Sociology BA

Sociology will enable you to see the world in a new light; it is the scientific study of human social relationships, interactions, and institutions. Whether they be friendships, families, church groups, socioeconomic classes, complex organizations, or nations, much of our lives are socially constructed. And in a society where individualism is celebrated, it is easy to forget that the way we behave and feel is socially produced. This is the basic premise of sociology. After your core courses, a BA in Sociology will focus on qualitative tools like interviews, stories, and community engagement to answer that critical question “What is this all about?”

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the university and college general education requirements (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/generaleducationrequirements/). Any foreign language may be used to meet the language requirement for the B.A. degree.

All required courses for the major must be completed with a grade of C- or better. Courses counting toward the major requirements may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

The minimum number of Sociology hours required for the B.A. degree is 36.

Core Courses: 21 hours
Concentration Courses: 9 hours
Elective Courses: 6 hours

Sociology B.A. Core

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>SOC 1040</td>
<td>Social Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOC 1241</td>
<td>Globalization and Social Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 2160</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Qualitative Methods in Social Research</td>
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<td>SOC 3230</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>Community-Based Research in Sociology</td>
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Concentrations (9 hours)

Students seeking a BA in Sociology must complete one of the following concentration choices:

A. Urban Sociology

B. Sociology of Health and Aging

C. Gender and Families

D. Military Sociology

A. Urban Sociology

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B. Sociology of Health and Aging

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<td>SOC/GERON 2300</td>
<td>Social and Community Services for an Aging Population</td>
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<td>SOC/GERON 3400</td>
<td>Environment, Society, and Aging</td>
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C. Gender and Families

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<td>SOC/GS 2103</td>
<td>Gender Roles in Society</td>
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D. Military Sociology

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<td>SOC 2802/MVS 2130</td>
<td>Gender and the Military</td>
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Electives (6 hours)

Students must complete at least 3 hours of SOC at the 4000-level and an additional 3 hours of SOC at the 2000-level or above. GERON, GS, MVS or other courses may be substituted with approval of the faculty advisor.

Pursuing a second concentration is encouraged.

Sociology Program Learning Outcomes

The Sociology Gerontology and Gender Department offers the following programs and has identified what students will know and be able to do after completing each program. Explore this page to learn more about the opportunities each program provides. Click the shortcut to jump down to view the outcomes for minor.

BA and BS in Sociology (p. 1)
Sociology Minor (p. 2)

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Sociology

Upon Completion of the Bachelor of Arts, or Bachelor of Science in Sociology, a student will be able to:

Identify and apply sociological theories to understand social phenomena by:

- Recognizing the differences between “folk” explanations of social phenomena and sociological theories of those phenomena
- Distinguishing modes of sociological inquiry from other disciplinary modes of inquiry
- Applying key concepts and key themes in sociological theory to analyze social phenomena
- Discerning the role of social structures in creating and reproducing social inequality and examining how social structures change
• Distinguishing among micro, meso, and macro levels of observation, inquiry, and analysis

Apply scientific principles to understand the social world by:

• Effectively utilizing evidence-based knowledge and sociological theories and concepts to generate research questions and/or hypotheses
• Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of scientific methodology and methods for analyzing social phenomena in different contexts
• Explaining disciplinary standards for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data

Critically evaluate explanations of human behavior and social phenomena by:

• Identifying and appraising major theoretical perspectives, including their assumptions, key concepts, and main arguments in terms of historical context and interpretive and explanatory capacities
• Employing the sociological imagination to analyze social problems in context and evaluate solutions to social problems

Use sociological knowledge to inform social change by:

• Engaging with the world around them, including everyday life, work, policy debates, stakeholders, and the public
• Constructing and proposing real world solutions to social issues;
• Expressing sociological ideas in a clear and coherent manner in written and oral communication
• Demonstrating informal, technological, qualitative, and quantitative literacy

Minor in Sociology

Upon completion of the Minor in Sociology, a student will be able to:

Identify and apply sociological theories to understand social phenomena by:

• Recognizing the differences between “folk” explanations of social phenomena and sociological theories of those phenomena
• Distinguishing modes of sociological inquiry from other disciplinary modes of inquiry
• Applying key concepts and key themes in sociological theory to analyze social phenomena
• Discerning the role of social structures in creating and reproducing social inequality and examining how social structures change
• Distinguishing among micro, meso, and macro levels of observation, inquiry, and analysis

Apply scientific principles to understand the social world by:

• Effectively utilizing evidence-based knowledge and sociological theories and concepts to generate research questions and/or hypotheses
• Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of scientific methodology and methods for analyzing social phenomena in different contexts
• Explaining disciplinary standards for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data

Sample Four Year Plans

Urban Sociology Concentration (p. 2)

Sociology of Health and Aging Concentration (p. 3)

Military Sociology Concentration (p. 3)

Gender and Families Concentration (p. 3)

Urban Sociology Concentration

First Year

<table>
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>SOC 2160</td>
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<td>SOC 1010</td>
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Second Year

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<td>CORE - US History and Government</td>
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Third Year

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Fourth Year

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Total Hours: 120

1 INTDSC 1003 is required only for first-time freshmen and transfer students with less than 24 college credits.
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### Sociology of Health and Aging Concentration

**First Year**

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**Second Year**

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<td>SOC 4400 or GERON 4400</td>
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**Third Year**

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**Fourth Year**

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### Gender and Families Concentration

**First Year**

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**Second Year**

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**Third Year**

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### Military Sociology Concentration

**First Year**

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**Second Year**

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