Laurier Sociology’s Master of Arts (MA) is an intensive one-year program designed to develop academic competencies and professional skills in the analysis of social problems in contemporary society. The program is designed to enhance students’ capacities in sociological thought and to prepare them to intervene in the social world. Our program encourages intellectual growth, along with fostering writing, analytical and research skills.

Students will develop sound scholarship and the capacity to conduct empirical research independently.

With an eye to social justice and equity, coursework will develop skills in social theory and research methodology, such as content analysis, interviewing, survey research, and conversation analysis. The course curriculum is sociologically grounded, but purposefully eclectic in scope, to expose students to a breadth of social contexts and sites for analysis in order to encourage a well-rounded understanding of the social world.

In concert with the program’s academic curriculum, students will also undergo self-directed professionalization to prepare for the working world. Students will develop skills in writing, communication and interaction, information retrieval and collection, diversity and career development through workshops, seminars and online modules.

All full-time students will be eligible to serve as teaching assistants for undergraduate courses. These assistantships are a valuable opportunity for students to demonstrate their academic capacities in curriculum development and delivery and further develop professional skills in mentorship, group facilitation and peer support.

Graduates from our program have secured employment in non-profit, government and corporate settings, including applied sociology, policy analysis, social service work, health, law enforcement researcher, counselling and teaching. Those students following the one-year Major Research Paper program option will be especially prepared to pursue doctoral work in sociology, as some of our graduates have gone on to doctoral training in sociology or other areas such as public health and rehabilitative sciences in top tier research universities.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

In order to be admitted to the master’s program, a student must meet the general admission requirements of the university.

- Applicants are expected to have an honours BA with a major in sociology or an equivalent degree. A final year average of B+ is usually required, along with a cumulative average of at least B+ in all sociology courses.
- Proficiency in English usage, both written and oral, is essential to pursue graduate studies at Laurier. Applicants whose language of instruction during the undergraduate degree was other than English must furnish evidence of proficiency in English, prior to admission.
- Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Program Admissions Committee, which considers all prior university grades, a writing sample, and letters of reference.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE-WORK OPTION
Up to 3 terms, fall, winter and spring
8 to 12 months total
All students will be initially admitted to the course-based option.

4 REQUIRED COURSES:
SY600: Theory and Practice
SY601: Advanced Qualitative Research
SY602: Advanced Quantitative Research
SY603: Research and Professionalization Seminar

4 ELECTIVE COURSES

MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER OPTION
When a student demonstrates the academic capacity for original independent research and their interests are aligned with the expertise of a faculty member available to support them, they may transition to the one year Major Research Paper (MRP) option. The MRP option requires only two elective courses instead of four; but it also requires the completion of a major research paper by the end of the spring term, followed by an oral defense.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Information about the process to apply for admission is available in the Graduate Admissions Toolkit at wlu.ca.

Contact your referees before you apply online to confirm their availability, email (employee email only) and mailing address.

After you have completed the online application (application fee required) and Laurier has received your application data, you will receive an email from fgps@wlu.ca advising you to upload the additional required documentation to Laurier's Online Viewing system. An application checklist is available on the program page at wlu.ca/programs. Review the application checklist to ensure you upload all required documents including:

- Transcripts of all previous post-secondary education, including those at which a degree or diploma was not completed;
- A statement of intent, explaining your academic and research interests;
- A current resume of your academic and work experience;
- A sample of your scholarly writing
- Two academic references are required (which will be submitted electronically to Laurier by the referee and do not need to be uploaded.

Applicants must have a demonstrated ability to study and conduct research in English.

Applications received by January 15 will be assessed first.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT
Competitive guaranteed funding is offered to eligible full-time students enrolled in the MA in sociology program. The average funding offered is $14,500, and is made up of teaching assistantships and Laurier graduate scholarship.

Major external award holders (Ontario Graduate Scholarship, SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship) are eligible for top-up funding, including the Dean’s Graduate Scholarship (total value of the top-up funding exceeds $10,000).

Note: External scholarships form part of the annual funding. Components of the annual funding from Laurier may be amended at our discretion in cases where an external award is held.

More information on funding opportunities can be found at wlu.ca/graduate-and-postdoctoral-studies

CORE FACULTY

Jeffrey Aguinaldo, Associate Professor
- Interaction research
- Health and medicine
- Sexuality

Nikolaos Liodakis, Associate Professor
- Quantitative methods.
- Social inequality
- The interconnections of class, gender, ‘race’/ethnicity

Lucy Luccisano, Associate Professor
- Social inequality
- Poverty alleviation and gender
- Social provision programs and citizenship

Linda Quirke, Associate Professor
- Parenting/childrearing.
- Education/schooling
- Professions and professionalization

Dana Sawchuk, Associate Professor
- Sociology of religion
- Social movements
- Critical gerontology

Glenda Wall, Associate Professor
- Cultural constructions of motherhood, fatherhood and childhood
- Intensive mothering
- Risk culture

Garry Potter, Professor
- Futurology
- Marxism
- Philosophy of social science.

Morgan Holmes, Professor, Program Co-ordinator
- Sexuality
- Medicine
- Critical disabilities