Sociology, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- be able to identify how sociological concepts and theories relate to everyday life,
- possess a critical lens for understanding human behavior and societies,
- articulate the importance of evidence and scientific methods for explanations of social phenomena,
- be able to identify the characteristics of high quality data and methods in sociological research,
- identify disciplinary standards for both the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data, and
- use their sociological knowledge and skills to engage with and impact the world around them.

Overview

A bachelor's degree with a major in sociology provides a liberal arts and sciences education. Sociology provides a broad foundation for a number of careers that require a deep understanding of human interactions and behaviors. Though broad in scope, sociology can be broken down into many marketable specializations including these at the University of Iowa: family, health, and well-being; organizations, networks, and careers; social psychology; and social and political organization.

The department has an active undergraduate organization, the Sociology Club, which is open to all interested students. The student-run group sponsors speakers, films, and career days; conducts study groups; and facilitates group volunteerism.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in sociology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 36 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must earn at least 12 s.h. in sociology course work at the University of Iowa; transfer courses must be approved by a sociology advisor.

The major offers two optional tracks for students with an interest in one of the following concentrations: family, health, and well-being; or organizations, networks, and careers.

Requirements for the major are similar for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science, except B.A. students take 3 s.h. of statistics and two theory and methods courses, while B.S. students take 9 s.h. of advanced statistics and three theory and methods courses.

Choice of a degree program should be dictated by a student's personal career goals. Though not required, students interested in pursuing a graduate program may find the additional math and methods courses helpful.

Students who earn the major in sociology may earn a minor in criminology, law and justice. No more than 3 s.h. can double count for the major and minor.

Students who earn the major in sociology may not earn the sociology minor.

In planning to complete the major, students must take courses in the proper sequence. Introduction to Sociology (SOC:1010) is a prerequisite for all required core theory and methods courses. Statistics is prerequisite for the more advanced methods course. These introductory courses lay the foundation for all other work in the major. The recommended sequence for the major's core requirements is SOC:1010, SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, the statistics requirement, and SOC:2170 Research Methods. See "Four-Year Graduation Plan" under Academic Plans [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog.

The B.A. with a major in sociology requires the following work.

### Code | Title | Hours
---|---|---
| Introductory Sociology Course | 3-4
| Introductory Statistics Course | 3-4
| Theory and Methods Courses | 6
| Electives | 21
| Capstone Course | 3
| Graduation Portfolio | 0
| **Total Hours** | **36-38**

### Introductory Sociology

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
| SOC:1010 | Introduction to Sociology | 3-4

### Introductory Statistics

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
| SOC:2160 | Applied Statistics for Social Scientists | 3
| ECON:3300 | Introduction to Econometrics | 3
| STAT:1020/PSQF:1020 | Elementary Statistics and Inference | 3
| STAT:1030 | Statistics for Business | 4
| STAT:2010 | Statistical Methods and Computing | 3
| STAT:3510/IGPI:3510 | Biostatistics | 3
| STAT:4143/PSQF:4143 | Introduction to Statistical Methods | 3

### Theory and Methods

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
| Students should complete both of these as soon as possible: | | 3
| SOC:2130 | Sociological Theory | 3
| SOC:2170 | Research Methods | 3

### Electives

Students complete 21 s.h. of elective course work in sociology (prefix SOC). Four of the required electives must be advanced, chosen from sociology courses numbered 3000-4899, SOC:4920 Social Services Organization Internship, or SOC:4998 Honors Research. With permission, students...
may use graduate courses in sociology numbered 5000 or above to satisfy the electives requirement. Two of the four advanced required electives must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, an approved course from the "Introductory Statistics" list above, and SOC:2170 Research Methods. Students can use two criminology, law and justice courses (prefix CRIM) toward the electives requirement.

The following courses may not be used as electives.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1000</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4800</td>
<td>Research Practicum in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4930</td>
<td>Teaching Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4990</td>
<td>Directed Individual Study</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4997</td>
<td>Honors Seminar</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
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**Capstone Course**

All students complete a capstone course, which illustrates their accomplishments and includes assembling a portfolio. Students may take it as early as spring of their junior year, as long as they have completed SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, SOC:2170 Research Methods, and the statistics requirement.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC:4800</td>
<td>Research Practicum in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4910</td>
<td>Capstone Course in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4920</td>
<td>Social Services Organization Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Graduation Portfolio**

During their last semester, all students enroll in the following course, in which they submit the portfolio they assembled in the capstone course.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4909</td>
<td>Graduation Portfolio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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**Tracks**

**Family, Health, and Well-Being Track**

The family, health, and well-being track requires a minimum of 15 s.h. of credit, including 12 s.h. of course work taken at the University of Iowa. It is open to sociology majors who are interested in understanding family structures and practices, differences between and within families, and those social institutions and forces that shape families or are shaped by them. Additionally, the track cultivates students’ understanding of the social context of health, illness, and health care. It is especially well suited for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the fields of social service and health.

Students must satisfy all requirements for the sociology major. They may count courses taken for the track as sociology electives for the major.

The family, health, and well-being track requires the following course work.

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<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required Courses</td>
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</table>

**Organizations, Networks, and Careers Track**

The organizations, networks, and careers track requires a minimum of 15 s.h. of credit, including 12 s.h. of course work taken at the University of Iowa. It is open to sociology majors who are interested in understanding the macro- and micro-level processes that affect the ability to understand and manage organizations, as well as the groups and individuals that compose them. The track provides intensive training in both theoretical and empirical approaches to organizations, and combines micro-level insights into work groups with macro-level perspectives on the influence of organizations’ environments. It is especially well suited for students who are interested in pursuing careers in various services-providing sectors such as business services, educational services, social assistance, or government.

Students must satisfy all requirements for the sociology major. They may count courses taken for the track as sociology electives for the major.

The organizations, networks, and careers track requires the following course work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3610</td>
<td>Organizations and Modern Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3880</td>
<td>The Sociology of Networks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teacher Licensure

Majors interested in earning licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must complete the College of Education's Teacher Education Program (TEP) in addition to the requirements for the major and all requirements for graduation. The TEP requires several College of Education courses and student teaching. Contact the Office of Student Services for details.

Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete Teacher Education Program licensure before degree conferral.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all University of Iowa courses and in all sociology courses. In order to graduate with honors in sociology, the following course work must be completed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4997</td>
<td>Honors Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4998</td>
<td>Honors Research (honors thesis)</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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</table>

The honors thesis is prepared under faculty supervision. It gives students the opportunity to conduct sociological research in close consultation with a faculty member of the student's choice.

Honors students also must take at least one sociology course numbered 3000 or above with honors designation, including graduate courses (honors designation requires instructor approval). Learn more about honors in the major and honors courses on the University of Iowa Honors Program website.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society. Students who have a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.30, a sociology g.p.a. of at least 3.00 (with four sociology courses), and have attained junior or higher standing are considered for membership. Consult the Alpha Kappa Delta faculty advisor for details.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the sociology major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.
Sequencing of course work is important in meeting the four-year plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology or equivalent, and one sociology elective

Before the seventh semester begins: SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, a required statistics course, one more sociology elective, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: SOC:2170 Research Methods and one more sociology elective

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, including a capstone course, SOC:4909 Graduation Portfolio, and the last two sociology electives; all remaining GE CLAS Core courses; and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Career Advancement

The major provides background for employment in fields such as human services, criminal justice, corrections, sales, public relations, advertising, personnel, applied social research, community organization, and teaching social science in secondary schools. It also offers an integrated package of courses, research training, writing enhancement, international perspective, and internships to provide graduates with impressive credentials.

The sociology degree provides a foundation for graduate or professional study in social work, urban planning, law, criminal justice, social policy, and similar areas. Finally, the major prepares students to work toward advanced degrees in sociology, which qualify them for college or university teaching and work in academic, private, and governmental research or organizations.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.