SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
Students may choose either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree program. The B.A. degree program provides a basic orientation to the field as a whole, study of its development and principles, training in methodology and study in depth of a major area of the discipline. It provides knowledge that is useful in a career in varied work settings as well as providing the foundation needed for graduate study in sociology of related fields.

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 interested in understanding the social and environmental factors that influence our lives.
- You would like to learn the skills needed to conduct social research on important topics.
- You want to understand American society, how and why it changes, and our relation to the global community.
- You enjoy learning about all kinds of social groups and groups and how individuals interact.
- You hope to pursue a career in research, education, social/human services, counseling, business, non-profit work, public policy, or the health professions.

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:
1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, 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. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

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

6 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

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.
Requirements for the Major
This includes 6 credits of General Education GQ courses.

A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

<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: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></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 400</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>STAT 480</td>
<td>Introduction to SAS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 6-8 credits of the following:</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110 &amp; MATH 111</td>
<td>Techniques of Calculus I and Techniques of Calculus II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 140 &amp; MATH 141</td>
<td>Calculus With Analytic Geometry I and Calculus With Analytic Geometry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 283</td>
<td>Communication and Information Technology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 441</td>
<td>Matrix Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 18 credits (at least 9 credits at the 400 level) in sociology, 15 credits of which must be in an area of specialization chosen in consultation with a faculty adviser</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Learning Objectives
Upon completion of their degree, students majoring in sociology will be able to:

Content Knowledge:
1. Describe the focus of sociology as a discipline.
2. State what is distinctive about the sociological perspective.
3. Apply the sociological perspective to a problem or scenario.

Understanding of Theory:
1. Identify theories and concepts from classical sociological theories.
2. Apply theories and concepts from classical sociological theories.
3. Identify theories and concepts from contemporary sociological theories.
4. Apply theories and concepts from contemporary sociological theories.

Research Skills:
1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret quantitative sociological data using statistics, graphs, and data tables.
2. Do research that develops and tests hypotheses using data, including use of appropriate previous research, theory, data collection, statistical analysis techniques, interpretation of research results and development of conclusions.
3. Present research results in correct tabular and written form.

Communication Skills:
1. Write a paper following the format of published sociological research, including each of the major sections of a research paper.
2. Communicate the results of sociological research in oral form.

Knowledgeable Consumers of Research:
1. Comprehend and effectively extract central points from sociological research as this research is presented in professional articles, including substantive content, theory, methods and conclusions.

Career-Related Skills:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the career options available to someone with a background in sociology.

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 need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

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

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

Suggested Academic Plan
University Park 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</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, ESL 15, ENGL 137H, or CAS 137H†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOC XXX†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 200††</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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</table>

| Credits | 15 | 16 |

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 207*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC XXX†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOC XXX†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences Field I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 283 or MATH 441†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110 or 140††</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>MATH 111 or 141††</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Credits | 16 | 14 |

Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 4xx level course*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science Field I*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOC 4xx Level Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 480*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Social Science Field II*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 3xx or 4xx Level Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Credits | 16 | 16.5 |

Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 400*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOC 405*</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SOC 4xx level course* | 3 | Social Science Field II* | 3 |
Social Science Field I* | 3 | General Education Course | 3 |
General Health and Wellness (GHW) | 1.5 | General Education Course | 3 |
Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
Elective | 1 | | |

Total Credits 123

* 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

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.
- All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Commonwealth Campuses

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

**Fall**
ENGL 15 or 30‡ 3
SOC 1* 3
General Education Course 3
General Education Course 3
Elective 3  
**Credits** 15

**Spring**
SOC XXX* 3
STAT 200†‡* 4
General Education Course 3
General Education Course 3
Elective 3  
**Credits** 16

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Second Year

**Fall**
CAS 100‡ 3
SOC XXX* 3
Social Sciences Field I* 3
MATH 110 or 140‡†* 4
General Education Course 3  
**Credits** 16

**Spring**
SOC XXX* 3
Social Sciences Field II* 3
MATH 111 or 141†‡* 2
General Education Course 3
Elective 3  
**Credits** 14

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Third Year

**Fall**
SOC 207 3
CAS 283 or MATH 441 3
SOC 4xx level course* 3
Social Science Field I* 3
STAT 480* 1
General Education Course 3  
**Credits** 16

**Spring**
ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D‡ 3
SOC XXX* 3
General Education Course 3
Elective 3
General Health and Wellness (GHW) 1.5  
**Credits** 16

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Fourth Year

**Fall**
SOC 400* 3
SOC 405* 3
SOC 4xx level course* 3
Social Science Field II* 3
Social Science Field I* 3
General Health and Wellness (GHW) 1.5
Elective 3
Elective 1  
**Credits** 14.5

**Spring**
Elective 3
General Education Course 3
Elective 1  
**Credits** 15

**Total Credits** 123

* 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

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.

### Career Paths

Sociology offers you a background in research, data analysis, statistics, and sociological concepts. You can explore positions in social work, corrections, business, health services and government services. Additionally, you’ll be well prepared to further your education in graduate school.

### Careers

The Sociology degree prepares you for graduate school in sociology or a variety of careers in social science-oriented jobs.

MORE INFORMATION [http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/career-and-professional-development](http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/career-and-professional-development)

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Ranked among the top sociology programs in the nation, the Penn State Graduate Program in Sociology offers students the flexibility to study a wide range of topics, reflecting both the size and intellectual breadth of the faculty. Our department provides strong training in the areas of Demography, Families, Relationships and Interpersonal Networks, Quantitative Research Methods, Social Inequality, Urban and Community Studies, Health, Immigration and Incorporation.

MORE INFORMATION [http://sociology.la.psu.edu/graduate](http://sociology.la.psu.edu/graduate)

### Professional Resources

• American Sociological Association [http://www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)
• The International Sociology Honor Society [http://alphakappadelta.org](http://alphakappadelta.org)

### Contact

#### University Park
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY
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University Park, PA 16802
814-865-2527
sociology@psu.edu

[http://sociology.la.psu.edu/](http://sociology.la.psu.edu/)