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 these 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.

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. 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, 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.

**Introductory Sociology**

This course:

| SOC:1010 | Introduction to Sociology | 3-4 |

**Statistics**

All of these:

| SOC:2160 | Applied Statistics for Social Scientists | 3 |
| SOC:6170 | Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis | 3 |
| SOC:6180 | Linear Models in Sociological Research | 3 |

**Theory and Methods**

Both of these:

| SOC:2130 | Sociological Theory | 3 |
| SOC:2170 | Research Methods | 3 |

One of these:

| SOC:4800 | Research Practicum in Sociology | 3 |
| PHIL:2603 | Introduction to Symbolic Logic | 3 |
| PHIL:3604 | Introduction to Philosophy of Science | 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 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.

| SOC:1000 | First-Year Seminar | 1-2 |
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:
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SOC:6610 Complex Organizations 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**

**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**

**Sociology (B.S.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC:1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology (also GE: Social Sciences)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:3880</td>
<td>The Sociology of Networks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC:2810</td>
<td>Social Inequality</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Sociology of Self-Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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RHET:1030  Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)  4
GE: Diversity and Inclusion  3
GE: World Languages or elective course  3-5
CSI:1600  Success at Iowa  2

Hours  15-17

**Spring**

ENGL:1200  The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)  3
Major: sociology elective/track course  3
GE: Values and Culture  3
GE: World Languages or elective course  3-5
Elective course  3

Hours  15-17

**Second Year**

**Fall**

SOC:2130  Sociological Theory  3
Major: sociology elective/track course  3
GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning  3
GE: World Languages or elective course  3-5
Elective course  3

Hours  15-17

**Spring**

SOC:2160  Applied Statistics for Social Scientists  3
Major: sociology elective/track course  3
GE: Natural Sciences with a lab  4
GE: World Languages or elective course  3-5
Elective course  2-3

Hours  15-18

**Third Year**

**Fall**

SOC:2170  Research Methods  3
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  5
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts  3
GE: Natural Sciences without a lab  3
Elective course  3

Hours  15

**Spring**

SOC:4910  Capstone Course in Sociology  3
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  3
GE: International and Global Issues  3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3

Hours  15

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

SOC:6170  Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis  3
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course  3
GE: Historical Perspectives  3
Elective course  3
Elective course  3

Hours  15

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1 General Education (GE) 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. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

3 Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

4 Students may choose one of two tracks: organizations, networks, and careers; or family, health and well-being.

5 Upper-level sociology courses are numbered SOC:3000 or above.

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**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.