

SOCIOLOGY, BA

Sociology applies the methods of science to explain social behavior. The interactions of individuals in families, groups, or organizations, and the institutions, social class, or shared beliefs of a common culture are all subjects for sociological research. There are many career opportunities open to people who complete a major in Sociology, including business, counseling and social service, public policy, law, and criminal justice.

Students interested in the Sociology major should meet with the undergraduate advisor before they register for the second semester of the sophomore year. The undergraduate office's resource center holds detailed information about the major, the department, research interests of Sociology faculty, career opportunities, and student work. Declaration of the major during the sophomore year will give students access to required Sociology courses for fall of the junior year.

HOW TO GET IN

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Students must meet with the undergraduate advisor and review the requirements prior to declaring the major.

To declare the Concentration in Analysis and Research, students must have completed SOC/C&E SOC 360 and SOC/C&E SOC 357 with a 3.000 GPA between the two courses.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
- Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth

- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits Complete at least 120 credits.

UW–Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
	• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

A minimum of 30 credits in SOC courses is required for the basic major. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Foundation courses as early as possible; these courses are prerequisites for most upper-level SOC courses.

FOUNDATION (CORE)

Code	Title	Credits
Introduction to SOC (1 course)		
3-4		
SOC/ C&E SOC 210	Survey of Sociology	
SOC/ C&E SOC 211	The Sociological Enterprise	
SOC 181	Honors Introductory Seminar–The Sociological Enterprise	
Research Methods¹		
SOC/C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry (Research Methods)	3-4
Statistics²		
SOC/C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	3-4
or ECON 310	Statistics: Measurement in Economics	
or MATH/ STAT 310	Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II	
or PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
or STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
or STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
Classical Theory		
SOC/C&E SOC 475	Classical Sociological Theory	3
Total Credits		12-15

¹ Students may take methods and statistics in the same semester. If students take methods and statistics in different semesters, we recommend taking methods before statistics as an entry point to the methods and materials of the field.

² Statistics courses taken outside of the SOC subject do not count for 30–credits required in the major, nor are they upper level in the major.

DISTRIBUTION

4 courses from at least 2 of these areas:

Methods/Statistics

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 351	Introduction to Survey Methods for Social Research	3

SOC/C&E SOC 361	Statistics for Sociologists II	4
SOC 362	Statistics for Sociologists III	4
SOC/C&E SOC 365	Data Management for Social Science Research	3-4
SOC 375	Introduction to Mathematical Sociology	3
SOC 376	Mathematical Models of Social Systems	3
SOC 461	Study Abroad in Additional Methods and Statistics	1-6
SOC/C&E SOC 618	Social Network Analysis	3
SOC 631	Applied Qualitative Methods for Social Science	3-4

Theory

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 462	Study Abroad in Additional Theory	1-6
SOC 476	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
SOC/ILS/ JEWISH 423	Modern Jewish Thought	3

Deviant Behavior

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 421	Processes of Deviant Behavior	3-4
SOC/ SOC WORK 422	Social Issues in Aging	3
SOC 441	Criminology	3-4
SOC 446	Juvenile Delinquency	3-4
SOC 463	Study Abroad in Deviant Behavior	1-6
SOC/GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
SOC/CHICLA/ LEGAL ST 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	3-4
SOC/CHICLA/ LEGAL ST 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	3-4
SOC/GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4

Social Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 444	Social Psychology: A Sociological Perspective	3-4
SOC/PSYCH 453	Human Sexuality	4
SOC 464	Study Abroad in Social Psychology	1-6
SOC/C&E SOC 532	Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society	3
SOC/C&E SOC 533	Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities	3
SOC 535	Talk and Social Interaction	3
SOC 543	Collective Behavior	3
SOC/C&E SOC 573	Community Organization and Change	3
SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging	3
SOC/AMER IND/ C&E SOC 578	Poverty and Place	3

Social Organization

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 465	Study Abroad in Social Organization	1-6
SOC/CHICLA 470	Sociodemographic Analysis of Mexican Migration	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ URB R PL 617	Community Development	3
SOC 624	Political Sociology	3
SOC 626	Social Movements	3
SOC/C&E SOC 630	Sociology of Developing Societies/ Third World	3
SOC 632	Sociology of Organizations	3-4
SOC 633	Social Stratification	3
SOC 640	Sociology of the Family	3
SOC/LAW/ LEGAL ST 641	Sociology of Law	3-4
SOC/C&E SOC/ URB R PL 645	Modern American Communities	3
SOC 647	Sociology of Sport	3
SOC/ED POL 648	Sociology of Education	3
SOC/C&E SOC 650	Sociology of Agriculture	3
SOC/C&E SOC 652	Sociology of Economic Institutions	3
SOC/HISTORY 670	Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy in America Since 1890	3-4
SOC 678	Sociology of Persecution	3
SOC/ASIAN 336	Social Change in Contemporary South Korea	3

Demography and Ecology

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 460	Study Abroad in Demography and Ecology	1-6
SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging	3
SOC 674	Demographic Techniques I	3

Community and Environmental Sociology

Code	Title	Credits
SOC/C&E SOC 533	Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3
SOC/C&E SOC 541	Environmental Stewardship and Social Justice	3
SOC/C&E SOC 573	Community Organization and Change	3
SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging	3
SOC/AMER IND/ C&E SOC 578	Poverty and Place	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ URB R PL 617	Community Development	3
SOC/C&E SOC 650	Sociology of Agriculture	3

ELECTIVES

Additional SOC courses to achieve the required 30 credits for the major.⁴

⁴ A maximum one introductory course (SOC 181, SOC/C&E SOC 210, SOC/C&E SOC 211) may count toward the 30 required for the major.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all SOC courses and courses that count toward the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in Residence⁵
- 15 credits in SOC, taken on the UW-Madison campus

⁵ SOC courses numbered 300-699 are upper level, except for: C&E SOC/SOC 357, C&E SOC/SOC 360, PSYCH/SOC 453, and SOC 497.

SOCIOLOGY: CONCENTRATION IN ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH OPTION

View as listView as grid

- **SOCIOLOGY: CONCENTRATION IN ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH (HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/SOCIOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY-BA/SOCIOLOGY-CONCENTRATION-ANALYSIS-RESEARCH-BA/)**

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Sociology Major in consultation with the Sociology undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Sociology, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all SOC courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete 21 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:

Code	Title	Credits
SOC/C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry	4
SOC/C&E SOC 475	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOC 681	Senior Honors Thesis	3
SOC 682	Senior Honors Thesis	3

The remaining Honors credits, to reach the 21 credit minimum, must be in courses numbered 300 or above.

Students may declare the Concentration in Analysis and Research ("CAR"). Speak to the major advisor about this option.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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- (Conduct Research and Analyze Data) Sociology encompasses both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Quantitative methods are used in market research, opinion polling, sales, government, and countless other applications and allow researchers to recognize trends and patterns and produce social statistics. Qualitative research skills provide an in depth understanding of interactions, communications, worksite practices, and social worlds. Advanced sociological research methods require graduate-level training beyond the scope of our undergraduate major, but we expect that all undergraduate majors will be able to conduct small-scale research using surveys, interviews, experiments, textual analysis or observations in which they formulate a research question, collect data, analyze results, and draw conclusions.
- (Critically Evaluate Published Research) Sociology graduates will be able to read and evaluate published research as it appears in academic journals and popular or policy publications. They will be able to identify the research methods used, assess the quality of the sample, assess the quality of measurements and procedures, evaluate the links between the data and the interpretations, identify possible threats to the validity of the results, and provide an overall assessment of the trustworthiness of the research results. They will be able to read and evaluate a set of research articles on the same broad issue and be able to draw summarize the research findings across multiple issue.
- (Communicate Skillfully) Because the sociology major involves a large amount of reading, writing, and discussion, majors learn how to convey ideas effectively in writing, presentations, and everyday conferences and meetings. Sociology majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- (Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes) Sociological inquiry involves learning to look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure. Sociology

majors develop strong analytical skills and learn to solve problems and identify opportunities. They are able to consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.

- (See Things from a Global Perspective) Sociologists learn about different cultures, groups, and societies. They examine both variation and universality across places and through history. They are aware of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among residents of the United States. They understand the ways events and processes in one country are linked to those in other countries.
- (Prepare for Graduate School and the Job Market) An undergraduate major in sociology provides an excellent foundation for work and graduate study in a wide range of fields including law, business, social work, medicine, policy research, public health, public administration and, of course, sociology. With the aid of faculty and staff, students use their social research skills to identify opportunities for employment or further study, assess their qualifications for these opportunities, and identify strategies for gaining the necessary knowledge and experience to improve their qualifications. Students are encouraged to develop and maintain portfolios of their written work and educational experiences to aid them in preparing applications.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication A	3 SOC/C&E SOC 210 or 211 (SOC 211 also satisfies Communication B)	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning A	3 SOC/C&E SOC 357	4
Foreign Language (if required)	4 Biological Science Breadth	3
Ethnic Studies (may be taken in the major)	3 Intermediate MATH, COMP SCI or STAT (for BS)	3
Physical Science Breadth	3	
	16	14

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC/C&E SOC 360 (satisfies Quantitative Reasoning B)	4 SOC/C&E SOC 475	3
INTER-LS 210	1 SOC Distribution (upper level)	4
Humanities Breadth	3 Natural Science Breadth	3

Science Breadth	3 Literature Breadth	3
Elective	4 Elective	2
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Declare the major	SOC Distribution (upper level)	4
Humanities Breadth	6 Electives	11
SOC Distribution (upper level)	4	
Electives	5	
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC Distribution (upper level)	3 SOC elective	4
Electives	12 Electives	11
	15	15

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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ADVISING

This university is a very big place. Even the most well-prepared new students will have moments when they say to themselves, “Uh oh. What have I got myself into going to such a big school? Choosing courses at SOAR was stressful, fun, or both, but after SOAR am I on my own?” The answer is no. Every student has at least one assigned advisor. Over the course of their time at the university, students may have several assigned advisors. That is a good thing; L&S advisors are highly networked, and they always communicate with each other about shared students.

When students read their DARS reports—documents that were developed to help them find their way to a timely graduation—they can feel overwhelmed; it looks like they need 500 credits to graduate. How can they get all those requirements done? Do Sociology (or Spanish, or English) majors really have to take biology courses?

In the Sociology Department, we take advising very seriously. We encourage our majors to see the advisor at least once every semester. The advisor will help you summarize the DARS and map your completed coursework onto the goals and timeline for graduation, including the Sociology major and L&S requirements. The Sociology advisor will have departmental or college news about guest speakers, new faculty, new courses, internships, and scholarships. This advisor will also be able to assist in preparation for, and applications to graduate school, and be able to connect students with faculty whose information about various Sociology programs is always the most current. The Sociology advisor will also see freshmen and sophomores exploring the major in Sociology. See academic advising (<https://sociology.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/academic-advising/>) for more information.

CAREERS

Sociology majors learn skills that serve them well in many career fields! We offer a number of professional development and career readiness events every semester. Contact the undergraduate advisor to learn more.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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ESSENTIAL LEARNING IN THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

The three elements of learning described below – tools, breadth, and depth – work together to create a broad and rich education in the liberal arts and sciences, and promote attainment of core areas of essential learning: knowledge of human cultures and the natural and physical world, intellectual and practical skills, personal and social responsibility, and integrative and applied learning. These and countless other experiences comprise the Letters & Science approach to helping students obtain a distinctive Wisconsin Experience. (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/>)

Additional information about the Wisconsin Experience can be found through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment/Why UW link (<https://admissions.wisc.edu/wisconsin-experience/>).