning our program and meeting with professors in our sub-specialty areas. Just before the Fall term, our returning students will host a new student orientation giving them more information, time schedules of things and events, campus tour of vital places (bursar, library, Tate Center for ID, parking services etc.) During this orientation, both dept. head and graduate coordinator will give presentations as well as professors throughout the day). A luncheon will be served where all students and faculty along with staff are introduced.

3B	Who handles initial course advisement for new doctoral students, and how is that person selected?	Initially, the first contact will be the graduate coordinator. If the students have chosen their areas of specialty, professors will be recommended to advise those students until the students have chosen their major professor.
3C	Describe the process by which a student selects or is assigned a dissertation chair.	By the first day of class, all new students will have met the faculty in the Dept. Some will even have had contact with their potential dissertation chair already. We allow students to select their dissertation chair. They are hardly ever assigned.
3D	Can students in your department change dissertation chairs? If so, how is that change accomplished?	Students may change their dissertation chair at any time if all parties involved have had discussions and changing the dissertation chair is the best option. There usually are no surprises. Sometimes, a chair will retire and will suggest to the student a different faculty or member of the dissertation committee.
4A	Other than formal coursework, does your department offer, sponsor, or support activities designed to foster social support and/or collaborative learning among doctoral students? (e.g., study groups, student organizations, student-student mentoring programs) If so, please describe.	We have a student organization, Alpha Kappa Delta (an honor society for sociology students). AKD sponsors the new student orientation, the AKD Symposium where guest speakers are procured and the students have a chance to discuss their research. On a more informal basis, the more senior students make themselves available to speak with the newer or more junior students. We have created a working atmosphere where the students see each other quite a bit and have the opportunity discussion issues of importance to them. We give them office on the same floor and their offices are in the same areas.
4B	Does your department hold regular social activities in which students can interact informally with faculty members and other students? If so, please describe	The Dept. hosts a welcoming Dessert Reception in September to meet the new incoming cohorts as well as new faculty. In May, we have an End of the Year party. Faculty, graduate students and staff are invited to both events. These are informal events and promotes unity interaction and better understanding of each other.

