Applied Digital Sociology Prospective Student Guide

Master of Science in Applied Digital Sociology

Hunter College

City University of New York

Revised 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This guide outlines the major requirements and procedures for the Master of Science in Applied Digital Sociology at Hunter College, The City University of New York (CUNY).

This material has been prepared by students and faculty in the program. Additional information for admitted students is provided at a program orientation meeting for incoming students at the beginning of each fall semester.

The program in Sociology is administered by a staff composed of the Graduate Director, the Department Chair, the Administrative Coordinator, and the front office College Assistants.

ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

The Applied Digital Sociology Program admits students for work toward the M.S. in Applied Digital Sociology only. Applications for the program are due by March 15 for early decision and April 15 for regular. At this time, the program only admits new students for fall admission.

The form to submit an application is available online on Hunter College's admissions home page https://hunter.cuny.edu/students/admissions/graduate-admissions/.

The program no longer requires students to have taken The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) before admission.

All applicants are required to submit a writing sample (e.g., a college research paper or an article), two letters of recommendation, and a personal statement along with other admission materials (e.g., transcripts).

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Hunter College's M.S. in Applied Digital Sociology is a top-ranked, two-year program that combines academic training with independent research. Designed for individuals with a background in the social sciences, the program equips students with advanced research skills and prepares them for careers in research, policy, data analysis, and other related fields.

As one of the few programs globally—and the only one with an **applied** focus—it explores the role of sociology in the digital age. The program encourages students to move beyond traditional divides between qualitative and quantitative methods, pushing the boundaries of sociology as a discipline. It welcomes and supports diverse research interests, including international, historical, and data-driven projects. Students explore how foundational sociological theories and methods intersect with today's digital landscape—analyzing how technology shapes society and, in turn, how society shapes technology. With a focus on real-world application and innovation, the Master of Science in Applied Digital Sociology provides the tools and support for students to become forward-thinking researchers and practitioners in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Our graduate courses are designed to accommodate working students. Each class is offered after regular working hours, starting at 5:30pm, Monday-Friday. Courses are 1 hour and 50 minutes in length, once a week.

Inquiries

For graduate inquiries, please contact Professor Occhiuto (no1160@hunter.cuny.edu) or see a college assistant in the main sociology office (Hunter West Building, 1622). The main office is open Monday-Friday during regular business hours. Students are also welcome to email assistantsociology@gmail.com for general inquiries.

Full-Time and Part-Time Status

Full-time graduate students are expected to maintain at least nine (9) credits per semester, and can expect to finish the program in two (2) years.

Part-time graduate students are able to take two (2) courses per semester, which is six (6) credits. Part-time students can expect to finish the program in three (3) years.

Ideal Trajectory Through The Program

Students are carefully selected with distinct cohorts to ensure collaborative working and support throughout the program.

The trajectory through the program for full-time students is outlined below:

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
Thinking Critically in a Digital Society Statistics I Qualitative Research Methods	Statistics II Quantitative Research Methods Data Visualization

Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
Internship/Research Assistantship Elective Submit paper (thesis) to conference	Elective Elective Present paper (thesis) at conference

The trajectory through the program for part-time students is outlined below:

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
Thinking Critically in a Digital Society Statistics I	Statistics II Quantitative Research Methods

Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
Qualitative Research Methods Internship/Research Assistantship	Data Visualization Elective

Third Year (Fall)	Third Year (Spring)
Elective Submit paper (thesis) to conference	Elective Present paper (thesis) at conference

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS – M.S. PROGRAM

Each student must earn at least thirty (30) graduate credits to complete the program. Students are required to pass core courses with a grade of B or better. Students are not permitted to repeat core courses unless they have the consent of the professor teaching the course and the director of the program.

Required Coursework (18 credits)

GSR 70100: Thinking Critically in a Digital Society (sociological theory)
GSR 70800: Statistics I
GSR 70900: Statistics II
GSR 71000: Qualitative Digital Research Methods
GSR 71100: Quantitative Digital Research Methods
GSR 7XX**: Data Analytics and Visualization

Please note that the core required courses are only offered once an academic year, so it is imperative that each student prioritizes their core courses before elective coursework. The core required courses must be taken at Hunter College.

Elective Coursework (9 credits)

GSR 7****: Elective Course

Each student must earn at least nine (9) credits of graduate coursework which is three (3) courses. These are taken in courses according to the student's interests. Some may be taken in the sociology department's electives, or other electives selected from courses in neighboring Hunter departments or other CUNY colleges. See program director if you would like to take a course outside of the program.

Internship/Research Assistantship (3 credits)

GSR 71800: Internship
GSR 79100: Independent Research

Degree candidates must work as research interns in public or private organizations for a minimum of six (6) weeks full-time or twelve (12) weeks part-time. Alternatively, they may work with faculty as a research assistant for the same allotted time.

To graduate, students must complete a digital portfolio or master's thesis paper showcasing their work in the program and in their internship or research assistantship. Students must also attend an academic conference during their last semester showcasing their work in the program.

Simply put, students are required to complete an internship or a research assistantship and a digital portfolio or master's thesis paper and present at an academic conference. This flexibility allows for each student to cater their graduate degree to their skillset and academic goals.

TUITION AND FEES

General Tuition Overview

All tuition and fees are determined by the CUNY Board of Trustees. You will be notified by email concerning the amount owed and the deadline to pay.

Tuition charges are based upon the following criteria:

- Residency Status: NY State Resident or Non-NY State Resident
- Student Status: Undergraduate or Graduate Student
- Degree Status: Degree Student (Matriculated) or Non-Degree Student (Non-Matriculated)
- Full-Time Student or Part-Time Status: Some groups pay per credit.
- Program of Study: Some graduate programs have higher tuition rates.
- Number of Credits: Some students pay flat rates. Please review the table of charges.

Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. If tuition and fee prices increase, payments already made will be treated as partial payments. Notification will be given to students concerning the additional amount owed and the deadline to pay.

Fees

In addition to tuition, each semester you will have mandatory fees applied to your bill, including the student activity, technology, and consolidated service fees. Mandatory term fees are charged based on the following criteria:

- Full-Time/Part-Time Status
- Student Status: Undergraduate or Graduate Student
- Semester

To read more about the fees that are charged, please look at the Hunter College website.

Graduate Tuition

Type of Student	New York State Residents	Out-of-State Residents
Full-time	$11,090 per year*	$25,650 per year* $855 per credit
Part-time	$470 per credit	$855 per credit

*Tuition based on taking 15 credits per semester.

<u>Financial Aid for Graduate Students</u>

Graduate students in the program have a variety of sources of financial aid available to them including scholarships, tuition waivers based on financial need, and loans. In order to be considered for financial aid you should file for admission as early as possible and submit a financial statement to the Financial Aid Office.