Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Sociology is the study of human social behavior, its causes and consequences. The subject matter ranges from the intimate family to mob behavior; from crime to religion; from the divisions based on race, sex, and social class, to the shared beliefs of an entire society and culture; from the sociology of work to the sociology of sport. Few fields of study have such a broad scope and relevance to problems and issues of society today. The department's goal is to provide a well-rounded liberal arts program, while exposing students to a wide variety of knowledge and expertise within the field of sociology.

The Program

In addition to the university's general education requirements, the sociology major consists of 34 semester hours in sociology. All students take a set of six core sociology courses: social research I and II, social theory, Principles of sociology, career development in sociology, and senior seminar. The remaining semester hours selected are related to the student's interests and career objectives.

Freshman/Year 1

- SOCL 201: Principles of Sociology- Introduction to the perspectives, approaches and basic concepts used in the sociological study of human social behavior.

Sophomore/Year 2

- SOCL 302: Social Theory- Survey of the masters of anthropological/sociological thought.*
- SOCL 316: Social Research I: Statistics- Quantitative research process, the relationship of theory to research, technique, and simple statistical analysis. Must have completed SOCL 201.*

Junior/Year 3

- SOCL 516: Social Research II: Quantitative Methods- Study of social research methods, with an emphasis on survey research and analyses of quantitative data, and the experience of carrying out a research project. Must have completed SOCL 302 and 316.*
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- SOCL 519: Social Research II: Qualitative Methods- Study of social research methods, with an emphasis on interviews and analyses of qualitative data, and the experience of carrying out a research project. Must have completed SOCL 316 and 302 and at least one of the following ANTH 315, 341, or 345. ANTH 341 is recommended.*

Senior/Year 4

Consider doing a 1, 2, or 3 credit hour academic internship, research with a faculty member, or study abroad. Ask your advisor for details.

- SOCL 598: Senior Seminar- Explores issues, trends and research in contemporary sociology along with assisting majors in transitioning to careers.*

Electives

Six additional elective courses. Below are a few examples:

- SOCL 305: Marriage and the Family- Study of mate selection and marital adjustment; also child-rearing, divorce and change in family structure.
- SOCL 309: Urban Sociology- Study of physical and social structures of cities and urban areas, with special attention to urban problems.
- SOCL 525: Sociology of Law- This course will examine the major sociological perspectives on law and society, legal reasoning, morality and law as well as substantive issues relating to the legal process.