

Sociology, BA

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 and health services, human relations and business, 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.

Learning Outcomes

Students majoring in sociology will be able to:

- identify how sociological concepts and theories relate to everyday life;
- use a critical lens to better understand human behavior and societies;
- articulate the importance of evidence and scientific methods for explanations of social phenomena;
- 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.

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 grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must earn at least 18 s.h. in sociology coursework 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 and health services, or human relations and business.

Students who earn the major in sociology can earn the major in criminology, law, and justice. No more than 9 s.h. of major coursework can be applied to both of the majors. Students who earn both majors may not complete a minor in either area.

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of coursework from the Department of Sociology and Criminology toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree. BA students who are graduating with a double major in the department (sociology and criminology, law, and justice) may apply more than 56 s.h. from the department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside the department in order to graduate.

Students who earn the major in sociology may earn a minor in criminology, law, and justice. No more than 3 s.h. can count toward both 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 a 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, an approved statistics course, and SOC:2170 Research Methods. See the Four-Year Graduation Plan under Academic Plans [p. 4] in this section of the catalog.

The BA with a major in sociology requires the following work.

Requirements	Hours
Introductory Sociology Course	3-4
Theory, Statistics, and Methods Courses	9-10
Electives	21
Capstone Course	3
Graduation Portfolio	
Optional Tracks	

Introductory Sociology

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
SOC:1010	Introduction to Sociology	3-4

Theory, Statistics, and Methods

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these (completed as soon as possible):		
SOC:2130	Sociological Theory	3
SOC:2170	Research Methods	3
One of these (completed as soon as possible):		
SOC:2160	Applied Statistics for Social Scientists	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

Electives

Students complete 21 s.h. of elective coursework 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, SOC:2170 Research Methods, and an additional approved course from the "Theory, Statistics, and Methods" list. Students can use a maximum of 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.

Course #	Title	Hours
SOC:1000	First-Year Seminar	1-2
SOC:4800	Research Practicum in Sociology	3
SOC:4910	Capstone Course in Sociology and Criminology	3
SOC:4930	Teaching Internship	3
SOC:4990	Directed Individual Study	arr.
SOC:4997	Honors Seminar	1

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 an additional approved course from the "Theory, Statistics, and Methods" list.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
SOC:4800	Research Practicum in Sociology	3
SOC:4910	Capstone Course in Sociology and Criminology	3
SOC:4920	Social Services Organization Internship	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.

Course #	Title	Hours
SOC:4909	Graduation Portfolio	0

Optional Tracks

Family and Health Services Track

The family and health services track requires a minimum of 15 s.h. of credit, including 12 s.h. of coursework 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 and health services track requires the following coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
6 s.h. from these:		
SOC:1310	Gender and Society	3
SOC:2710	The American Family	3
SOC:3510	Medical Sociology	3
Electives		

9 s.h. from these:

SOC:2064	African American Families: Urban and Suburban	3
SOC:2810	Social Inequality	3
SOC:3171	Drugs and Society	3
SOC:3220	Sociology of Mental Health	3
SOC:3750	Born in the USA: Fertility and Reproduction	3
SOC:4230	Sociology of Self-Improvement	3
SOC:4820	Sociology of Sexuality	3
CRIM:3420	Juvenile Delinquency	3
CRIM:4430	Interpersonal Violence in Society	3

Or select electives from these 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 may also choose the remaining required course as an elective

Human Relations and Business Track

The human relations and business track requires a minimum of 15 s.h. of credit, including 12 s.h. of coursework 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 human relations and business track requires the following coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
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:2810	Social Inequality	3
SOC:3110	Race, Organizations, and Workplace	3
SOC:3215	Digital Footprints: Sociology in the Age of Social Media	3
SOC:3530	Social Psychology of Small Groups	3

SOC:3650	Education, Schools, and Society	3
SOC:4230	Sociology of Self-Improvement	3
SOC:4540	Political Sociology and Social Movements	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 Networks: Theory and Sociological Applications	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 list of sociology courses.

Social Psychology

Course #	Title	Hours
SOC:1220	Principles of Social Psychology	3
SOC:3220	Sociology of Mental Health	3
SOC:3530	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

Course #	Title	Hours
SOC:2810	Social Inequality	3
SOC:2830	Race and Ethnicity	3
SOC:3610	Organizations and Modern Society	3
SOC:3650	Education, Schools, and Society	3
SOC:3880	The Sociology of Networks	3
SOC:4820	Sociology of Sexuality	3

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a grade-point average (GPA) 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 coursework must be completed.

Course #	Title	Hours
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 must also 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 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 GPA of 3.30, a sociology GPA 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.

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 perspectives, 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 academia, private business, and governmental research or organizations.

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

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 coursework 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 coursework 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, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
SOC:1010	Introduction to Sociology ^b	3
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level		4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course ^c		
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		14-16
Spring		
Major: sociology elective/track course ^e		3
ENGL:1200	The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level		4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course ^c		
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		16-18

Second Year

Fall

SOC:2130	Sociological Theory	3
Major: sociology elective/track course ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^f		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level		4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course ^c		
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		16-17

Spring

Major: introductory statistics course - STAT:1020		3
Elementary Statistics and Inference recommended ^b		
Major: sociology elective/track course ^e		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level		4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course ^c		
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		2
Hours		15-16

Third Year

Fall

SOC:2170	Research Methods	3
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^f		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15

Spring

Major: capstone course ^h		3
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^f		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^f		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Hours		15

Spring

SOC:4909	Graduation Portfolio	0
Major: upper-level sociology elective/track course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^f		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3
Elective course ^d		3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ⁱ

Hours		15
Total Hours		121-127

^a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives;

- International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- b Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
 - c Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
 - d 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.
 - e Students have the option to choose one of two tracks in the major: family and health services, or human relations and business.
 - f 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.
 - g 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, SOC:2170, and an approved introductory statistics course.
 - h May be taken as early as spring of the junior year, as long as students have completed SOC:2130, SOC:2170, and one of the approved statistics courses.
 - i Please see Academic Calendar, on 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 or Degree Services.