SOCIOLOGY, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The sociology minor allows students to explore the wide range of topics, social groups, and social interactions studied by sociologists. From social inequalities and social problems to the social institutions of family, school, religion, and government, the diversity of courses available allows sociology minors to explore courses relevant to their interests. The courses also provide multiple viewpoints, studying the intimate interactions of families and small groups and the complex interactions of global economies and political alliances. Requiring a minimum of 18 credits in sociology, including SOC 1 and two courses at the 400 level, students have flexibility in choosing a set of courses for their sociology minor.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human social groups. The topics covered in sociology are as diverse as society itself, from families to gangs, from non-profit organizations to nations. Sociology focuses on the ways that groups and individuals interact, examining how social environments, like neighborhoods, schools, religious organizations, workplaces, and social networks shape individuals' behaviors and create cooperation or conflict. Sociology uses different methods (surveys, interviews, network analysis, observation, social media, censuses, case studies) to make the invisible patterns of the social world visible.

Sociology especially helps us understand the roots of racial, gender, and class inequality by investigating the ways that social groups control resources, enforce social boundaries, and accept unequal social outcomes. But sociology also helps us to understand how societies change, whether due to the impact of large-scale events like pandemics and economic recessions, or through social movements and labor unions.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to understand how society influence our lives, both in the United States and throughout the global community.
- You would like to learn skills for social research, group facilitation, or organizational leadership.
- You want to pursue a career in research, law, social work, business, community organizing, social entrepreneurship, education, non-profit organizations, public policy, counseling, or the health professions.
- You want to understand social inequality as well as social change.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

At least 12 credits must be taken within the Penn State system, including 3 credits at the 400 level. No more than 6 credits may be from study-abroad courses. Students must declare the SOC minor prior to the end of the late drop period of the student's final semester.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better		
Select 15 credits in sociology; at least 6 of those credits must be at the 400 level. Note:		15
Students may count up to 3 credits of Research Project courses (SOC 294/SOC 494) and up to 3 credits of Internship courses (SOC 296/SOC 496) towards the minor.		
Students may count up to 4 credits of SOC 269 or SOC 369 towards the minor.		
Students may count up to 3 credits of SOC 469 towards the minor.		
Students may count up to 3 credits of SOC 469 or SOC 494 or SOC 496 towards the 400-level requirement for the minor.		
Students may count up to 6 credits of SOC 469, SOC 294, SOC 494, SOC 296, or SOC 496 towards the minor, but an individual course may not provide more than 3 credits towards the minor.		
Students may not count SOC 300 (Preceptorship) credits towards the minor.		

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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Abington

Michael Bernstein
Associate Professor of Psychology
1600 Woodland Road

Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7479
mjb70@psu.edu

Altoona

Karyn D. McKinney
Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Smith Building 128B
3000 Ivyside Park
814-949-5206
kdm12@psu.edu

Erie

Lena Surzhko Harned, Ph.D.
Assistant Teaching Professor of Political Science
149 Kochel Center
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6074
lms557@psu.edu

Harrisburg

J. Scott Lewis, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator
777 W. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6533
jsl19@psu.edu

Schuylkill

Ron Kelly
Administration of Justice and Sociology Minor Program Coordinator
A-124 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6075
rap179@psu.edu

World Campus

Undergraduate Academic Advising
100 Innovation Blvd
Suite 225
University Park, PA 16803
814-863-3283
advising@worldcampus.psu.edu

Career Paths

Sociology helps you to prepare for your future career in multiple ways. Sociology trains students how to design social research, how to collect data, how to analyze data, and how to interpret data. For example, students can observe and facilitate small groups, analyze a nationally representative survey, or collect social media data. Sociology provides insight about how and why society works, giving students tools to critically examine social and propose creative solutions to social problems. Sociology also gives in-depth knowledge on key aspects of social life: race, family, immigration, gender, religion, work, sexuality, violence, social movements, and more.

Careers

People with sociological training can be found in a range of careers, since sociology provides skills that translate to numerous contexts and specialized knowledge on specific topics. Our recent graduates have pursued careers in law, social work, social media, research, business, community organizing, social entrepreneurship, education, non-profit organizations, public policy, counseling, health professions, government, and criminal justice. Since our department offers a wide range of courses, students can tailor to their interests. Students also have numerous opportunities for research, career, or teaching internships.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY (https://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/sociology/careers-in-sociology/)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Sociology provides a strong foundation for graduate study. Many students choose sociology as a step towards graduate school because it provides intensive training in data analysis and critical thinking skills. Sociology students have multiple chances to develop their communication skills, through writing, speaking, and data presentation. Research, teaching, and community internships all provide opportunities for advanced skill development and mentorship. Over half of recent sociology students have considered graduate school, especially in the fields of law, business, data analytics, human services, education, and public health.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://sociology.la.psu.edu/graduate/sociology/)

Contact

University Park

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

https://sociology.la.psu.edu/

Abington

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7479
mjb70@psu.edu

https://www.abington.psu.edu/person/michael-bernstein-ph-d

Altoona

DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Smith Building 128B
3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-5206
kdm12@psu.edu

https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/sociology/minor

Erie

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
170 Irvin Kochel Center
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6108

HSSOffice@psu.edu

https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences

Harrisburg

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Olmsted Building, W157
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6388
cmm253@psu.edu

https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/sociology-minor

Schuylkill

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
A-124 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6075
rap179@psu.edu

https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics

World Campus

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

https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-sociology-minor