

## **ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey, 2009**

### **What Can I Do with a Master's Degree in Sociology?**

You are invited to participate in the first ever longitudinal survey of Master's students in sociology. The American Sociological Association is conducting this study with the Task Force on the Master's Degree in Sociology. The purpose is to provide data to the larger profession and to graduate programs in the discipline so they may develop more effective programs for their students that lead to jobs that encompass sociological skills or to further graduate education. This is one of a set of studies conducted by the ASA designed to provide data to sociology departments for use in planning and assessment.

The survey questions are divided into four sections. The first section asks about your experience in your program, the second section asks about your post graduation plans, the third section asks for some background information, and the fourth section asks about how you financed your education. Your answers are important to future sociology graduate students. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

You must be 18 years of age or older to answer this survey.

### **Confidentiality**

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR) is responsible for data collection. To protect student responses, the CSR computing environment requires a high level of computer and data security. Once the confidential information provided by respondents is transmitted to the ASA, it will be transferred to a freestanding computer (not attached to the internet) in a locked room for the purposes of data analysis. No individual-level data will be shared with departments or the schools from which respondents will graduate. Rather, reports providing grouped or aggregated data will be made available to them. Although the aggregated data will provide useful for sociology departments and programs, the survey is entirely voluntary and no individual should feel any pressure to complete it. If you have any questions please contact Roberta Spalter-Roth at [spalter-roth@asanet.org](mailto:spalter-roth@asanet.org) or call at 202-383-9005, ext. 317.

- Proceed to the survey**
- Decline to participate**

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### **When did you receive your Bachelor's degree?**

Please list the month and year:

**Are you currently attending the same institution where you received your Bachelor's degree?**

- Yes
- No

**Was your Bachelor's degree in a sociology program or a non-sociology program?**

- Sociology program
- Non-sociology program (please specify the program):

**When do you anticipate receiving your Master's degree?**

Please list the month and year: \_\_\_\_\_

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**ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey  
Section I: The Master's Program**

**Name of current Master's institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In what year did you enter this program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does this department offer a PhD degree?**

- Yes
- No

**Reasons for getting a Master's degree in sociology (check all that apply):**

- Obtain a better job
- Obtain a PhD in sociology
- Interested in subject
- Best available option
- Obtain a PhD in another field. Please specify the field:
- Other. Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**As part of your Master's program in sociology, did you complete the following activities?  
Please indicate if these activities were required as part of the program, not offered at your school, or offered at your school, but you did not participate.**

**Yes – Required      Yes – Not required      No, not offered at my school  
Offered at my school, but did not participate**

A Thesis

A report prepared for a client organization

Comprehensive examinations

An internship \_\_\_

A mentoring program, where a faculty member or student worked closely with you \_\_\_

A service learning project, where you worked in an agency or in the community as part of a class \_\_\_

A research project with faculty member \_\_\_

Job fairs, on-campus interviews by firms, career-related mentorship programs, or other networking opportunities \_\_\_

Leadership development such as how to work in a group \_\_\_

Participate in a local, state, regional or national sociology meeting \_\_\_

**How many courses did you take in each of the following as part of your Master's program?**

**1      2      3      4      5 or more**

Methods/research design \_\_\_

Statistics \_\_\_

Theory \_\_\_

**How would you rate your proficiency in using SPSS, SAS, or STATA software?**

\_\_\_ Very proficient, will put it on my resume and expect to use it on a job without additional training

\_\_\_ Proficient, will put it on my resume, but would need additional brush up or training

\_\_\_ Not too proficient, need additional training

\_\_\_ Not at all proficient

**Using the scale of highly satisfied to highly dissatisfied, please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following experiences in your Master's program.**

**Highly satisfied      Satisfied      Dissatisfied      Highly dissatisfied**

The quality of graduate advising \_\_\_

The quality of career preparation \_\_\_

The ease of getting core courses needed in order to graduate \_\_\_

The ease of interacting with faculty outside of class as often as needed \_\_\_

The interaction with fellow sociology Master's students \_\_\_

The quality of teaching \_\_\_

The access to technology such as a computer lab, software, etc. \_\_\_

**Overall, how satisfied are you with your Master's program in sociology? Please indicate if you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied.**

Very Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Very Dissatisfied

**While working towards your Master's degree, did you attend school mostly full-time, mostly part-time, or a combination of both?**

Mostly full-time

Mostly part-time

Combination

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**ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey  
Section II: Future Plans**

**After receiving your Master's degree, where do you intend to live? Please select the most likely option:**

Within 100 miles of your Master's granting institution?

More than 100 miles of your Master's granting institution?

Outside the U.S.

Don't know

**What best describes your postgraduate plans for the first 12 months after you complete your Master's degree? Please check all that apply:**

Graduate or professional school

Obtain a new job

Continue to work at current job

Marry

Have a child

Go into the military

Travel extensively

Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you intend to pursue additional academic training after completing your Master's degree, what type of further training do you expect to pursue?**

- Another Master's degree. Please specify the discipline:
- Ph.D. in sociology
- Ph.D. in another discipline. Please specify:
- Law school/professional program
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Upon completion of your education, what type of employer do you expect to work for?**

- Educational institution
- Government
- Private, non-profit organization
- Private, for profit business
- Undecided

**Upon completion of your education, what do you expect your primary work activities to be? Please check all that apply.**

- Research
- Teaching
- Management or administration
- Professional services to individuals or organizations
- Other. Please specify:
- Don't know

**I think of myself as a sociologist. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

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**ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey  
Section III: Demographic Information**

**What is your year of birth?**

Please enter a full year, e.g., "1984": \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender**

- Male
- Female
- Transgender

**Which of the following categories best describes your race/ethnicity? Check as many as apply.**

- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- White or Caucasian
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your current marital status?**

- Single, never married
- Married
- Divorced
- Living together with partner
- Other

**Are there children living with you (either your own, your siblings', other family members', or a partner's) at least half of the time for whom you have childcare responsibility?**

- Yes
- No

**Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your father (or primary male guardian)?**

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate (or GED)
- Vocational or technical school
- Some college (including associate degree)
- College graduate (4 year college or university)
- Some graduate or professional school
- Graduate/Professional school graduate
- Not applicable, or don't know

**Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your mother (or primary female guardian)?**

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate (or GED)
- Vocational or technical school
- Some college (including associate degree)
- College graduate (4 year college or university)

- Some graduate or professional school
  - Graduate/Professional school graduate
  - Not applicable, or don't know
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**ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey**  
**Section IV: Financial Information**

**During your most recent semester, did you receive a full or partial tuition remission (waiver) for your Master's studies?**

- Yes
- No

**Was it:**

- Less than full tuition remission
- Full tuition remission

**Which of the following were sources of financial support at any point during graduate school? Select all that apply:**

- Fellowship, scholarship
- Grant, stipend
- Teaching assistantship
- Research assistantship
- Other assistantship
- Traineeship
- Internship
- Loans (from any source)
- Personal savings
- Personal earnings during graduate school (other than sources listed above)
- Spouse's, partner's or family earnings or savings
- Employer reimbursement/assistance
- Foreign (non-U.S.) support
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently employed (if you have a graduate assistantship please DO NOT consider that in answering this question)?**

- Yes
- No

**How many hours per week, on average, do you work in paid employment (DO NOT include graduate assistantships)?**

**Please enter a numeric response. (example: 15 hours)**  
**Is your job related to your studies in sociology?**

Yes

No

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**Thank you very much for your participation. Please let us know if you would like to receive the study findings when they are available. Also, would you please provide us with a permanent address or email at which we can reach you after graduation.**