Committee Composition

The Research Methods/Applied Sociology Area Committee will consist of all faculty members who teach graduate courses in research methods, statistics, and/or applied sociology.

Area Examination Committee Composition

Each student electing to take an examination in the area will select a committee chair from among the methods committee faculty members. Two additional members also must be selected, one of whom may be a methodologist from outside the department. Committee members should be selected based on the student's interests in the area and relevant course work. Students are encouraged to select their examination committee during their first year in the doctoral program.

Required Courses

In addition to the required core research methods and statistics courses (SOC 6060, 6070, 6200, 6210, and one elective), each student will, in consultation with his/her examination committee members, select a minimum of three additional research methods, statistics, and/or applied sociology courses that must be taken before sitting for the area examination. Two of these three courses must be formal methods courses offered either inside or outside the department, while the third may be either a formal methods course or an independent readings course.

Reading Lists

The Research Methods/Applied Sociology Area Committee will develop the core reading list which is required of all students sitting for the area examination. The student, in consultation with her/his examination committee members, will generate an additional reading list related to the student's specialization in the area.

Area Examination

There are two options. The choice between the two options will be determined by the committee chair in conjunction with the candidate.

Option A

The student will be given five days to complete the written portion of the area examination. Students will be expected to keep their answers to a 20 page maximum per question of double-spaced text with one inch margins. An oral examination will be scheduled within three weeks of completion of the written portion of the examination. The oral examination may cover content of the written examination, as well as other material from the core and the student's specialty reading lists.
Option B

The student will be given 14 days to complete the written portion of the area examination. Students will be expected to keep their answers to a 14 page maximum per question of double-spaced text with one inch margins. An oral examination will be scheduled within three weeks of completion of the written portion of the examination. The oral examination may cover content of the written examination, as well as other material from the core and the student’s specialty reading lists.

Core Reading List for Research Methods/Applied Sociology Area Examination – Revised Fall 2012

General Works on Applied Methods


General Works on Qualitative Methods


Survey Methods


**Interviewing & Focus Groups Methods**


**Experimental Methods**


**Measurement/Testing**


**Ethnographic Methods**


**Content Analysis**


**Ethnomethodology**


**Comparative Research Methods**


**Historical Research**


**Philosophy of Science/Sociology of Knowledge**


Statistical Methods/Formal Modeling


