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

SOC 1010 Introduction to Sociology (MOTR SOCI 101) 3
SOC 1040 Social Problems 3
or SOC 1241 Globalization and Social Change 3
SOC 2160 Social Psychology 3
SOC 3210 Sociological Theory 3
SOC 3221 Qualitative Methods in Social Research 3
SOC 3230 Research Methods 3
SOC 4307 Community-Based Research in Sociology 3

Total Hours 21

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
SOC 2203 The City 3
SOC 2202 Urban Sociology 3

B. Sociology of Health and Aging
SOC/GERON 2170 Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies 3
SOC/GERON 2300 Social and Community Services for an Aging Population 3
SOC/GERON 3400 Environment, Society, and Aging 3

Total Hours 9

C. Gender and Families
SOC/GS 2102 Introduction to Gender Studies 3
SOC/GS 2103 Gender Roles in Society 3
SOC 3243 Marriage, Family and Kinship 3

Total Hours 9

D. Military Sociology
SOC 2801/MVS 2100 Veterans in American Society 3
SOC 2802/MVS 2130 Gender and the Military 3
SOC 3801 Military Sociology 3

Total Hours 9

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

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

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

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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.
Please Note: This plan is an example of what a four year plan could look like for a typical student. Placement exam scores in math as well as the completion of coursework may change the plan. It should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester. All requirements are subject to change.

**Sociology of Health and Aging Concentration**

### First Year
- **Fall**
  - INTDSC 1003
  - SOC 1010
  - Mathematics Proficiency
  - ENGL 1100
  - Foreign Language 1001
  - Total Hours: 15

### Second Year
- **Fall**
  - EXPLORE - Math and Sciences
  - EXPLORE - Humanities and Fine Arts
  - Foreign Language 2102
  - SOC 2170 or GERON 2170
  - SOC 4400 or GERON 4400
  - Total Hours: 15

### Third Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 3221
  - SOC 3801
  - ENGL 3100
  - CORE - Math and Sciences
  - Total Hours: 15

### Fourth Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 4000-level course
  - Elective or minor
  - Total Hours: 15

Total Hours: 120

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**Gender and Families Concentration**

### First Year
- **Fall**
  - INTDSC 1003
  - ENGL 1100
  - CORE - Mathematics Proficiency
  - SOC 1010
  - Foreign Language 1001
  - Total Hours: 15

### Second Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 2102 or GS 2102
  - SOC 2103
  - Foreign Language 2101
  - EXPLORE - Math and Sciences
  - Total Hours: 15

### Third Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 3221
  - SOC 3243
  - ENGL 3100
  - EXPLORE - Math and Sciences
  - Total Hours: 15

### Fourth Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 4000-level course
  - Total Hours: 3

Total Hours: 120

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**Military Sociology Concentration**

### First Year
- **Fall**
  - INTDSC 1003
  - ENGL 1100
  - SOC 1010
  - Foreign Language 1001
  - CORE - Mathematics Proficiency
  - Total Hours: 15

### Second Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 2801 or MVS 2100
  - Total Hours: 3

### Third Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 3221
  - SOC 3243
  - ENGL 3100
  - EXPLORE - Math and Sciences
  - Total Hours: 15

### Fourth Year
- **Fall**
  - SOC 4000-level course
  - Total Hours: 3

Total Hours: 120

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