Sociology, B.S.

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 and Criminology 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 Science with a major in sociology requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 45 s.h. of work for the major, with a minimum of 42 s.h. in sociology course work. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all work in the major. The recommended sequence for the major's core requirements is SOC:1010, SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, and SOC:2170 Research Methods. See the "Four-Year Graduation Plan" under Academic Plans in this section of the Catalog.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Sociology Course</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory, Statistics, and Methods Courses</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Portfolio</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>45-46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introductory Sociology

Table: Introductory Sociology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theory, Statistics, and Methods

Table: Theory, Statistics, and Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both of these:</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2130</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>Research Practicum in Sociology (may count toward the theory and methods requirement or the capstone requirement, but not both)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:2603</td>
<td>Introduction to Symbolic Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL:3604</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Social Scientists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:6170</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:6180</td>
<td>Linear Models in Sociological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 3000-4903, SOC:4920 Social Services Organization Internship,
or SOC:4998 Honors Research. Two of the four advanced required electives must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130 Sociological Theory and SOC:2170 Research Methods. Students can use two criminology, law and justice courses (prefix CRIM) toward the electives requirement. With permission, students may use graduate courses in sociology numbered 5000 or above to satisfy the electives requirement.

The following courses may not be used as electives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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:4910</td>
<td>Capstone Course 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 one of the approved statistics courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4800</td>
<td>Research Practicum in Sociology (may count</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>toward the capstone requirement or the theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and methods requirement, but not both)</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4909</td>
<td>Graduation Portfolio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</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>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4225</td>
<td>The Social Psychology of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

9 s.h. from these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1420</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2810</td>
<td>Social Inequality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3200</td>
<td>International Perspectives: Xicotepec</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3650</td>
<td>Education, Schools, and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4210</td>
<td>Social Psychology of Small Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4230</td>
<td>Sociology of Self-Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4540</td>
<td>Political Sociology and Social Movements</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4903</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Organizations, Networks, and Careers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM:4440</td>
<td>Sociology of White-Collar Crime</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or select electives from these graduate courses, with approval of instructor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:6610</td>
<td>Complex Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:7620</td>
<td>Social Network Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:7820</td>
<td>Seminar: Selected Topics in Social Stratification (when topic is social capital)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Emphasis Areas**

The following elective courses are grouped by emphasis for students who may want to cluster their electives according to one of the following areas of interest. The emphasis area courses are not tracks. See Courses in this section of the Catalog for a complete listing of sociology courses.

**Social Psychology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1220</td>
<td>Principles of Social Psychology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3220</td>
<td>Sociology of Mental Illness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4210</td>
<td>Social Psychology of Small Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4225</td>
<td>The Social Psychology of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4230</td>
<td>Sociology of Self-Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social and Political Organization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2810</td>
<td>Social Inequality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2830</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity</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 in the College of Education for details.

Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete TEP licensure before degree conferral.

**Combined Programs**

**B.S./M.S. in Business Analytics (Career Subprogram)**

Students majoring in sociology who are interested in earning a master’s degree in business analytics with a career subprogram may apply to the combined B.S./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of business analytics before they complete their bachelor’s degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the business analytics program, see the M.S. in business analytics (career) in the Tippie College of Business section of the Catalog.

**B.S./M.S. in Finance**

Students majoring in sociology who are interested in earning a master’s degree in finance may apply to the combined B.S./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of finance before they complete their bachelor’s degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the finance program, see the M.S. in finance (Tippie College of Business) section of the Catalog.

**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.
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, SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, and one sociology elective

Before the seventh semester begins: two required statistics courses, SOC:2170 Research Methods, one more sociology elective, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: the remaining statistics course 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

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Sociology, B.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course First Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>16-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Fall</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2130</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Fall</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2170</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major: capstone course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sociology, B.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective course</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC:6170</th>
<th>Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hours | 15 |

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHIL:3604 or PHIL:2603 or SOC:4800</th>
<th>Introduction to Philosophy of Science or Introduction to Symbolic Logic or Research Practicum in Sociology</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4909</td>
<td>Graduation Portfolio</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:6180</td>
<td>Linear Models in Sociological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Hours | 15 |

| Total Hours | 123-130 |

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a. Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
b. GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
c. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
d. Students have the option to choose one of two tracks in the major: organizations, networks, and careers; or family, health and well-being.
e. Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
f. Upper-level sociology courses (prefix SOC) are numbered 3000 or above. Two of the upper-level electives must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130 and SOC:2170.
g. Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu/. If applicable search for "Early and Late Participation" to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

### Career Advancement

In addition to preparing students for careers in social service, criminal justice, and other areas, this major offers an integrated package of courses, research training, writing enhancement, international perspective, and internships to provide graduates with impressive credentials. 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.

The major also provides a foundation for graduate or professional study in social work, urban planning, law, criminal justice, social policy, and similar areas. Finally, it 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.

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