

SUBSTANTIVE AREA: Family Sociology

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OVERALL SCOPE OF AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FAMILY SOCIOLOGY EXAMINATION

The purpose of the graduate examination in family sociology is to enable you, the student, the opportunity to read the substantial literature in this area, both classics and the recent material, and put it together in your own mind in a usable form to draw upon for teaching, research and other lifetime activities.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION

USE OF READING LISTS

In preparing for the examination, make use of the reading list which we family sociologists here at the University of Notre Dame have put together. The list contains the names of books and articles we consider important for your fundamental understanding of the breadth of the field as well as the better work that has been done putting together and expanding upon fundamental ideas in the area. The list also includes research designed to flesh out, expand and increase our knowledge of these fundamental concepts. These concepts, and the research using them, provide you as a student, the challenge of learning about existing ideas and research while using them to undertake your own research. In addition, you should prepare your own reading list in your specific area of interest. Please submit it then for the committee's approval.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED COURSES

Advanced courses having to do with families and the interrelations of their members, as well as with outsiders, including other families and their members should be taken. We strongly encourage you to

enroll in family seminars whenever available rather than earning course credits solely from independent studies. Seminars give you the benefit of sharing your thoughts with other family students who will be your colleagues and the advantage of hearing multiple reactions and points of view on the topics covered in the courses. Given the current situation in families, these would include courses on how they make their living, the diversity of types of families, how they are formed and how they break up, the interrelations of family members, their relationships with outsiders, as well as what families may contribute to the well-being of individual members, as well as their difficulties.

EXAMINATION FORMAT

The examination questions are discussion-type, usually focusing on one large issue with a number of sub-questions to make the question understandable. You may, if you choose, in addition use an outline to support your answer to insure that you cover all aspects of the questions since they tend to cover broad areas concerning family matters.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULING

We expect you to do well on the examination, but, if by some mischance you fail to do well, you will need to wait until the next semester before again taking the family graduate examination.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING CITATIONS

Please try to give the author(s) and, if possible, the year of publication and the journal or book in which it appeared. You need not worry about getting the exact title of the article or its place of publication, but it would be helpful if you would know the book title.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

POLICIES REGARDING RE-WRITES

You will be given one of three possible grades on your examination. They are 1) Pass with distinction; 2) Pass; or 3) Fail. Students who fail the exam will have to retake the examination in its entirety rather than just the questions or question segment that you failed.

FEEDBACK

After the family sociology committee goes over your graduate examination very carefully, we will meet together to come to a decision. You will be notified of what we have decided by email. You will then need to schedule a meeting with the family sociology committee chairperson along with your advisor to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of your knowledge as shown in your examination answers. These meetings are important for you after you have taken the examination and found out the results, regardless of what they were. You will also want to talk to the other committee members. According to their choice, they may prefer to give you written feedback rather than talking to you directly.

In any case, we are sure you will do your best on the family sociology examination and so, in passing it, have a crucial requirement out of the way in obtaining an advanced degree in Sociology with a major in the family area, both important to your own intellectual development and your further achievements.