

**PhD Minor and Graduate Certificate in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory**  
**Graduate Student Handbook**  
**Last updated Academic Year 2023-2024**

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# Handbook - overview

Social, Cultural and Critical Theory is a Graduate Interdisciplinary Program, housed in the Graduate College, that offers both a doctoral minor for Ph.D. students and a graduate certificate for masters, terminal masters and professional degree students. The doctoral minor is designed to complement and enhance a doctoral student's major field with training in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory.

Students in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Social Cultural and Critical Theory gain the opportunity to study with faculty from across six colleges who share their interdisciplinary commitments and interest in dialogue across fields, theories and methods. They also allow students to study in highly interdisciplinary seminars and develop a broader sense of how theory travels in the modern university.

# Admission To the Ph.D. Minor or the Graduate Certificate

- To enter the Graduate Minor in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory, students must already be enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of Arizona. They are automatically enrolled in SCCT when they file their Gradpath form.
- To enroll in the Graduate Certificate program in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory, students must both be enrolled in a non-Ph.D. graduate program at the University of Arizona and they must also apply. The application requires a statement of interest and a letter of support, ideally from a faculty member. Admissions are considered on a rolling basis throughout the year.

## Graduate Certificate Course Requirements

The Graduate Certificate in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory is designed to expose students to major schools of Social, Cultural and Critical Theory as well as current trends that cut across the disciplines. Students must take a total of 9 units of graduate theory coursework. 3 of these units are in a required course: SCCT 500 (Introduction to Social, Cultural and Critical Theory). The other 6 units consist of electives. These electives may include a section SCCT 510 (Topics in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory) or any other courses that appears on the list of approved SCCT electives. All 6 of these elective units must be taken in a graduate program other than the student's enrolled program. The list of current electives may be found on the SCCT website. Courses that are not on the elective list can be petitioned to counts as such if they are appropriate to the student's research agenda.

## Ph.D. Minor Course Requirements

The graduate Ph.D. minor trains students in how to bring major schools and current trends in social, cultural and critical theory to bear on their interdisciplinary research agenda. Students must take a total of 12 units of graduate theory coursework. 6 of these units are in required courses: SCCT 500 (Introduction to Social, Cultural and Critical Theory), and a section SCCT 510 (Topics in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory). The other 6 units consist of electives. At least 3 of these 6 elective units must be taken in a graduate program other than the student's major. We encourage students to take both of their electives outside of their major if possible. The list of current electives may be found on the SCCT website. Courses that are not on the elective list can be petitioned to counts as such if they are appropriate to the student's research agenda.

# Ph.D. Minor requirements for Comprehensive Examinations and Dissertations

In addition to completing their coursework, Ph.D. minors in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory are required to bring an interdisciplinary theoretical perspective to the comprehensive examinations and dissertations they complete in their major field.

SCCT minors always follow the guidelines of their major program for both the examination and dissertation. They are not required to develop a separate list or a separate part of the examination for their minor in Social, Cultural and Critical Theory. Rather, they must include an SCCT faculty member on their examination committee with whom they develop a theoretical and interdisciplinary dimension to the examination process.

If for any reason this approach is not viable in the program of your major, you may develop a separate list and write a separate essay for your SCCT committee member. We discourage this for the extra work it creates, but it can be necessary.

As is the case for the comprehensive examinations, the minor must include an SCCT faculty member who brings theoretical and interdisciplinary expertise to their dissertation committee. SCCT students generally follow the dissertation requirements of the major field. The additional expertise of the SCCT faculty member who sits on the dissertation committee should complement and enhance the student's research agenda in their main field.

## Typical Minor PhD Timetable

**This timetable will vary depending on the major field.**

### **Year One:**

**Take SCCT 500 and SCCT 510 or an elective**

Submit Plan of Study and complete Research Integrity form in [GradPath](#)

### **Year Two:**

**Take two SCCT electives or one elective and SCCT 510**

Identify an SCCT faculty member to serve on your Comprehensive exam committee

### **Year Three:**

Take Comprehensive exam in your own department with an SCCT faculty member on your

exam committee to introduce interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives. If this isn't viable for your home department, develop an exam list with your SCCT member and write a separate essay.

**Year Four:**

Work on dissertation with an SCCT faculty member on your dissertation committee.

**Year Five:**

Complete and defend dissertation.

Submit dissertation to Graduate College

## **Graduate Student Resources**

In addition to funding from their majors or home programs, SCCT students are also eligible for both GIDP research awards as administered by the Graduate College, such as the [Carter Travel Awards](#), and announced SCCT-specific awards

## **Appeals and Grievances**

The academic appeal process can be found on p. 13.

If a student believes that they have been subjected to a violation of the rules and procedures delineated in this handbook, they have a right to file a grievance. The steps are as follows:

1. Write a summary of the action being grieved, with specific information as to time, date, individuals involved and the nature of the offense, as well as the specific remedy sought.
2. Present the grievance to the Program Director.
3. If the grievance is denied, the student may present it to the Graduate Literature Committee.
4. If denied, a final appeal may be presented to the Head of the Department, whose decision is final. (In cases where the concern falls w/in its jurisdiction, the final step is appealing to the Graduate College.)

\* PLEASE NOTE: An individual who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation (as opposed to violations of department and program policies) should contact the Office of the Dean of Students immediately. You can find more information here: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>. Please speak

with the Program Assistant for more information.

The Graduate College website provides guidelines to determine whether a complaint fall within its jurisdiction. <https://grad.arizona.edu/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy>

## **Important Links**

Program website: <http://theory.arizona.edu/>

Graduate College (from here students may access Graduate College policies, contacts, information about resources, deadlines, and other useful information): <http://grad.arizona.edu/>.

**Resources for parents**, for professional development, for health and wellness, etc:  
<http://grad.arizona.edu/new-and-current-students>

General catalog <http://catalog.arizona.edu/> (link is external)

Continuous Enrollment for Graduate Students: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/continuous-enrollment-graduate-students>

Academic integrity: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-academic-integrity>

Responsible Conduct of Research: <http://www.orcr.arizona.edu/> (link is external)

Graduate Students are expected to follow the policies and procedures for the UA Graduate College, the Department English Literature Program, and the University of Arizona as a whole.

Policies are updated frequently and it is the student's responsibility to comply with current policies. Graduate College policies can be viewed on-line at <https://grad.arizona.edu/policies> university policies can be found at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/>;