

**SOCIOLGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Sociology examines human society with an emphasis on social structure, social interaction, and social change. From the analysis of passing encounters between strangers on the street to the investigation of broad-based global social movements, sociology examines the subtle, yet complex, ways individual lives interact and intersect with the collective experience of others. One of the sociology program's special emphases is understanding social inequalities and their implication for social justice. Comparative, cross-national, and cross-cultural perspectives are also offered in many courses.

The analytic frameworks sociologists employ encourage students to think about complex situations in a new way by showing how the social environment influences people's life options, advantages and disadvantages. Sociologists are interested not only in understanding social issues and social organization, but also in resolving social problems and improving social conditions for human populations. With sociological knowledge we become more aware of ourselves, of other people, and of the world we all live in.

To study sociology, a student needs to acquire information (what we know), methodology (how we know), and theory (how we explain). A major in sociology will require students to develop background and strength in each of these domains. The insights gained from a sociological perspective include the ability to perceive the structures and patterns upon which everyday life rests, to understand the interaction between individual agency and social forces, to interpret events from diverse perspectives, and to examine existing social arrangements critically.

The sociology major prepares students to work in education, research, government, business, human services, community organizing, program development, policy analysis, youth services, criminal justice, crime and violence prevention, and victim services. Sociology also prepares students for graduate studies in sociology or related social sciences, for applied research careers, or for professional degree programs in law, social work, public administration and other fields.

The major is organized to provide a firm foundation in theory and research methods while allowing students to tailor their major to their specific subject interests.

A sociology major leads to either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree.

**Major Requirements**

- Completion of 36 credit hours of sociology coursework is required for the major. All sociology majors will work with a faculty advisor who will assist in the selection of courses to complete academic requirements.
- A minimum grade of C is required in all sociology courses counting toward either the sociology major or the sociology minor.

**Specific Requirements for the BA or BS Sociology Major**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORE REQUIREMENTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SOC 205</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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**ELECTIVES**

Select 27 credits of sociology electives

Total Credits 36

**Sociology Electives**

A total of 27 credit hours of sociology electives are required for the major, including a minimum of 18 credit hours of upper-division (300 or 400-level courses) electives. Electives accepted toward the major can include a maximum of 6.0 credit hours of anthropology and/or criminology. These courses must be approved by a sociology faculty advisor.

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General Education
The general education requirement for graduation includes a total of 35 semester credits in two categories: Skills Component and Knowledge Component. Please see the General Education Requirement section under Academic Policies for more information.

Student Learning Outcomes
The student learning outcomes apply for both the BS and BA degrees in Sociology:

• Students will be able to comprehend and criticize the major theoretical perspectives that inform modern sociological thought. Specifically, students will be able to:
  a. show what these perspectives have in common and how they differ and
  b. critique these different perspectives in terms of their explanatory strengths and weaknesses for purposes of understanding what each reveals and obscures about the subjects of sociological inquiry.

• Students will learn to apply a range of research methods in conjunction with sociological theory in order to explain and analyze complex social relations and organization. Specifically, students will be able to demonstrate that they can
  a. identify, define, and give examples of various methods used in sociological research on contemporary societies, and
  b. recognize and interpret research methodologies used in sociological literature.

• Students will learn to apply social analysis to substantive social issues and problems, including such areas as race, gender, power, inequality, and globalization. Specifically, they will be able to apply sociological theories and methods in these substantive areas in order to understand social problems and inform social policy.

• Students will be able to engage in critical thinking about various aspects of social life and organization.