

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/sociology/program/ba/sociology>

Description

Majoring in sociology provides a solid, multifaceted foundation in the liberal arts, including analytical thinking and writing, and skills in collecting and analyzing data. Students learn diverse theoretical approaches to the social world and acquire tools for conducting and understanding social science research. The wide range of substantive areas taught in the UNH Department of Sociology include courses concentrating on family and work; environmental sociology; social policy; inequalities of race, class and gender; criminology, social control and deviant behavior; medical sociology and mental health; and religion.

Undergraduate training in sociology is an excellent background for a variety of careers, including the business world, where majors might work in marketing and sales or human resources; government and nonprofit services, where majors might work in education, health services, social welfare or criminal justice; and research. An undergraduate degree in sociology is also excellent preparation for graduate work in law, social work, criminal justice, counseling, public administration, public health, business administration, urban planning or further studies in sociology.

Conjoint minors (allowing double-counting of one or two courses) are available for justice studies; gerontology; American studies; race and ethnic studies; women's and gender studies; and other approved minors. Students also have the opportunity to pursue a second major, including justice studies. Students interested in social work or teaching can develop programs in conjunction with the appropriate departments. The departmental honors program is recommended for students with cumulative grade-point averages over 3.4, and especially for those anticipating graduate study.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

- Majors must complete a minimum of 40 credits in sociology courses.
- Major courses must be completed with a minimum grade of C- or better in each course. The required minimum overall GPA is 2.0 or better in all sociology courses.
- Sociology majors may use two major-required courses to satisfy two Discovery category requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
SOC 400	Introductory Sociology	4
SOC 402	Statistics	4
SOC 598	Sociological Theory	4
SOC 599	Sociological Analysis ¹	4
SOC 601	Methods of Social Research ²	4
Electives		
Select five sociology elective courses, at least two of which must be at the 600 or 700 level (upper-level electives).		20
SOC 450	Contemporary Social Problems	
SOC 444A	Honors/Society in the Arctic	
SOC 515	Introductory Criminology	
SOC 520	Family	
SOC 525	Juvenile Crime and Delinquency	
SOC 530	Race and Racism	
SOC 535	Homicide	
SOC 555	Death and Dying in America	
SOC 565	Environment and Society	
SOC 570	Sexual Behavior	
SOC 595	Independent Reading and Research	
SOC 620	Drugs and Society	
SOC 625	Mental Health and Society	
SOC 627	Sociology of Fashion	
SOC 636	Sociology of Justice	
SOC 645	Class, Status and Power	
SOC 647	Sociology of Work and Well-Being	
SOC 665	Environmental Sociology	
SOC 693	Global Change and Social Sustainability	
SOC 720	Sociology of Drug Use	
SOC 697	Special Topics	
SOC 725	Social Demography	
SOC 635W	Medical Sociology	
SOC 799H	Senior Honors Thesis	
SOC 730	Communities and the Environment	
SOC 740	Sociology of Mental Health	
SOC 788	Advanced Medical Sociology	
SOC 792	Internship Independent Study	
SOC 799	Senior Thesis	
Capstone Requirement		
Select from the following:		
Complete any 600/700-level Sociology course or		
IROP/SURF research experience or		
SOC 799	Senior Thesis	
Total Credits		40

¹ SOC 599 Sociological Analysis must be completed no later than the junior year and is a prerequisite for majors taking 600- and 700-level courses.

² SOC 402 Statistics is a prerequisite for SOC 601 Methods of Social Research.

Additional Information

SOC 595 Independent Reading and Research can be used to fulfill one lower-level elective or SOC 799 Senior Thesis can be used to fulfill one upper-level elective.

SOC 599 Sociological Analysis can be used to satisfy both a major requirement and the Inquiry Discovery requirement.

Statistics courses taken in other disciplines are not acceptable as a substitute for SOC 402 Statistics.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each

individual major program. B.A. candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

Students interested in majoring in sociology should consult with the director of undergraduate program in the sociology department for guidance. It is the responsibility of all sociology majors to obtain the latest information from the department office.

Sociology Language Requirement

The bachelor of arts degree at the University of New Hampshire requires that students satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement. The requirement may be met by demonstrating language proficiency equal to a one-year college-level course (401 and 402, 403 and 503, 501 [Latin only], or 503 and above in a spoken language). American Sign Language courses meet the foreign language proficiency requirement for sociology majors when ASL I and ASL II have been completed.

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year		
Fall		Credits
SOC 400	Introductory Sociology	4
COLA 401	Liberal Arts Advising Seminar	1
Elementary Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
Credits		17
Spring		
SOC 402	Statistics	4
Intermediate Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Sociology 400/500-Level Elective		4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
SOC 599	Sociological Analysis	4
Sociology 400/500-Level Elective		4
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
SOC 598	Sociological Theory	4
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Sociology 400/500-Level Elective		4
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
SOC 601	Methods of Social Research	4
Discovery Course		4

Discovery Course	4
Elective Course	4
Credits	16
Spring	
Sociology Elective (Any Level)	4
Discovery or Elective Courses	12
Credits	16
Fourth Year	
Fall	
Sociology 600/700-Level Elective	4
Discovery or Elective Courses	12
Credits	16
Spring	
Sociology 600/700-Level Elective	4
Discovery or Elective Courses	12
Credits	16
Total Credits	129

Note: Sociology majors are required to take at least one Sociology class each semester until they have fulfilled their major requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Students will learn to articulate and evaluate how individual biographies are shaped by social structures, social institutions, cultural norms, and multiple of dimensions of social stratification and inequality. (Sociological imagination)
- Outcome 2: Students will learn to analyze and evaluate multiple and competing arguments about high-profile social, political, and cultural current events; distinguish between evidence and opinions; and use reason and data to advance an argument. (Critical thinking)
- Outcome 3: Students will learn to use, evaluate, and apply classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives to historical and contemporary events. (Sociological theory)
- Outcome 4: Students will learn how to generate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data in a value-neutral way. (Data analysis)
- Outcome 5: Students will learn how to interpret and evaluate several of the major social science research methodologies, as well as the relationship between research questions and appropriate methods. (Research methods)
- Outcome 6: Students will learn to effectively communicate a sociological perspective both in writing and verbally. (Communication skills)
- Outcome 7: Students will learn to understand how people of different cultural, racial, ethnic, sex, gender, religious, and political identities interpret the world around them. (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)
- Outcome 8: Students will learn to work effectively and respectfully with people of different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. (Collaboration)