

SOCIOLOGY

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**Faculty Early Retirement Program*

Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Minor in Sociology

Sociological research attempts to improve the human condition within the context of a strong tradition of social justice and human equality. Society shapes attitudes, goals, hopes and aspirations, and personal preferences. Society affects individuals, groups, and entire nations. Yet at the same time that society is shaping the individual, the individual is shaping society. In order to understand oneself and others, the world, and the future, one has to understand society. Sociology is the discipline that studies groups and societies—what they are, how they got that way, and what impact they have.

Sociology is a field with diverse areas of study. These range from the behavior of the individual as a social actor to the structure of entire societies. Key topics include social psychology, socialization, deviant behavior, group behavior, organizations and institutions, power, inequality, and social change. Major social institutions, including the family, education, religion, social welfare, medicine, work, politics, and the media, are also explored in detail. To develop skills for studying society, students are introduced to valuable techniques such as survey research, sampling, observational methods, content analysis, experimentation, interviewing, and computer applications in research.

Because sociology is a core subject for any liberal arts education, the department offers a variety of courses of interest to non-majors. These concern such current social issues as the problems of aging, drugs and society, social inequities, media, education, globalization, and the information revolution.

The major has been designed to allow each student, in consultation with an advisor, to develop an individualized program of study. The required courses ensure a solid grounding in sociological concepts, theories, and research methods.

By the time students graduate, they will:

- Create clear, succinct analysis in writing and speaking;
- Understand the structure and logic of the full range of the discipline;
- Formulate critical and analytic questions about society and be able to investigate them through original research;
- Demonstrate competence in handling databases and in using appropriate technical tools; and
- Apply theory and methods in sustained independent inquiry.

Careers in Sociology

Sociology provides an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers. A bachelor's degree in sociology qualifies one for opportunities in national, state, and local government, including research, public administration, personnel, and planning. The major can lead to positions in human services and social advocacy, including alcohol and drug rehabilitation, health agency administration, counseling, recreation, senior services, social welfare, vocational, and rehabilitation counseling. Applications of sociology in business include organizational management, human relations, union organization, industrial relations, communication consulting, public relations, and marketing. Sociology constitutes valuable coursework in preparation for graduate study in law, business, and a variety of human services professions, as well as doctoral programs in sociology and related academic fields. Before graduation, sociology majors can establish internships that lead to valuable professional contacts and provide practical experience in pursuing these and additional career paths.

The department has a chapter of the national sociology honor society Alpha Kappa Delta, and it awards a C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination on an annual basis for the best original research paper produced by a student in the department.

Every year the Joseph J. Byrne Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student majoring in sociology.

The Robert Holzapfel Scholarship is awarded to a student majoring in sociology or counseling.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

(See page 241 for a sample four-year program.)

| Degree Requirements | Units |
|--|------------|
| General education (50, 3-7 in major) | 43-47 |
| Major Requirements | 43 |
| Electives | 30-34 |
| Total units needed for graduation | 120 |

Major Requirements

This requirement list and advising guide is designed for students entering the sociology major beginning in Fall 2015. Students who entered the major in earlier semesters must complete the requirements in place at the time they declared the major.

Required Core Courses

| | |
|---|--------------|
| SOCI 201 Introduction to Sociology (GE D1) | 3 |
| SOCI 300 Sociological Research Methods | 4 |
| SOCI 375 Sociological Theory (GE D1) | 4 |
| Math 165 (GE B4) or SOCI 301 | 4 |
| Sociological Experience Course (see below) | 2-5 |
| SOCI 498 Senior Seminar | 4 |
| Total core units | 21-24 |
| SOCI Electives to reach minimum 43 units | 19-22 |
| Total units in the Major | 43 |

A student must take SOCI 201 before proceeding to any other required sociology course. SOCI 300, SOCI 375, 16 additional units of sociology, and senior standing are required before a student will be allowed to enroll in SOCI 498. To be eligible to enroll in SOCI 498, students must have filed for graduation for the semester in which they wish to take the course.

Students must earn a minimum grade of C- or better in each of the six required courses. See a faculty advisor in the department for details on these minimum grade requirements.

Statistics Requirement

The statistics course requirement provides an opportunity for students to strengthen their quantitative data analysis abilities and to enhance related job skills. Majors must take one of the following courses or another course designated by a sociology advisor as meeting the statistics requirement.

Math 165 (GE B4) (or its equivalent)
SOCI 301 Statistics for Sociologists

Sociological Experience Requirement

The sociological experience requirement provides students with curricular opportunities to develop awareness of social issues, use sociological perspectives and methods to address social problems, engage with the community outside of the university, develop experiences that provide job skills, and enhance their knowledge about careers. Majors must take one of the following courses or another course designated as meeting the sociological experience requirement.

SOCI 306 Careers in Sociology
SOCI 336 Investigative Sociology
SOCI 460 Social Work in the Social World
SOCI 482 Sociology of the Environment
SOCI 488 Selected Topics in Service Learning
SOCI 496 Internship Practicum (concurrent with SOCI 499)

Lower and Upper Division Units

Majors may apply up to 8 units of lower division coursework towards the requirements. Of these 8 units, no more than 4 units may be non-

SSU transfer credit. Any lower division units used to meet the major's statistics requirement will not be included in either of these limits.

Minor in Sociology

| | |
|--|-----------|
| SOCI 201 Introduction to Sociology | 3 |
| Elective courses in sociology chosen in consultation with an advisor | 17 |
| Total units in the minor | 20 |

Minors may apply up to 8 units of lower division coursework towards the requirements. Of these 8 units, no more than 4 may be non-SSU transfer credit.

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

The following is a sample study plan only. The sequence and specific courses given are suggestive; please see an advisor each semester to plan your personal program.

FRESHMAN YEAR: 31 Units

| <i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (16 Units)</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ENGL 101 (4) | PHIL 101 (4) |
| GE Mathematics (3) | GE Physical Science (3) |
| GE BIOL 115 (3) | GE World History (3) |
| UNIV 102 First Year Experience (3) | SOCI 201 (3) |
| Electives (2) | CS 101 (3) |

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units

| <i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (16 Units)</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| GE Comp. Perspectives & Foreign Lang. (3) | GE Social Sciences (6) |
| GE History/Political Science (6) | History of the Fine Arts (4) |
| Electives (5) | GE World Literature (3) |
| | Elective (3) |

JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Units

| <i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (14 Units)</i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SOCI 300 (4) | SOCI 375 (4) |
| Sociology Elective Area (4) | Sociology Elective (4) |
| Sociology Elective (4) | UD GE Integrated Person (4) |
| UD GE Philosophy and Values (4) | Elective (2) |

SENIOR YEAR: 29 Units

| <i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (13 Units)</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Statistics Course (4) | SOCI 498 (4) |
| Sociology Elective (4) | SOCI Experience Course (4) |
| UD GE Contemporary Int. Perspectives (4) | Electives (5) |
| Elective (4) | |

TOTAL UNITS: 120