Sociology
Bachelor of Arts
2017-2018

Nature of Work:

Sociologists study human society and social behavior by examining the groups and social institutions that people form, such as, families, communities, and governments, as well as various social, religious, political, and business organizations. They are concerned with the characteristics of these groups. In addition, they focus on the ways individuals affect each other and the groups to which they belong, and the impact of social traits such as gender, age, ethnicity, and race on a person’s daily life.

Built on a liberal arts foundation, with the study of intrinsically fascinating subject matter, the bachelor’s degree in sociology offers valuable skills for careers in journalism, law, politics, public relations, business, public administration, urban and regional planning, demography, gerontology, criminology, or community organizing and social service management. This bachelor’s degree also prepares the graduate for masters and doctoral programs in one of these fields, as well as applied sociology. About 60% of bachelor’s level sociology graduates go directly into a career, while the remainder will go to graduate school or combine graduate school and work.

Sociologists find employment in educational and medical institutions, private industry, and government agencies. A smaller percentage of full-time workers are employed in sales and marketing for information technology hardware and software firms. They design and execute marketing plans, run capital campaigns, and write creative copy. Additional occupations include teachers, librarians, police officers, crime scene investigators, and parole officers in the criminal justice system. Many sociologists find employment in health and human services agencies. Often the sociologist finds employment in the not-for-profit sector.

Professional Training:

A master’s degree in sociology allows for competition for positions in corporations, think tanks, agencies that focus on research, statistical analysis, program development, management, analysis and evaluation, corporate planning and restructuring, and many other fields. Doctoral programs in sociology prepare graduates for careers in teaching/research positions in colleges and universities and for research/program development careers in business, industry, and government.

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment growth for sociologists is projected to have little or no change (-1%) compared to the average for all occupations (7%) through 2024. Job opportunities should be best for jobseekers with a master’s or PhD degree with strong quantitative skills. Some states with the highest employment level for sociologists are California and Washington. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

Earnings vary with work setting, as well as region of the country. Research and development in the social sciences and humanities are reported to earn $101,460; state and local government, excluding education and hospitals, earn $82,430; and educational services [-] state, local, and private, earn about $56,610. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage of sociologists was $79,750 in May 2016. (See www.bls.gov)
The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor’s degree in Sociology. **Classes that are offered with multiple sections are listed in each quarter they are available.** Cognates, general studies courses, and electives should be taken to complete 192 credit hours to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.

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Total Credits Required: 192 Credits

English Requirements:
- **Freshman**
  - ENGL 121 & 122 – College Writing
- **Sophomore**
  - ENGL 223 – Research Writing

Math Requirements:
- **Sophomore**
  - MATH 106 – Intro to Statistics

General Requirements:
- Health & P.E. 2 cr.
- History 8 cr.
- Social Science 4 cr.
- Humanities 12 cr.
- Language Arts 12 cr.
- Foreign Language 12 cr.
- Mathematics 4 cr.
- Natural Science 8 cr.
- Religion & Theology 18 cr.

Notes:
- + Classes offered even years
- - Classes offered odd years
- Approval of sociology adviser required
- Before graduation, all students must take an exit exam.

* Electives may be chosen from the following courses: All SOCI and CORR prefixes, ANTH 225, ART 312, ART 324, ART 325, ART 326, ECON 204, ECON 210, ECON 211, ENGL 485, ENVI 385, FREN 407, FREN 408, GEOG 252, HIST 283, HIST 337, HIST 354, HIST 357, HIST 359, HIST 449, HIST 450, HIST 458, HIST 460, HONR 349, HONR 131, HONR 132, HONR 133, LANG 406, PHIL 205, PHIL 305, PHIL 308, PSYC 344, PSYC 344, PSYC 346, SOWK 266, SOWK 375, SOWK 471, SPAN 407, SPAN 408 and TECH 321.