SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (CAPITAL)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Description

Sociology is the scientific study of society in all of its complexity. It includes the study of social structure, social interaction and social change from the micro level of small groups and families; to the meso level of communities, organizations, and institutions; to the macro level of globalization, war, technology and culture. The world today is undergoing tremendous changes and facing great challenges, problems, and possibilities. Sociology attempts to understand our world and to improve it.

The sociology major at Penn State Harrisburg provides a unique orientation to social change at multiple levels, including families, communities, organizations, social movements, institutions, society, and the world system. The major addresses topics such as culture, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social class, inequality, urban life, globalization, environmental change, and political conflict.

The sociology program at Penn State Harrisburg prepares students to succeed in an increasingly complex, diverse, and globalized world. A major in sociology provides opportunities for a wide range of career options. Students with degrees in sociology work in social services, community, advocacy and non-profit organizations, education, business, law, criminal justice, policy-making, social science research, and public administration. An undergraduate degree in sociology also provides a strong foundation for graduate study in sociology and fields such as law, social work, human resources, criminal justice, community psychology, urban planning, political science, and related areas.

Two options are available within the major:
1. General Sociology Option
2. Community Organization and Social Services Option

General Sociology Option

This option provides students with strong education in general sociology in a diverse range of sociological topics. The General Sociology Option is designed for students who seek a solid sociological education with preparation for the widest range of careers and employment opportunities, as well as for graduate education.

Community Organization and Social Services Option

This option provides students with strong preparation for careers working in community settings or in social services. The Community Organization and Social Services Option is designed for students who wish to work directly with people in a broad range of possible settings, in both public and private sectors.

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.

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>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Electives</td>
<td>9-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>67-73</td>
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</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.

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 (http://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 degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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)

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>SOC 207</td>
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<td>SOC 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 495</td>
<td>Internship</td>
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Additional Courses 1

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: 9
- SOC 30 Sociology of the Family
- SOC 55
- SOC 403 Advanced Social Psychology
- SOC 411 Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family
  or HDFS 416 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: 9
- 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: 6
- AFAM 212 African Americans in the New Jim Crow Era, 1968-present
- BESC/WMNST 464 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
Program Learning Objectives

1. Acquire a sociological imagination by recognizing the connections between individual lives, social structure and historical change.

2. Differentiate between micro and macro-sociological perspectives and be able to recognize and use both.
   a. Students will be able to describe and distinguish micro and macro perspectives in sociology.
   b. Students will be able to apply theories to interpret social phenomena.

3. Develop empirical investigations of social phenomena.
   a. Recognize the role of theory in sociological research.
   b. Students will be able to identify and describe methods for gathering and analyzing sociological data.
   c. Students will be able to design a basic study to investigate social phenomena.

4. Create written documents with the appropriate to disciplinary standards.
   a. Students will be able to write a paper in an appropriate social sciences format.

5. Students will be able to employ appropriate citation practices.

6. Recognize and adhere to professional and ethical standards of social science.
   a. Students will be able to identify ethical codes of conduct in doing sociological research and practice.
   b. Students will adhere to professional and ethical standards of social science research and practice.

7. Recognize and consider the diversity of human experience.
   a. Students will be able to recognize and describe the diversity of human experience.
   b. Students will be able to compare different ways of organizing social life.

8. Students will be able to recognize and describe how diversity is studied as a social problem.
Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Harrisburg Campus

General Option

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.

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Fourth Year

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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

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

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

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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

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.
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**Second Year**

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**Third Year**

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**Fourth Year**

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<td>3 SOC 495 or PSYCH 495*</td>
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**Credits**

- 15  
- 15  

**BESC 370†**  
3 Elective  
3  

**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 satisfies General Education and degree requirement  
# Course is an Entrance to Major 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

**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**

- GWS, GQ, GA, GH, GS, GN and GHW are codes 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.

**Program Notes**

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

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