REQUIRED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Concentration Release
A concentration release requires an appointment with the sociology advisor to review your progress. A release is required for each LSA concentration and minor you have declared and all releases require a separate appointment with a departmental advisor. Make an appointment early in the semester before your final one—plan way ahead. For example, if you are graduating in May, it is recommended that you complete your release appointment before November 1, even if you haven’t finished all the courses required for your concentration or degree. This way, you will still have at least one registration period in which to make adjustments if your audit reveals you’ve overlooked a requirement.

Applying for Graduation
After the advisor(s) submits your release(s), you need to apply for graduation. Go to Wolverine Access-->Student Center -->My Academics-->Apply for Graduation and follow the prompts. If you experience difficulty in the online application process, or if you need to change your date of graduation, email lsa.auditors@umich.edu. The auditors will not begin your audit until they receive a release for each plan you have declared and your graduation application.

The Senior Audit
Once you have completed your releases and applied for graduation, the LSA auditors will begin your senior audit, reviewing all of your completed coursework to determine if you have completed or have a reasonable plan to complete your degree. The LSA auditors are checking on your LSA and distribution requirements, total credits, and GPA; they rely on concentration advisors, from each discipline in which you are concentrating or have a minor, to report your progress with those particular plans. You do not need to meet with an LSA advisor for the senior audit; it is initiated automatically when all release forms for each major and minor are submitted and you have applied for graduation. Once the audit begins, you should receive an email confirmation of your progress toward graduation from the auditors within two weeks, although it may take up to three weeks during busy periods (late August, October, and November). Contact your concentration advisor if you do not receive your official audit within three weeks. The email you receive is an official University document—read it carefully. If it’s confusing, ask your concentration or general advisor for clarification.

Ideally your official degree audit will be complete before you register for your final semester. This way, you know exactly what the University is expecting of you before they will confer your degree and you still have time to make any necessary schedule changes.

QUICK LIST: EMAIL CONTACTS AND WEB LINKS
socadvisor@umich.edu ..................................................... for quick responses to concentration advising questions
lsa.auditors@umich.edu ................................................... LSA Auditors, if you need to change your graduation date
lsa.umich.edu/advising/graduation/understand .............. guide to understanding your official degree audit
lsa.umich.edu/advising/graduation ......................... loads of information and links for graduating LSA students
www.umich.edu/~gradinfo ........................................ up-to-the-minute deets on University Commencement
www.careercenter.umich.edu ................................... The Career Center: fab resource for seniors #1
alumni.umich.edu ......................................................... Alumni Association: fab resource for seniors #2 (free business cards!)

August 2014
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY GRADUATION RECEPTION
Friday, May 1 at 2:30pm
Michigan League Ballroom
You will receive more information about this event in mid-March.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GRADUATION

What is involved in the Department’s Graduate Recognition Reception?

The Program
Refreshments are served starting at 2:30pm; a 45-minute program begins at 3:15pm. The program includes the announcement of each attending sociology graduate’s name with congratulatory handshakes from the department chair, Al Young, and undergraduate program director, Karin Martin, as well as the presentation of a certificate of completion. There will also be a speech from one of you, and farewell words from Drs. Young and Martin. The program will conclude with a slideshow starring all attending December 2013 and expected May 2014 and August 2014 sociology graduates who submit a profile and a photo.

Speech Contest
For the past seven years, a graduating senior has delivered a speech at the reception. If you're interested in being selected as the speaker, write a five minute speech (no more than 1000 words in length) and send it to socadvisor@umich.edu. All entries must be submitted no later than Friday, April 21, 2014. For appropriate inspiration when writing your speech entry, you might think about: sociology as a way of looking at the world, how your sociology degree prepares you for other things in life, and/or your experiences as a member of the Department of Sociology community.

Slideshow
Each student who submits a profile and a photo and plans to attend the reception will have an individual slide in the slideshow. It’s pretty fun for everyone, especially friends and relatives in attendance. The best part: there’s a place in the slide format for you to acknowledge those who supported or inspired you during your undergraduate years.

My GPA is high. Does that mean I graduate with honors?

No. The only students who will graduate with honors are those who complete a thesis. However, the University does confer degrees with distinction. The cutoff for receiving a degree with distinction, high distinction, or highest distinction, are students at varying levels of the top 25% of the graduating senior class. The GPA cutoff is subject to change every year based on the current or previous May graduating class. It’s typically in the range of 3.6-3.8 for distinction, with high and highest distinction somewhere in the 3.8-4.0. More information is in the LSA bulletin at www.lsa.umich.edu/bulletin.

Where do I go to get my cap and gown? How do I know what color tassel I should buy?
The Michigan Union bookstore stocks academic attire. Most Sociology students receive Bachelor of Arts degrees, and need to buy white tassels. If you are completing a Bachelor of Science, buy a yellow tassel.

What about information on tickets and parking for University Commencement?
Check out the Graduate’s Guide to Commencement at www.umich.edu/~gradinfo for more details about the logistics of University Commencement.

You might also be interested in participating in the following graduation celebrations:
Black Celebratory---www.umich.edu/~blkceleb/
La Celebracion Latina---www.oami.umich.edu/programs/lacelebracionlatina.html
Lavender Graduation-- spectrumcenter.umich.edu/lavendergraduation

August 2014