SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (LIBERAL ARTS)

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

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

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6-9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of GQ courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses.

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 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 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Code | Title                                      | Credits |
---|--------------------------------------------|---------|
**Prescribed Courses:** Require a grade of C or better
SOC 1 | Introductory Sociology                      | 3       |
SOC 207 | Research Methods in Sociology ¹            | 3       |
SOC 400W | Senior Research Seminar ²                  | 3       |
SOC 405 | Sociological Theory ¹                       | 3       |
SOC 470 | Intermediate Social Statistics             | 4       |
STAT 184 | Introduction to R                          | 2       |
STAT 200 | Elementary Statistics ¹                     | 4       |

**Additional Courses:** Require a grade of C or better
MATH 110 | Techniques of Calculus I                   | 4       |

or MATH 140 | Calculus With Analytic Geometry I          |         |

Select 3 credits from the following:
CMSPC 101 | Introduction to Programming (Students should take 101 version based in Python, not C++) | 3       |
CMSPC 121 | Introduction to Programming Techniques     |         |
CMSPC 131 | Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals|         |

Select 15 credits in sociology; 9 credits must be at the 400 level

1. Data Analysis
Select 15 credits from the following:
CMSPC 203 | Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases |         |
DS 220 | Data Management for Data Sciences          |         |
DS 310 | Machine Learning for Data Analytics        |         |
DS 330 | Visual Analytics for Data Analytics        |         |
DS 402 | Emerging Trends in the Data Sciences       |         |
DS 410 | Programming Models for Big Data            |         |
DS 420 | Network Analytics                          |         |
MATH 220 | Matrices                                  |         |
MATH 441 | Matrix Algebra                             |         |
STAT 380 | Data Science Through Statistical Reasoning and Computation |         |
STAT 460 | Intermediate Applied Statistics            |         |
STAT 461 | Analysis of Variance                      |         |
STAT 462 | Applied Regression Analysis                |         |
STAT 463 | Applied Time Series Analysis               |         |
STAT 464 | Applied Nonparametric Statistics          |         |
STAT 466 | Survey Sampling                           |         |

2. Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 260 | Geographic Information in a Changing World: Introduction to GIScience |         |

Select 12 credits from the following:
GEOG 363 | Geographic Information Systems            |         |
GEOG 364 | Spatial Analysis                          |         |
GEOG 365 | Introduction to GIS Programming           |         |
GEOG 463 | Geospatial Information Management         |         |
GEOG 464 | Advanced Spatial Analysis                 |         |
GEOG 465 | Advanced Geographic Information Systems Modeling |         |
GEOG 483 | Problem-Solving with GIS                  |         |
GEOG 484 | GIS Database Development                  |         |
GEOG 485 | GIS Programming and Software Development  |         |
GEOG 489 | Advanced Python Programming for GIS       |         |

3. Social Demography
SOC 23 | Population and Policy Issues               |         |

Select 12 credits from the following:
GEOG 126 | Economic Geography                        |         |
GEOG 220 | Perspectives on Human Geography           |         |
GEOG 421 | Population Geography                      |         |
GEOG 422W | Globalization, Migration, and Displacement |         |
GEOG 425 | Geography of Race, Class, and Poverty in America |         |
SOC 408 | Urban Ecology                             |         |
SOC 411 | Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family |         |
SOC 422 | World Population Diversity                |         |
SOC 423 | Social Demography                         |         |
SOC 452 | Spatial Inequality                        |         |
SOC 459 | Communities and Crime                     |         |

4. Political Analysis
PLSC 1 | American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers |         |
PLSC 309 | Quantitative Political Analysis           |         |
Select 9 credits from the following:

- PLSC 404 Analyzing Public Policy in the American States
- PLSC 410 Strategy and Politics
- PLSC 429 Analysis of Electoral Politics
- PLSC 447 Analysis of Public Opinion and Political Attitudes
- PLSC 476 Empirical Legal Studies
- SOC 180N State, Society, and Public Policy
- SOC 419 Race and Public Policy
- SOC 432 Social Movements
- SOC 446 Political Sociology

5. Health and Society

- SOC 451 Health, Disease & Society

Select 12 credits from the following:

- SOC 35 Sociology of Aging
- SOC 150N Healthy People, Healthy Society
- SOC 162N Communicating Care
- SOC 309 Sociology of Health
- SOC 428 Homelessness in America
- SOC 435 Perspectives on Aging
- SOC 450 Justice and the Environment
- SOC 466 Solving Community Problems

Sequencing: SOC 207 and STAT 200 prior to SOC 470; SOC 470 and SOC 405 prior to SOC 400W.

**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 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 and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

**Integrative Studies**

- Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

**Exploration**

- GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 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 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-graduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.