The workings of societies and the social world are often invisible to us as individuals. Sociology helps to make these processes visible to us.

**You Might Like This Program If...**

- You are people-oriented and naturally curious about group behavior.
- You would like to make the world better.
- You like working with people.
- You wonder why people do the things they do, and how they are influenced by those around them.
- You are interested in a career as a sociologist, or in another profession that requires critical and creative thinking and analytic problem-solving.

**Entrance to Major**

Entry to the Sociology major requires 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average.

**Degree Requirements**

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>9-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>67-73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses; 4 credits in GQ courses.

**Requirements for the Major**

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

**Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses:</td>
<td>Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1</td>
<td>Introductory Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 207</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 400W</td>
<td>Senior Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 405</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 495</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

A. Statistics

- PSYCH 200 Elementary Statistics in Psychology 4
- or STAT 200 Elementary Statistics

B. Social Institutions

Select three of the following:

- SOC 30 Sociology of the Family
- SOC 403 Advanced Social Psychology

**What is Sociology?**

Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human social groups from individual families to nations. Sociology focuses on the ways that social environments, such as family, neighborhood, school, and society influence individuals’ life options, advantages and disadvantages. Sociology also helps us understand how societies operate and change, and the impact of large scale events such as hurricanes, economic recessions, and social movements on individuals, groups, and societies.
SOC 411 Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family 

SOC 416 Sociology of Education 

SOC 429 Social Stratification 

SOC 430 Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective 

SOC 446 Political Sociology 

SOC/WMNST 456 Gender, Occupations, and Professions 

C. Social Change and Global Perspectives 

Select three of the following: 

SOC 15 Urban Sociology 

SOC 109 Sociological Perspectives 

SOC 297 Special Topics 

SOC 424 Social Change 

SOC 425 Social Conflict 

SOC 432 Social Movements 

SOC 445 U.S. Immigration 

SOC 448 Environmental Sociology 

SOC 454 The City in Postindustrial Society 

D. Diversity 

Select two of the following: 

AFAM 212 African Americans in the New Jim Crow Era, 1968-present 

BESC/WMNST Feminine/Masculine 

SOC/AFAM/WMNST 103 Racism and Sexism 

SOC/WMNST 110 Sociology of Gender 

SOC/AFAM 409 Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America 

SOC 428 Homelessness in America 

SOC 435 Perspectives on Aging or HDFS 434 Perspectives on Aging 

SOC/RLST 461 Sociology of Religion 

WMNST/CED 420 

Requirements for the Option 

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better 

Select an option 

1 At least 9 of these credits must be at the 400-level. 

Requirements for the Option 

General Sociology Option (21 credits) 

Code Title 

Additional Courses 

Select 6 credits (at least 3 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with adviser from AMST, ANTH, ART, ARTH, COMM, CRIMJ, ENGL, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, THEA, WMNST 

Community Organization and Social Services Option (21 credits) 

Code Title Credits 

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better 

BESC 370 3 

SOC 5 Social Problems 6 

Additional Courses 

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better 

Select 3 credits from each of A, B, and C: 

A. Organization and Leadership 

BESC 408 

MGMT 321 Leadership and Motivation 

MGMT 331 Management and Organization 

SOC 376 Introduction to Human Service Organizations 

B. Community Contexts 

SOC 15 Urban Sociology 

SOC 103 Racism and Sexism 

SOC 406 Sociology of Deviance 

SOC 412 Crime, Social Control, and the Legal System 

C. Group Processes and Dynamics 

BESC 407 Small Groups Counseling 

PSYCH 449 Basic Counseling Skills 

SOC 3 Introductory Social Psychology 

SOC 303 Advanced Social Psychology 

SOC 404 Social Influence and Small Groups 

Supporting Courses and Related Areas 

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better 

Choose 6 credits (at least 3 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with adviser from AFAM, AMST, ANTH, ART, ARTH, BESC, COMM, CRIMJ, ENGL, GEOG, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, SOC, THEA, WMNST 

General Education 

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser. 

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program. 

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.) 

• Quantification (GQ): 6 credits 

• Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits
Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward credit, part of major requirements.

Program Learning Objectives
- Acquire a sociological imagination by recognizing the connections between individual lives, social structure and historical change.
- Students will acquire the knowledge base in sociology in order to recognize and describe human social behavior in specific social-historical context.
- Students will apply sociological imagination to their own lives.
- Differentiate between micro and macro-sociological perspectives and be able to recognize and use both.
- Students will be able to describe and distinguish micro and macro perspectives in sociology.
- Students will be able to apply theories to interpret social phenomena.
- Develop empirical investigations of social phenomena.
- Recognize the role of theory in sociological research.
- Students will be able to identify and describe methods for gathering and analyzing sociological data.
- Students will be able to design a basic study to investigate social phenomena.
- Create written documents with the appropriate to disciplinary standards.
- Students will be able to write a paper in an appropriate social sciences format.
- Students will be able to employ appropriate citation practices.
- Recognize and adhere to professional and ethical standards of social science.
- Students will be able to identify ethical codes of conduct in doing sociological research and practice.
- Students will adhere to professional and ethical standards of social science research and practice.
- Recognize and consider the diversity of human experience.
- Students will be able to recognize and describe the diversity of human experience.
- Students will be able to compare different ways of organizing social life.
- Students will be able to recognize and describe how diversity is studied as a social problem.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-graduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

Harrisburg
J. Scott Lewis, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator
777 W. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6533
Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2022-23 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the [archive](https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

**General Option: Sociology, B.S. at Harrisburg Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENGL 15 or 30H‡</strong></td>
<td>3 <strong>CAS 100‡</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantification (GQ)</td>
<td>3 <strong>PSYCH 200 or STAT 200†</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1†</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Education Course</strong></td>
<td>3 <strong>ENGL 202A‡</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 <strong>Select 3 credits in AMST, ANTH, ART, ARTH, COMM, CRIMJ, ENG, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, THEA, WMNST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 3 credits in AFAM, BESC, GEOG, SOC</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Third Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456</strong></td>
<td>3 <strong>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 432, 445, 448, or 454*</td>
<td>3 <strong>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 432, 445, 448, or 454</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 211, BESC 464, SOC 110, SOC 409, SOC 428, SOC 435, SOC 461, 492, or 420</td>
<td>3 <strong>AFAM 211, BESC 464, SOC 405</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 405</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>3 SOC 207</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**Fourth Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456</strong></td>
<td>3 <strong>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 432, 445, 448, or 454*</td>
<td>3 <strong>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 432, 445, 448, or 454</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 211, BESC 464, SOC 110, SOC 409, SOC 428, SOC 435, SOC 461, 492, or 420</td>
<td>3 <strong>SOC 400W</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 3 credits on the 400-level in AFAM, BESC, GEOG, SOC</td>
<td><strong>3 SOC 495 or PSYCH 495</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elective</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 120**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GH, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.
Community Option: Sociology, B.S. at Harrisburg Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or WhatIf report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantification (GQ)</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1††</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 5††</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Year</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 425, 432, 445, 448, or 454*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 211, BESC 464, SOC 110, SOC 409, SOC 428, SOC 435, SOC 461, 492, or 420†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 405*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 30, 403, 411, 416, 429, 430, 446, or 456*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 15, 109, 297, 424, 425, 432, 445, 448, or 454*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESC 407, PSYCH 449, SOC 3, SOC 403, or SOC 404*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

### Advising Notes

- WGS, GQ, GA, GH, GS, and GHW are codes used to identify General Education requirements.
- US, IL, and US/IL are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements. All students are required to take one IL and one US course before graduation. A course designated as US/IL may be used as a US or an IL, not both.
- W suffix signifies the course satisfies the University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

### Program Notes

Students must complete a 3-credit course in "United States Cultures (US)" and a 3-credit course in "International Cultures (IL)."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 376, 408, MGMT 321, or MGMT 331†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Select 3 credits on the 400-Level in AFAM, AMST, ANTH, ART H, BESC, COMM, CRIMJ, ENG, GEOG, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, SOC, THEA, WMNST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESC 370‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
# Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

1. The following course is only offered in fall semesters:
   - SOC 405 - Sociological Theory

2. The following are only offered spring semesters:
   - SOC 1H - Honors Introductory Sociology
   - SOC 207 - Research Methods in Sociology
   - SOW 400W - Senior Research Seminar
   - SOC 495 - Internship
Career Paths
To succeed in the 21st century new graduates need to have following skills: critical and creative thinking, analytic problem-solving, conducting research and data driven analysis, communication and collaboration, multicultural and global understandings, to be able to work in diverse teams whose members are from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Careers
The Sociology program at Penn State Harrisburg is designed to provide opportunities for students to study social change, diverse communities, and their interactions through scientific methods. The Bureau of Labor Statistics site states that people with sociology degrees specialize in a wide range of social topics, including health, crime, education, racial and ethnic relations, families, population, gender, poverty, and aging. Studying sociology helps students foster the core set of knowledge and skills that are required by 21st century employers.


Contact
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SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
Olmsted Building, W311
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6034
rka12@psu.edu