Steps for Completing an MA Comprehensive Exam in Sociology

1. Complete all required and elective courses and enroll in 599 during your final semester when you plan to take the exam. On the back of the 599 form, please note which substantive exam you will be taking (i.e. education, race/ethnicity, criminology/deviance, or gender).

2. Prepare for exam by reviewing required reading lists and sample questions posted on Canvas. Create annotated bibliographies for readings to help you prepare for the exam. You should also look over readings, notes, and assignments from SOCI 502A, 502B, 581, and any relevant 501T seminars.

3. Meet with faculty readers to discuss annotated bibliographies and drafted essays using sample essays. You should discuss criteria for a passing essay and strategies for how to prepare.

4. On the scheduled exam dates (last three weekends of the semester before finals week), access the exam questions on Canvas. Questions will be posted on Friday at 10am and you must submit your response no later than Monday at 10am.

5. Once faculty have completed reading your exams, they will assign you a score of Fail, Low Pass, Pass, and High Pass. Any of the three passing grades is considered a pass for the exam. If you fail any portion of the exams, you have the option to retake them the following semester. The student can retake these portions only once.

6. After you pass all three exams, the Graduate Advisor will assign you a letter grade for SOCI 599.