

If you already have an M.A.

There are three categories of requirements for earning the Ph.D.: coursework, comprehensive exams, and dissertation. If you already have an M.A. you may be able to reduce your coursework requirements; your requirements in the other two categories are the same as everyone else's.

- A. Coursework and dissertation credits
- B. Comprehensive Exams
- C. Prospectus and Dissertation

Coursework credits: minimum 23 required, including two semesters of the 1-credit proseminar

We require 50 credits of coursework for the Ph.D. and 30 for an M.A. So if you already have an M.A., the ***maximum*** number of credits you can transfer is 30; the typical number is lower. You will need to complete at least 22 credits of coursework here including the 2 credits of the proseminar; the typical number is higher. The maximum number of credits we transfer per course is 3. The number of transferrable credits is likely to be higher if your M.A. is in Sociology; we are generally reluctant to transfer courses taken in other disciplines unless they are demonstrably equivalent to ours.

Regardless of the number of credits you are able to transfer, you are required to take the courses listed by name or number in Table 2 on the following page. These are the same courses required for students entering without an M.A. We may waive a given required course if you have already taken an equivalent graduate level course with a grade of A- or better. The GPD, GPC and/or individual faculty will decide whether your earlier coursework is equivalent to a given requirement and whether your grade is adequate. Credits for waived courses will count only toward the 30 credits we require for an M.A. and not toward the minimum 22 course credits you will need to complete at UMass for your Ph.D.

Use the following table to calculate your transfer credits and credits you need to take here for your Ph.D. Submit your transfer request for approval to the GPD before your first registration, or no later than a week or two into the beginning of your first semester here.

Dissertation credits: 18 required

Comprehensive Exams: Regardless of what you have done before (e.g. fieldwork, comps paper, Master's thesis) you must fulfill the comps requirements of this department. This typically means going through all the steps outlined on p. 5. You may be able to shorten the time this takes by building on your earlier work, but you still need to constitute the comps committees and pass the exams here. There are no exceptions.

Prospectus and dissertation: See pp. 6-7.

Table 2: Calculating transfer and remaining credits if you already have an M.A.

Required course	Credits	Your proposed equivalent	Transfer approved?	Credits transferred
701 Developmental Sociological Theory	3			
711 Graduate Statistics I	3			
710 Research Methods	3			
796P Proseminar (Fall & Spring)	2	None; you must take these here.		
702 Theory Elective	3			
712 Graduate Statistics II	3			
797W Graduate Writing Seminar	3			
Qualitative Methods	3			
Elective	3			
Elective	3			
Elective	3			
Total credits	32			TC

The number of credits you need to take at UMass to earn your Ph.D. = $52 - TC$. The minimum value of this number is 22. This includes the 2-credit proseminar 796P.