Sociology, B.S.

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 those at the University of Iowa: family, health, and well-being; organizations, networks, and careers; social psychology; and social and political organization.

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 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.

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 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 courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. 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.S. students take 9 s.h. of advanced statistics and three theory and methods courses, while B.A. students take 3 s.h. of statistics and two 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 can earn the major in criminology, law and justice. No more than 9 s.h. of major course work can double count for each of the majors. Students who earn both majors may not complete a minor in either area.

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.

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**Introduction to Sociology**

This course:

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

**Statistics**

All of these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2160</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Social Scientists</td>
<td>3</td>
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<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>
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**Theory and Methods**

Both of these:

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2130</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2170</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

One of these:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:4800</td>
<td>Research Practicum in Sociology</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>
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**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 and SOC:2170 Research Methods. Students can use two criminology, law and justice courses (prefix CRIM) toward the electives requirement.

The following courses do not count toward the major and may not be used as electives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1000</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SOC:4930  Teaching Internship  3  
SOC:4990  Directed Individual Study  arr.

## Capstone Course

All students complete the 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. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in work for the major.

SOC:4910  Capstone Course in Sociology  3

## 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.

SOC:4909  Graduation Portfolio  0

## 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.

### Required Courses

6 s.h. from these:

- SOC:1310  Gender and Society  3-4
- SOC:2710  The American Family  3
- SOC:3510  Medical Sociology  3

### Electives

9 s.h. from these:

- SOC:2064  Racial Inequity and the Experiences of African American Families in the U.S.  3
- SOC:2810  Social Inequality  3
- SOC:3220  Sociology of Mental Illness  3
- SOC:3750  Born in the USA: Fertility and Reproduction  3
- SOC:4230  Sociology of Self-Improvement  3
- SOC:4902  Selected Topics in Family, Health, and Well-Being  3
- CRIM:3420  Juvenile Delinquency  3
- CRIM:4430  Interpersonal Violence in Society  3

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

- SOC:6220  Seminar: Selected Topics in Social Psychology (when topic is life course)  3
- SOC:6310  Gender Stratification Seminar  3

Students also may choose the remaining required course as an elective.

### 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.

### Required Courses

6 s.h. from these:

- SOC:3610  Organizations and Modern Society  3
- SOC:3880  The Sociology of Networks  3
- SOC:4225  The Social Psychology of Leadership  3

### Electives

9 s.h. from these:

- SOC:1420  Law and Society  3
- SOC:2810  Social Inequality  3
- SOC:3200  International Perspectives: Xicotepec  1-3
- SOC:3650  Education, Schools, and Society  3
- SOC:4210  Social Psychology of Small Groups  3
- SOC:4230  Sociology of Self-Improvement  3
- SOC:4540  Political Sociology and Social Movements  3
- SOC:4903  Selected Topics in Organizations, Networks, and Careers  3
- CRIM:4440  Sociology of White-Collar Crime  3

Or select electives from these graduate courses, with approval of instructor:
SOC:6610  Complex Organizations  3
SOC:7620  Social Network Analysis  3
SOC:7820  Seminar: Selected Topics in Social Stratification (when topic is social capital)  3

**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**

SOC:1220  Principles of Social Psychology  3-4
SOC:3220  Sociology of Mental Illness  3
SOC:4210  Social Psychology of Small Groups  3
SOC:4225  The Social Psychology of Leadership  3
SOC:4230  Sociology of Self-Improvement  3

**Social and Political Organization**

SOC:2810  Social Inequality  3
SOC:3610  Organizations and Modern Society  3
SOC:3650  Education, Schools, and Society  3
SOC:3830  Race and Ethnicity  3
SOC:3850  Economy and Society  3
SOC:3880  The Sociology of Networks  3
SOC:4820  Sociology of Sexuality  3

**B.S. with 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 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.

SOC:4997  Honors Seminar  1
SOC:4998  Honors Research (honors thesis)  2-3

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 SOC:4910 Capstone Course in Sociology, SOC:4909 Graduation Portfolio, and the last two sociology electives; all remaining General Education courses; and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

**Sample Plan of Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology (also GE: Social Sciences)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RHET:1030  Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)  
GE: Diversity and Inclusion  
GE: World Languages or elective course  
CSI:1600  Success at Iowa  

Spring
ENGL:1200  The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)  
Major: sociology elective/track course  
GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning  
GE: World Languages or elective course  
Elective course  


Second Year
Fall
SOC:2130  Sociological Theory  
Major: sociology elective/track course  
GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning  
GE: World Languages or elective course  
Elective course  

Spring
SOC:2160  Applied Statistics for Social Scientists  
Major: sociology elective/track course  
GE: Natural Sciences with a lab  
GE: World Languages or elective course  
Elective course  

Third Year
Fall
SOC:2170  Research Methods  
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts  
GE: Natural Sciences without a lab  
Elective course  

Spring
SOC:4910  Capstone Course in Sociology  
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  
GE: International and Global Issues  
Elective course  

Fourth Year
Fall
SOC:6170  Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis  
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  
GE: Historical Perspectives  
Elective course  

Spring
SOC:4800  or PHIL:2603  or PHIL:3604  Research Practicum in Sociology or Introduction to Symbolic Logic or Introduction to Philosophy of Science  
SOC:4909  Graduation Portfolio  
SOC:6180  Linear Models in Sociological Research  
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  
Elective course  


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 degree also prepares students for graduate or professional study in areas such as social work, urban and regional planning, law, criminal justice, and social policy. Teaching positions in colleges or universities and research positions in academic, private, and governmental organizations often require advanced degrees in sociology.

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