

# Process and Evaluation Criteria of the Second-Year Paper

*The second-year paper is a milestone requirement for the Ph.D. in Sociology. Papers should be about the length of a journal article and demonstrate competence in theory, literature review, evidence presentation, and writing and thinking (as outlined in the Evaluation Criteria below). Papers need not be of publishable quality.*

## Timeline

### Year 1

- Students typically design a second-year paper topic in consultation with their advisor during the Spring quarter of their first year, which allows collecting or identifying data during the first summer.

### Year 2

- Students take ProSem II during the Winter quarter of their second year to prepare for oral presentations and written submissions of their second-year papers.
- Students make a formal oral presentation of their second-year papers to the faculty and graduate students in the mid-Spring quarter.
- Students submit their second-year papers for evaluation toward the end of the Spring quarter.

### Evaluators

- Three faculty members evaluate each student's second-year paper—the student's advisor and two readers.
- The Co-Directors of Graduate Studies (in coordination with the Proseminar II instructors) will select the readers from among Sociology faculty or Sociology-affiliated faculty. Students may suggest readers to the Co-Directors.

### Evaluation

- The advisor and readers evaluate whether a paper satisfies departmental requirements and offer recommendations of *pass*, *minor revisions*, *major revisions*, or *does not pass*.
- The advisor and readers also offer comments and suggestions for revisions when warranted.
- The Co-Directors of Graduate Studies provide a decision based on the advisor's and the readers' recommendations and their reading of the paper.

### Year 2, Summer

#### Revisions

- In the case of ***minor revisions***, the student has approximately one month to revise their paper. The student's advisor alone evaluates the revised paper, and the Co-Directors of Graduate Studies communicate the advisor's decision to the student.
- In the case of ***major revisions***, the student has approximately two months to revise their paper. Both the student's advisor and readers evaluate the revised paper. The Co-Directors of Graduate Studies provide a decision based on the advisor's and the readers' recommendations and their reading of the revised paper.

## Program Criteria for Evaluation

### 1. Theory

The paper should be theoretically relevant in one or more of the following ways:

- a) The paper's main argument or central concepts relate to some sociological theory.
- b) The paper tests/engages sociological theory.
- c) The paper compares the utility of several models or approaches in explaining the social pattern under examination.
- d) Empirical patterns discussed in the paper are related to general patterns or broader sociological questions.

### 2. Review of Literature

The research described in the paper is related to some existing body of research. For example, the paper disputes the findings of some past studies, adds a new angle, or extends an earlier analysis to a new case.

### 3. Evidence to Support Arguments

Appropriate methods are used to collect relevant evidence, and there is a clear and convincing discussion of how the evidence relates to the paper's central arguments.

### 4. Writing and Thinking

- a) The paper is well organized and written and follows the presentation style of relevant academic journals.
- b) The paper has a clear question or set of issues and logically analyzes them.