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No. HEC/CD/NCRC/SOCIOLOGY/2025/7137

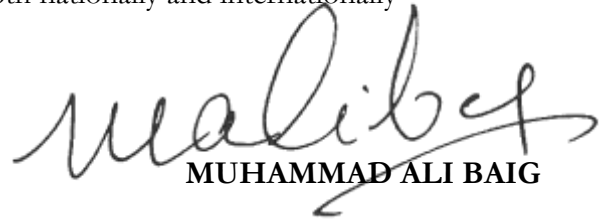
February 14, 2025

SUBJECT: REVISED CURRICULA FOR DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SOCIOLOGY

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, as mandated by its law, provides guidance to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on curricula for tertiary education levels in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). To address evolving academic trends and market demands, HEC has revised the curricular standards for Sociology degree programs at NQF levels 5, 6 and 7. These updated standards are intricately aligned with HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring coherence with national priorities and adherence to international benchmarks.

2. The revised curricula for Sociology degree programs, incorporating an option for advanced electives, are hereby notified. Universities offering these programs are advised to align their Sociology curricula with these updated standards as a minimum requirement. Additionally, the respective departments must develop course contents in accordance with the prescribed framework, ensuring that the programs address both national and local industry needs. The finalized course contents should be submitted electronically to this office at the earliest. An electronic copy of the revised curricula is available on HEC's official website.

3. Through effective implementation of these standards, HEC envisions a future where Pakistani graduates in Sociology are at the forefront of social research and policy development, driving positive societal change and contributing to the advancement of communities both nationally and internationally


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CURRICULUM FOR **SOCIOLOGY**

ASSOCIATE DEGREE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

2025

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



CURRICULUM FOR
SOCIOLOGY
DEGREE PROGRAMS

2025

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Preface

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry stakeholders. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in Sociology at levels 5, 6 and 7 of the National Qualifications Framework. These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in Sociology are designed to equip students with cutting-edge knowledge and practical skills, fostering innovation and research to address the emerging and unique challenges in the field of Sociology. It is hoped that these curricular standards, prescribed by subject experts from across the country, will not only contribute towards meeting the national educational and socio-economic requirements but will also elevate the competency levels of our graduates in the field of Sociology.

With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where Pakistani graduates in Sociology are at the forefront of social research and policy development, driving positive societal change and contributing to the advancement of communities both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Amjad Hussain

Director General
Academics Division

Guiding Principles

MINIMUM STANDARDS

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed in this document are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the concerned departments may however set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

COURSE SEQUENCE, TITLES & CREDITS

For Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy in Sociology, the sequence of courses prescribed in this document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The concerned department may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credit hours provided that the essence of the courses prescribed herein remains intact. The concerned department may also add more courses as and when required subject to approval of university's relevant statutory body.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course learning outcomes (CLOs) are the bare minimum standards of learning that students must achieve upon completing a specific course. While these standards must not be compromised, departments are encouraged to enhance the rigor of the CLOs by incorporating additional learning outcomes, provided these do not alter the essence of the prescribed standards. In this document, CLOs are exclusively developed for major courses, whereas CLOs for electives and interdisciplinary courses are not prescribed herein as development of CLOs for these courses is the responsibility of the respective departments, taking into account the course's advanced nature and relevance to the program. For general education courses as required under the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 including the course of "Pakistan Studies", the departments may adopt the CLOs as prescribed in the HEC developed model courses.

COURSE SYLLABUS

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the CLOs for each course as prescribed for the Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy in Sociology as minimum standards. The concerned department is required to meticulously prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes. It is in this regard imperative that the concerned department utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

GENERAL EDUCATION

For Bachelor of Science in Sociology, the courses prescribed for General Education including the course of "Pakistan Studies" must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and credit hours as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. The concerned department may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website. The requirement of General Education is not applicable to Master of Philosophy in Sociology.

REQUIREMENT OF INTERNSHIP

Internship of 3 credit hours is a mandatory degree award requirement for Bachelor of Science

in Sociology. Internship of 6 to 8 weeks (preferably undertaken during semester or summer break) must be graded by a faculty member in collaboration with the supervisor in the field. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work, capstone or project work.

REQUIREMENT OF CAPSTONE

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of 3 credit hours for Bachelor of Science in Sociology. The capstone is a multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. It must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the concerned department. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the Bachelor of Science in Sociology as prescribed in this document guide the admission requirement and the structure of Associate Degree in Sociology, respectively. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the Associate Degree in Sociology.

ELECTIVES

- a) In accordance with the **National Qualifications Framework**, the department is required to offer at least 7 electives comprised of 21 credit hours i.e., minimum of 25% of the major i.e., Sociology comprised of 81 credit hours, to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization. Where the department increases the range of major beyond 81, the number of electives will accordingly be adjusted.
- b) Where the electives are opted from the general pool of electives, the degree will be awarded as Bachelor of Science in Sociology in its generic form and without any specialization. **Example: Bachelor of Science in Sociology.**
- c) Where the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Science in Sociology (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015). **Example: Bachelor of Science in Sociology (Rural Sociology).**
- d) Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed in this document.
- e) Offering of the degree program with specialization is prescribed here as an option only and not as a mandatory requirement or a binding on the concerned department. In view of this, the concerned department may consider to offer the degree program with specialization or otherwise, as per available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

EQUIVALENCE OF QUALIFICATIONS

All the graduates having degrees of Bachelor of Science in Sociology with or without specialization will be considered at par in terms of their knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through the course of the degree program, for the purpose of employment and further education. Therefore, all graduates having Bachelor of Science in Sociology with any specialization are considered equivalent to Bachelor of Science in Sociology. However, where specific specialization of Sociology is required by the employing agency such as Industrial

the same cannot be considered at par with any other specialization of Sociology such as Social Inclusion & Diversity. The titles given here are only examples for clarification.

ENTRY & EXIT PROVISIONS

Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree

- a) Students having completed Associate Degree in Sociology or any discipline related to the field of Sociology shall be required to complete deficiency courses up-to a maximum of 18 credit hours (if required) as determined by the concerned university / department. In case where the deficiency courses are of more than 18 credit hours, the concerned university may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 2.00/4.00 CGPA obtained in the prior qualification i.e., Associate Degree. The concerned university may, however, set higher eligibility criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BSc / Equivalent Degree Programs

- a) Students having completed two-year conventional BSc / equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science in Sociology in which case, such students shall be required to complete deficiency courses up-to a maximum of 21 credit hours as determined by the concerned university / department. In case where the deficiency courses are of more than 21 credit hours, the concerned university may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score obtained in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BSc / equivalent degree programs. The concerned university may however set higher eligibility criteria for admission in the fifth semester of Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

Exiting from Bachelor of Science in Sociology with the Associate Degree

Exit from Bachelor of Science in Sociology with Associate Degree in the same discipline is allowed in accordance with the provisions of HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and only in such circumstances where no other remedy is available to safeguard the academic career of the student.

**CURRICULUM FOR
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)
SOCIOLOGY**

BS Sociology

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bachelor of Science in Sociology program is structured in accordance with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 to provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of social structures, cultural dynamics, and human interactions. Spread over eight semesters, the curriculum is designed to foster a progressive development of students' theoretical knowledge, analytical abilities, and practical competencies, offering a balanced and robust educational experience. The program emphasizes experiential learning through practical assignments, case studies, community engagement, research projects, and interactive discussions on contemporary sociological issues, enabling students to connect theoretical insights with real-world applications. Graduates of the BS Sociology program will be well-prepared for diverse career opportunities in fields such as social research, policy analysis, community development, education, human resource management, and international development. They will also be equipped to pursue advanced studies in sociology and related interdisciplinary areas, both nationally and internationally.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

The scheme of study prescribed for the four-year undergraduate degree in Sociology is based on a total of 7 advanced electives. Where these electives are opted from the general pool, the degree will be awarded as **Bachelor of Science in Sociology** in its generic form and without any specialization. Whereas, if all the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as **Bachelor of Science in Sociology with name of specialization in parenthesis** in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Bachelor of Science in Sociology, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate a comprehensive and critical understanding of foundational and advanced sociological concepts, theories, and methodologies to analyze and interpret the complexities of social structures, relationships, and cultural dynamics.
- b) Apply sociological theories and research methodologies to investigate, evaluate, and address contemporary local, regional, and global social issues across diverse societal contexts.
- c) Communicate sociological knowledge and research findings effectively, with ethical considerations, to inform policy, contribute to social initiatives, and foster interdisciplinary collaborations in both academic and professional settings.

ELIGIBILITY & ADMISSION CRITERIA

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification in any group is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Bachelor of Science in Sociology. The concerned university may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Science in Sociology is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum 131 credit hours (including supervised internship and capstone) spread over 8 regular semesters. Universities may offer courses up-to maximum of 144 credit hours provided that the total number of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting undue burden on students. Summary of the program including the model scheme of study is given below.

| | |
|---|--|
| Minimum Credit Hours | 131 |
| General Education | 32 credit hours (13 courses) |
| Discipline Related Courses / Major | 81 credit hours (27 courses) |
| Interdisciplinary / Allied Courses | 12 credit hours (4 courses) |
| Internship | 3 credit hours |
| Capstone | 3 credit hours |
| Program Duration | Minimum: 4 years (8 regular semesters) Maximum: 6 years (12 regular semesters) The maximum limit is further extendable in accordance with HEC semester rules |
| Semester Duration | 16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination) |
| Course Load (per semester) | 15-18 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial/deficiency/failure/repetition courses only) |
| 3 Credit Hours (Theory) | 3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester |
| 1 Credit Hours (Lab / Field Work) | 1 credit hour in laboratory or practical work / project requires lab contact of 3 hours per week throughout the semester |

| SEMESTER 1 | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Fundamentals of Sociology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Interdisciplinary Course – I * | 3 | Interdisciplinary |
| 3 | Quantitative Reasoning – I ** | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 4 | Natural Science *** | 3 (2-1) | General Education |
| 5 | Functional English ** | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 6 | Applications of Information & ICT ** | 3 (2-1) | General Education |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 18 | | | |

| SEMESTER 2 | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Philosophical Foundation of Social Thought | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Sociology of Family & Marriage | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Sociology of Gender | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4 | Quantitative Reasoning – II ** | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 5 | Expository Writing ** | 3 (3-0) | General Education |
| 6 | Pakistan Studies ** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 17 | | | |

| SEMESTER 3 | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Classical Sociological Theories | 3 (3-0) | Major |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|-------------------|
| 2 | Basics of Social Research | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Rural Sociology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4 | Environmental Sociology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 5 | Arts & Humanities **** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 6 | Islamic Studies ** (Ethics for non-Muslim students) | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 7 | Ideology and Constitution of Pakistan ** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 18 | | | |

| SEMESTER 4 | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Contemporary Sociological Theories | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Urban Sociology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Sociology of Development | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 4 | Social Science ***** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 5 | Civics and Community Engagement ** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| 6 | Entrepreneurship ** | 2 (2-0) | General Education |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 15 | | | |

| SEMESTER 5 | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Sociology of Deviance & Crime | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Sociology of Human Rights | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Sociology of Media | 3 (3-0) | Major |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 4 | Sociology of Social Stratification | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 5 | Interdisciplinary Course – II * | 3 | Interdisciplinary |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 15 | | | |

| SEMESTER 6 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Social Research Methods & Data Analysis | 3 (2-1) | Major |
| 2 | Sociology of Health | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Elective – I ***** | 3 | Major |
| 4 | Elective – II ***** | 3 | Major |
| 5 | Interdisciplinary Course – III * | 3 | Interdisciplinary |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 15 | | | |

| SEMESTER 7 | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Sociology of Education | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Sociology of Globalization | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 3 | Elective – III ***** | 3 | Major |
| 4 | Elective – IV ***** | 3 | Major |
| 5 | Interdisciplinary Course – IV * | 3 | Interdisciplinary |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 15 | | | |

| SEMESTER 8 | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Digital Sociology | 3 (3-0) | Major |
| 2 | Elective – V ***** | 3 | Major |
| 3 | Elective – VI ***** | 3 | Major |
| 4 | Elective – VII ***** | 3 | Major |
| 5 | Capstone | 3 | Capstone |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 15 | | | |

* The university / department may offer any 4 **interdisciplinary courses** from the recommended list provided in this document or any other similar course to enhance the interdisciplinary understanding of the students. **Credit combination** (reflecting balance of theory and lab / field work) may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

** HEC designed model courses for **general education** may be adopted by the university.

*** The university / department may offer any course in the broader category of “**Natural Sciences**” which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.

**** The university / offering department may offer any course in the broader category of “**Arts and Humanities**” including but not limited to a course of regional or international language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, History etc.

***** The university / department may offer any course in the broader category of “**Social Sciences**” including but not limited to a course of Economics, Anthropology, Psychology, Education etc.

***** Read in conjunction with guidance given on “**Standard Nomenclature**”, the university / department may offer any 7 courses from either the general pool of electives or from within one of the specializations keeping in view availability of academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** (reflecting balance of theory and lab / field work) may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

LIST OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Students may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for Bachelor of Science in Sociology, from other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the concerned department. The list provided here is a recommended one only and the offering department may add more courses as and when needed.

- a) Fundamentals of Leadership
- b) Introduction to Anthropology
- c) Introduction to Economics
- d) Introduction to Geography
- e) Introduction to History
- f) Introduction to International Relation
- g) Introduction to Law
- h) Introduction to Management
- i) Introduction to Media Studies
- j) Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies
- k) Introduction to Philosophy
- l) Introduction to Physical Education
- m) Introduction to Political Science
- n) Introduction to Psychology
- o) Introduction to Public Administration
- p) Introduction to Public Policy
- q) Introduction to Social Work
- r) Postcolonial Studies
- s) Sustainable Development
- t) Technology and Society

DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of Bachelor of Science in Sociology:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. including the course of “Pakistan Studies” must be completed.
- b) Minimum of 131 credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- c) Capstone of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship. Internship is already included in the minimum 131 credit hours prescribed for the degree program.
- e) Internship of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone, research or project work. Capstone is already included in the minimum 131 credit hours prescribed for the degree program.
- f) CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may however set higher standard in this regard.
- g) The minimum duration to complete the degree program is 8 regular semesters and the maximum duration is 12 regular semesters. The maximum duration may further be extended in accordance with HEC semester guidelines. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)
SOCIOLOGY

Specializations (BS)

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS FOR BS SOCIOLOGY

Following are a few **example specialization streams** in case where the Bachelor of Science in Sociology is offered with specialization. Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed below. The concerned department may consider to offer the degree program with specialization or otherwise, keeping in view availability of academic, human and infrastructural resources.

Specialization 1: Industrial Sociology

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective relevant to the given specialization keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

- a) Economic Sociology
- b) Industrial Relations & Labor Movements
- c) Industrialization & Global Economic Trends
- d) Labor Market & Workforce Dynamics
- e) Organizational Change & Leadership
- f) Sociology of Production & Consumption
- g) Sociology of Work & Organizations

Specialization 2: Rural Sociology

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective relevant to the given specialization keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

- a) Community Development
- b) Entrepreneurship in Rural & Urban Societies
- c) Gender Roles in Rural Communities
- d) Natural Resource Management in Rural Settings
- e) Rural Entrepreneurship & Microfinance
- f) Rural Governance & Political Participation
- g) Rural Poverty & Inequality

Specialization 3: Social Inclusion & Diversity

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective relevant to the given specialization keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

- a) Economic Sociology
- b) Gender Studies
- c) Pakistani Society & Culture

- d) Religious Pluralism & Tolerance
- e) Social Gerontology
- f) Social Protection
- g) Sociology of Education

Specialization 4: Urban Sociology

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The concerned department may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective relevant to the given specialization keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

- a) Cultural Economy of Cities
- b) Sociology of Housing & Real Estate
- c) Sociology of Road Safety
- d) Sociology of Urban Life
- e) Urban Crime & Community Safety
- f) Urban Migration & Multiculturalism
- g) Urban Resilience & Disaster Management

**CURRICULUM FOR
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPHIL)
SOCIOLOGY**

MPhil Sociology

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Philosophy in Sociology is structured in alignment with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 to provide students with an advanced and comprehensive understanding of sociological theories, research methodologies, and their application to complex societal issues. Spanning three semesters, the program offers a blend of core courses and advanced electives emphasizing rigorous academic training and independent research, culminating in a thesis that demonstrates original contributions to the field. Emphasis is placed on effective communication, ethical reasoning, and cultural sensitivity, ensuring graduates can disseminate sociological knowledge to academic, professional, and public audiences with clarity and impact. Graduates of the Master of Philosophy in Sociology are prepared for careers in academia, research institutions, public policy, social services, community development, and non-governmental organizations. They are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become leaders and changemakers, addressing complex social challenges and contributing to sustainable development and societal well-being at local and global levels.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE

To ensure uniformity, the standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of Sociology will either be without name of the specialization as **“Master of Philosophy in Sociology”** or with name of the specialization such as the following:

“Master of Philosophy in Environmental Sociology”

“Master of Philosophy in Industrial Sociology”

“Master of Philosophy in Media Sociology”

“Master of Philosophy in Rural Sociology”

“Master of Philosophy in Urban Sociology”

Note:

- a) The nomenclature of degree **“Master of Philosophy”** may be substituted with **“Master of Science”** as may be determined and approved by the relevant statutory body of the university, keeping all other standards and requirements intact.
- b) The above specializations are given as examples only and the concerned university may offer NQF level 7 qualifications in Sociology in any of above or other specializations keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources and subject to provisions of the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

ELIGIBILITY & ADMISSION CRITERIA

- a) An undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in Sociology or any of its specialized areas is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the Master of Philosophy in Sociology or any of its specialized area.
- b) Candidates having an undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in any discipline other than but relevant to Sociology are also eligible for admission to the

program subject to completion of deficiency courses up-to a maximum of 9 credit hours to be determined by the concerned department in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

- c) In addition to the basic eligibility, the concerned university is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing score of 50% **(OR)** accept the GRE / HAT General / equivalent tests, with a passing score of 50%. The concerned university may also set minimum eligibility scores (above 50%) as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the completion of Master of Philosophy in Sociology, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced understanding of sociological theories, concepts, and methodologies, integrating interdisciplinary perspectives to analyze and address complex social phenomena across diverse cultural, economic, and political contexts.
- b) Apply advanced research methods and analytical tools to critically evaluate social issues, design innovative solutions, and contribute evidence-based interventions to address challenges in societal development and policy-making.
- c) Conduct independent, original research in sociology, engaging critically with existing literature and employing rigorous methodologies to generate insights that advance sociological knowledge and inform professional practice.
- d) Communicate sociological concepts, research findings, and applications effectively, both orally and in writing, to academic, professional, and public audiences, demonstrating clarity, ethical awareness, and cultural sensitivity in addressing social dynamics.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

All NQF level 7 qualifications in Sociology without specializations and with the nomenclature of **"Master of Philosophy in Sociology"** or **"Master of Science in Sociology"** (as the case may be) must be structured with the following 3 mandatory components, provided that the minimum credit hours for the program must be 30.

- a) 3 core courses, each of 3 credit hours.
- b) Minimum of 5 electives, each of 3 credits hours, irrespective of the area of specialization.
- c) Thesis of 6 credit hours.

All NQF level 7 qualifications in **Sociology with specialization** must be structured with the following 3 mandatory components, provided that the minimum credit hours for the program must be 30.

- a) 3 core courses, each of 3 credit hours.
- b) Minimum of 5 electives, each of 3 credits hours, specific to the area of specialization.
- c) Thesis of 6 credit hours.

The program is designed in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023). Summary of the program including the model scheme of study on the next page.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Minimum Credit Hours | 30 |
| Minimum Coursework Requirement | 24 credit hours (8 courses) |
| Thesis Requirement (mandatory) | 6 credit hours |
| Program Duration | <p>Minimum: 1.5 Years (3 regular semesters) Maximum: 4 Years (8 regular semesters)</p> <p>Note: In case a student is unable to secure an MPhil / MS within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of MPhil / MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.</p> |
| Semester Duration | <p>16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination)</p> <p>8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)</p> |
| Course Load (per semester) | <p>9-12 credit hours for regular semesters</p> <p>Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial / deficiency / failure / repetition courses only)</p> |
| 3 Credit Hours (Theory) | <p>3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester</p> |
| 1 Credit Hours (Lab / Field Work) | 1 credit hour in laboratory or practical work requires lab / field contact of 3 hours per week throughout the semester |

| SEMESTER 1 | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Advanced Sociological Theories * | 3 (3-0) | Core |
| 2 | Quantitative Research Methods * | 3 (2-1) | Core |
| 3 | Elective – I ** | 3 | Elective |
| 4 | Elective – II ** | 3 | Elective |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 12 | | | |

| SEMESTER 2 | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| 1 | Qualitative Research Methods * | 3 (2-1) | Core |
| 2 | Elective – III ** | 3 | Elective |
| 3 | Elective – IV ** | 3 | Elective |
| 4 | Elective – V ** | 3 | Elective |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 12 | | | |

| SEMESTER 3 | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N. | Course | Credit Hours | Category |
| | Thesis *** | 6 | Research |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 6 | | | |

* These are the **mandatory courses** for the program.

** The university / concerned department may offer any advanced course in the field of Sociology as an **elective**, where required as per the available academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** (reflecting balance of theory and lab / field work) must be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

- *** Research work for **thesis** must be conducted by students individually in accordance with the university's policy as approved through its statutory bodies provided that the same is in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

DEGREE AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of Master of Philosophy in Sociology:

- a) Minimum of 24 credit hours including 9 credit hours for core courses and 15 credit hours for elective courses as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- b) In addition to coursework of 24 credit hours, research thesis of minimum 6 credit hours must also be completed individually as mandatory requirement of the degree program. Requirement of research work / thesis cannot be substituted with additional course work.
- c) CGPA must not be below 2.50/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may however set higher standard in this regard.
- d) The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 3 regular semesters which may be extended up to maximum of 8 semesters. Summer / winter semester is not considered as a regular semester.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR BS & MPHIL SOCIOLOGY

Arranged in Alphabetical Order

Course Learning Outcomes

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze classical and contemporary sociological theories to understand complex social phenomena.
- Apply theoretical frameworks to interpret and address real-world sociological issues.
- Evaluate the evolution and relevance of sociological thought in shaping contemporary research.

BASICS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the fundamental principles and concepts of social research.
- Understand research designs and methods to explore social phenomenon in broader social context.
- Explain ethical considerations as applied in social research.

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand foundational sociological theories developed by classical theorists.
- Develop sociological lenses in line with contributions of classical theorists for understanding of society.
- Evaluate the relevance of classical sociological theories in contemporary contexts.

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand modern and postmodern sociological theories.
- Critically analyze contemporary theoretical frameworks for understanding societal issues.
- Apply contemporary theories to interpret social phenomena.

DIGITAL SOCIOLOGY

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the impact of digital technology on society and social interactions.
- Analyze how digital platforms influence culture, identity, and relationships.
- Evaluate sociological perspectives on digital inclusion and exclusion.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the sociological dimensions of environmental issues.
- Analyze the interaction between human societies and ecological systems.
- Evaluate policies and movements addressing environmental sustainability.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand basic sociological concepts, theories, and terminologies.
- Analyze the structure and functions of social institutions.
- Apply sociological perspectives to everyday social phenomena.

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL THOUGHT

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the philosophical underpinnings of sociological thoughts and theories.
- Analyze the influence of philosophical traditions on sociological inquiry.
- Evaluate the interplay between philosophy and sociology in shaping ideas about society.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Design and conduct rigorous qualitative research in sociology.
- Utilize advanced analytical tools and methodologies to interpret sociological qualitative data effectively.
- Demonstrate ethical and professional standards in developing and presenting sociological research.

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Design and conduct rigorous quantitative research in sociology.
- Utilize advanced analytical tools and methodologies to interpret sociological quantitative data effectively.
- Demonstrate ethical and professional standards in developing and presenting sociological research.

RURAL SOCIOLOGY

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the unique social structures and processes in rural areas.
- Analyze rural-urban dynamics and their sociological implications.
- Evaluate development initiatives aimed at improving rural livelihoods.

SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS & DATA ANALYSIS

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand advanced social research methodologies and techniques.
- Analyze and interpret data using appropriate sociological tools.
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of sociological research findings.

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand sociological perspectives on development and progress.
- Analyze the impact of development policies on societies and cultures.
- Evaluate global and local approaches to sustainable development.

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE & CRIME

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand sociological theories of deviance and crime.
- Analyze the social construction of norms and deviance.
- Evaluate the role of institutions in managing deviant behavior.

SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY & MARRIAGE

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the sociological significance of family and marriage.

- Analyze how family structures and dynamics vary across cultures and time.
- Evaluate contemporary challenges faced by families in diverse societies.

SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER ISSUES

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand sociological perspectives on gender and its social construction.
- Analyze gender inequalities and their implications for society.
- Evaluate global movements and policies aimed at achieving gender equality.

SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the sociological implications of globalization.
- Analyze how globalization affects culture, economy, and social relationships.
- Evaluate the role of global institutions and movements in shaping societies.

SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the sociological dimensions of health, illness, and healthcare systems.
- Analyze the social determinants of health and healthcare disparities.
- Evaluate policies and interventions to promote health equity.

SOCIOLOGY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand sociological perspectives on human rights.
- Analyze social movements advocating for human rights and justice.
- Evaluate the role of international and local organizations in human rights advocacy.

SOCIOLOGY OF MEDIA

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the relationship between media and society.
- Analyze media's role in shaping public opinion and social norms.
- Evaluate sociological theories of media and communication in the digital age.

SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand education historically from sociological perspectives.
- Apply Sociological perspectives on education systems and practices.
- Critically evaluate various education systems in Pakistan.

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SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand social stratification in historical and sociological perspectives.
- Analyze the intersection of class, caste, gender, ethnicity and other social categories.
- Evaluate sociological strategies for reducing inequality in societies.

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Understand sociological concepts related to urbanization and urban life.
- Analyze the dynamics of social relationships in urban settings.
- Evaluate urban policies and their impact on communities and development.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
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