

2015 – 2016 GUIDE TO THE SOCIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

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A major in Sociology within the College of Arts and Sciences allows student to tap their curiosity, discover their passion, and engage their world. The sociology curriculum provides students with vital skills, including analytical thinking, creative problem solving, effective written and oral communication, making meaning out of data through analyses, and greater understanding of social and cultural differences among people. Course choices may be made with respect to a student's interests and career objectives. Students may pursue broad training in sociology or may pursue one of our five focus areas. Focus areas include: crime/deviance, family, health, social inequality, and social research. Students are also encouraged to complete an internship or research opportunity to apply the perspectives gained in their coursework and to acquire experience in a career path.

This guide is designed to inform students about our program requirements for Sociology majors and minors. We also provide information to guide students who are particularly interested in career opportunities with a Sociology degree, including the "Sociology in Focus" descriptions below. In addition, we describe student opportunities beyond the formal program (e.g., internships, senior thesis, research opportunities), scholarships and awards, and the Undergraduate Sociological Association. We identify routinely offered courses as well as provide a list of campus resources for students.

The major advisor, Paula Caldwell, and the Department's undergraduate chair, Dr. Lisa Kort-Butler, are available to answer any questions about the Sociology major or minor. Majors are encouraged to visit with the advisor at least once every semester. This is particularly important because the subjects that lay the foundation for later training in sociology, plus the courses for a minor in another department, should be carefully selected. The advisor can also discuss focus areas, research opportunities, and provide career advising.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The skills developed in the Sociology program are valuable and useful across a wide-range of careers. Majors in Sociology will be able to:

- 1) Understand how social context impacts individuals, with an emphasis on the causes and consequences of social inequality.
- 2) Describe how different types of research methods are used to study society and make claims about society.
- 3) Conduct basic social research, to include developing hypothesis, collecting and analyzing data, and addressing any ethical issues involved in social research.
- 4) Write and communicate effectively to diverse audiences, including being able to articulate key theoretical approaches and summarize research findings.
- 5) Explain how social research can be used to create policy, design specific interventions, and/or address social issues.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Majoring in Sociology

All students take courses to fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements and the Achievement Centered Education (ACE) requirements, which are outlined in the [UNL Undergraduate Bulletin](#). Sociology majors may pursue either the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degrees, depending on their career goals or plans for professional training. Students majoring in Sociology are required to complete 30 credit hours in Sociology courses.

THE REQUIRED COURSES ARE:

Sociology 101	Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 205	Introduction to Social Research I
Sociology 206	Introduction to Social Research II
Sociology 355	Theory and Intensive Writing

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Sociology 310a & 310b	Applied Sociology: Community-based Research I & II
Sociology 495	Senior Seminar
Sociology 396	Research Experience (3 credit hours; by permission only)
Sociology 399H	Honors: Advanced Readings (3 credit hours; by permission only)

At least 12 of the 30 hours must be at the upper-division level (300 or 400 level). Students must enroll in courses for the major for a grade. They must earn at least a “C” to satisfy the requirements. Requirements may vary slightly in different years. Be sure to check the [UNL Undergraduate Bulletin](#) for the year applicable to your graduation. Students may select the catalog year that corresponds either with the year that they entered UNL or declared a major as the year governing their program.

Minoring in Sociology

A minor in Sociology complements many other degree programs, such as psychology, political science, business, education, as well as complementing the coursework of students interested in pre-health and pre-law. To minor in Sociology, students must take 18 credit hours of sociology, including SOCI 101 and must enroll in those courses for a grade. You can talk with an advisor about how to create a Sociology minor that works with your career goals.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Because the Sociology major is flexible, students are able to explore topics with their educational and career goals in mind. Sociology is a liberal arts discipline, as well as a discipline with focus areas well-suited to many different career paths. Both approaches to the major are described below.

A Liberal Arts Program

A liberal arts education, regardless of the particular major, is designed to provide students with many valuable skills, not only in preparation for a career, but for all aspects of life. Sociology provides the opportunity to: learn to think objectively and creatively; write and speak effectively; analyze data; and more fully appreciate and understand social and cultural differences among people. Students who view their college education as a basis

for broadening their knowledge and expanding an understanding of themselves and society will find the Sociology major a useful means for accomplishing their objectives.

Sociology majors with a liberal arts emphasis can go on to careers in a variety of fields in education, government, and private and non-profit organizations, such as administration, management, project direction and implementation, and research analysis. An internship experience (SOCI397) can help students explore career options. Students who intend to do graduate work in Sociology or a related discipline (e.g., criminology, gerontology) will want to design their undergraduate programs specifically to meet these objectives. The advisor can help students select courses consistent with their needs and interests.

Sociology in Focus

Students pursuing certain careers may wish to focus their studies by taking a targeted sequence of coursework. A focus area also gives students more contact with faculty experts in the field. In each focus area, students are encouraged to begin with a 200-level course.

- **Crime/Deviance in Focus:** SOCI209 (Sociology of Crime); SOCI 261 (Conflict and Conflict Resolution); SOCI309 (Drugs in Society); SOCI311 (Juvenile Delinquency); SOCI474 (Sociology of Deviance)
Careers in: Law; Criminal justice; Case work
- **Family in Focus:** SOCI225 (Marriage and the Family); SOCI325 (Contemporary Family Issues); SOCI448 (Family Diversity); SOCI449 (Family Theory and Research); SOCI 471 (Human Sexuality and Society)
Careers in: Human & family services; Social work; Counseling
- **Health in Focus:** SOCI252 (Health, Medicine, and Society); SOCI353 (Sociology of Health Care and Health Professions); SOCI443 (Sociology of Mental Health); SOCI454 (Physical Health Disparities); SOCI444 (Social Demography)
Careers in: Health and allied professions; Public health; Health education
- **Inequality in Focus:** SOCI201 (Social Problems); SOCI200 (Gender in Contemporary Society); SOCI217 (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity); SOCI341 (Social Psychology of Inequality); SOCI480 (Stratification & Life Chances); SOCI481 (Minority Groups); SOCI490 (Sociology of Gender)
Careers in: Non-profit organizations; Personnel/Human resources; Government; NGOs
- **Social Research in Focus:** SOCI310a & 310b (Community-Based Research); SOCI362 (Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research); SOCI407 (Qualitative Methods); SOCI465 (Survey Design and Analysis); advanced courses, such as SOCI462 (Basic Regression Analysis) and SOCI 463 (Advanced Methods), are available by permission
Careers in: Data collection and analysis; Program evaluation; Marketing

The required courses in Sociology provide a strong foundation for each focus area. SOCI101 offers an overview of the field, the core concepts, and sociological approaches to understanding the social world. SOCI205 and 206 provide skills for engaging in and interpreting research. SOCI355 prepares students to write for professional audiences. SOCI495 is an opportunity to explore in-depth a topic relevant to a focus area. Together, these courses prepare students to analyze issues using sociological perspectives.

Other courses in Sociology complement each focus area. Several courses offer a detailed examination of institutions that shape our society, including SOCI373 (Sociology of Mass Media); SOCI320 (Sociology of Sport); SOCI346 (Environmental Sociology); SOCI452 (Sociology of Religion); SOCI460 (Education and Society); and

SOCI491 (Political Sociology). SOCI442 (Personality and Social Structure) provides students with a deeper understanding of individuals in social contexts.

Certain courses may offer subjects of interest to several focus areas, although topics vary yearly. For example, SOCI310a & 310b (Community-Based Research) may tackle projects related to health or behavioral well-being. Special topics courses, such as SOCI398, SOCI496, and SOCI 498, explore a topic in detail. Past topics include Family Violence and Social Network Analysis.

Focus areas are suggested directions for study. They are not exclusive. Courses within each focus area are complementary to others. For example, a student with a Health Focus may take SOCI309, a student with a Family Focus may take SOCI444, and a student with an Inequality Focus may take SOCI448.

Regardless of the Focus area, *students should strongly consider an internship (SOCI397)* to apply the perspectives gained in their coursework and acquire experience in a career path.

Minors and Double Majors

The flexibility of a Sociology major gives students considerable leeway in meeting requirements for graduation, allowing students to take courses in a wide variety of departments and on diverse subjects that fit their interests. Students are encouraged to earn a minor or a second major in another field. This typically occurs in a related field, such as psychology, political science, ethnic studies, or criminal justice, but any discipline that fulfills educational and career objectives is acceptable. Consult with a Sociology advisor about a minor or second major that complements the Sociology major and your career goals. Students should also consult the UNL *Undergraduate Bulletin* or appropriate department to learn their minor requirements.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT IN THE SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Department of Sociology encourages every student to seek opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. Formal opportunities for internships, research, and engagement are described below. Students may also find other opportunities in the Department, such as volunteering to work with a faculty member on research, or other opportunities on campus, such as Education Abroad.

Internships

All Sociology majors are encouraged to enroll in *SOCI397, Internship Experience*. This course is part of the UNL internship program and provides academic credit (usually 3 credit hours). An internship is a planned work experience related to a student's academic and career goals and typically involves certain academic requirements such as keeping a journal, writing a paper, doing related readings and periodically meeting with the faculty advisor. Students may be placed in local, national, or international positions. Examples include:

Bureau of Sociological Research
CEDARS
Catholic Charities
City Impact
Developmental Services of Nebraska
Friendship Home
Lincoln Police Department

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
National Research Corporation
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Voices of Hope

Internships provide the opportunity to explore a career path, gain job experience, build a reference list, or even make a connection with a potential future employer. Contact Dr. Brandon Bosch for more information about internship opportunities. Before starting your internship, be sure to contact Dr. Bosch in order to be eligible to receive academic credit.

Independent Study & Research Experience in Sociology

SOCI399 or SOCI399H, Advanced Readings or Honors Advanced Readings, is available for students wishing to explore a subject matter in greater detail, to extend their research interests further, or to engage in independent research. For example, the Department of Sociology, through the Bureau of Sociological Research, has a number of excellent data sets available for student research. Students can also collect their own data through field work, interviews, historical research, or other qualitative techniques.

Students wishing to take either SOCI399 or SOCI399H must first identify a willing faculty member of the Department to directly supervise their work prior to enrolling for the course. Students seeking a faculty member who is an expert in a particular subject area should consult with the Sociology advisor or a current Sociology instructor.

SOCI396, Research Experience in Sociology, is typically reserved for students who are actively involved with a faculty member's project as a research assistant and are ready to carry out their own supervised research. Students interested in research experience should consult with the Sociology advisor or the undergraduate chair.

In addition to the educational and occupational value of independent study, students have used papers developed in independent study courses to successfully compete for graduate assistantships and awards given by the Midwest Sociological Society, Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium, and other regional sociological associations.

Senior Thesis & Graduation with Distinction

In recognition of outstanding academic excellence, the College of Arts and Sciences recommends the Bachelor's degree "with Distinction," "with High Distinction," and "with Highest Distinction." Students who choose the College honors thesis option (required as part of the criteria for Highest Distinction), should make arrangements **before their senior year** by consulting with your professor sponsoring the thesis, and registering for Sociology 399H. For further information, students should review the section "Degrees with Distinction" in the College of Arts and Sciences Section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*. Interested students should consult with the advisor.

Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research Students (USTARS)

Sociology students are eligible to gain research or teaching experience in the Department's USTARS program. Sociology majors (and, in special circumstances, minors) are eligible to be USTARS. Faculty or advanced Ph.D. graduate students can sponsor USTARS assistants to work with them as teaching or research assistants, for credit and/or pay. The faculty/graduate student sponsor and the interested undergraduate student submit a proposal outlining the assistant duties and the goal of the partnership (e.g. data analysis, preparing a new course, collecting data, literature review). There are academic year and summer opportunities. Visit the advisor or the undergraduate chair for more information.

Undergraduate Creative and Research Experience (UCARE)

Sociology students are eligible to participate in UNL'S UCARE program. Funded by the Pepsi Endowment, UCARE supports undergraduate research with faculty members engaged in research at UNL. Undergraduate research assistants are funded with a monthly stipend. Visit www.unl.edu/ucare for more information.

Certificate in Civic Engagement

Sociology students are eligible to earn a Civic Engagement Certificate from UNL's Center for Civic Engagement. The program encourages students to connect what they learn in their coursework with key experiences outside the classroom to help them develop a life-long habit of civic engagement. Visit www.engage.unl.edu for more information.

Undergraduate Sociology Association

The Department of Sociology sponsors the Undergraduate Sociology Association (USA), which facilitates fun and interaction among interested students through meetings, projects, community service, and social activities. Membership is open to all sociology majors, double majors, and minors. We also sponsor panel presentations on professional development and career issues for majors. Another important function of the USA is participation in and periodically hosting of the annual Nebraska Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (NUSS). The symposium brings students together from all of the colleges and universities in the state to present papers, participate in round-table discussions, and to meet and hear talks by well-known sociologists.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

The Sociology Department sponsors three scholarships, three awards, and a paper competition in most years. The deadline for submissions is typically in the middle of the Spring semester. Contact the advisor or stop by 711 Oldfather Hall for more details.

- *The Alice Lou Crank Undergraduate Scholarship* is awarded to a first-year or sophomore sociology major with less than 60 completed credit hours.
- *The Alice Frost Howard Scholarship* is awarded to an outstanding sophomore or junior majoring in sociology.
- *The Sociology Opportunity Scholarship* is awarded to an outstanding Sociology first major who is a first-generation college student.
- *The Alan P. Bates Outstanding Undergraduate Award* is awarded annually to an outstanding senior sociology major. Along with a monetary award, the student's name is placed on a plaque located in the Sociology Department.
- *The Vanetta Aaron Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Competition* awards an outstanding paper on the topic of Race, Class or Gender written and submitted by a Sociology undergraduate student. Along with a monetary award, the student's name is placed on a plaque located in the Sociology Department.
- *The Ed A. Muñoz Latina/o Research Excellence Award* is given to an outstanding student who has a scholarly interest in U.S. Latina/o culture or ethnicity. The award supports student membership in the American Sociological Association and the ASA Section on Latina/o Sociology, as well as registration and travel expenses for the student to attend the ASA annual meeting.

Alpha Kappa Delta is the international sociology honor society. Requirements include an overall 3.0 or above GPA and a major or minor GPA of 3.3 or above, junior or senior standing, and completion of 12 or more credit hours of sociology. Eligible students are notified in the Spring semester.

UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY COURSES

Course selections should be made in consultation with the advisor. The advisor can guide students through the appropriate course sequence and help students identify courses that meet their academic and career goals. Undergraduate students wishing to take any 800 or 900-level course must have permission from the professor.

Undergraduate Sociology (SOCI) Courses. Below is a list of courses routinely offered by the Sociology Department. Additional courses appear in the Undergraduate Bulletin, but are not offered as frequently or are cross-listed by another UNL department. See the [Sociology section](#) of the UNL Undergraduate bulletin for the complete listing.

101	Introduction to Sociology (A6)	399	Advanced Readings*
189H	University Honors Seminar (A9)	399H	Honors: Advanced Readings*
200	Gender in Contemporary Society (A9)	407	Strategies of Social Research: Qualitative Methods
201	Social Problems (A6,9)	442	Personality and Social Structure
205	Introduction to Social Research I	443	Sociology of Mental Health
206	Introduction to Social Research II (A3)	444	Social Demography
209	Sociology of Crime (A6)	448	Family Diversity
217	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (A6,9)	449	Family Research & Theory
225	Marriage and the Family (A6,9)	452	Sociology of Religion
252	Health, Medicine, and Society	454	Physical Health Disparities
373	Sociology of Mass Media	455	History of Sociological Theory
309	Drugs and Society	460	Education and Society
310a	Applied Sociology: Community-based Research I	462	Basic Regression Analysis*
310b	Applied Sociology: Community-based Research II (A10)	463	Advanced Social Research Methods*
311	Juvenile Delinquency	464	Sociological Theory
320	Sociology of Sport	465	Survey Design and Analysis
325	Contemporary Family Issues	474	Sociology of Deviance
341	Social Psychology of Inequality	480	Social Inequality: Stratification & Life Changes
346	Environmental Sociology	481	Minority Groups
353	Sociology of Health Care & Health Professions	490	Sociology of Gender
355	Theory and Intensive Writing	491	Political Sociology
362	Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research (A8)	495	Senior Seminar (A10)
396	Research Experience*	496	Special Topics in Crime, Deviance & Social Control
397	Internship Experience*	498	Special Topics
398	Special Topics in Sociology		

Courses cross-listed with Sociology

170	Introduction to Great Plains Studies	468	Policy and Program Evaluation Research
241	Rural Sociology	471	Human Sexuality and Society
261	Conflict and Conflict Resolution	475	Water Quality Strategy (A10)
382	Storytelling (A5)	478	Pro-seminar in Latin American Studies
466	Pro-seminar in International Relations		

*=By permission only A=ACE course

STUDENT RESOURCES

Interdisciplinary Connections

The Department of Sociology participates in several interdisciplinary programs on campus. These include:

- Center for Civic Engagement (engage.unl.edu)
- Environmental Studies (esp.unl.edu)
- Ethnic Studies (ethnicstudies.unl.edu)
- Global Studies (globalstudies.unl.edu)
- Great Plains Studies (www.unl.edu/plains/)
- Informatics (bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate/major/Informatics)
- Pre-Law (explorecenter.unl.edu/pre-law)
- Pre-Health (explorecenter.unl.edu/pre-health)
- Women's and Gender Studies; LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies (www.unl.edu/wgs/)

Campus Resources

- Department of Sociology in 711 Oldfather or soc.unl.edu
- UNL Undergraduate Bulletin at bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate/major/Sociology
- ACE courses at ace.unl.edu
- College of Arts & Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather or cas.unl.edu/advising
- Explore Center for pre-professional advising in Love South 127 or explorecenter.unl.edu
- First-Year Experience and Transition Programs in Love South 127 or success.unl.edu
- Education Abroad in Love Library or educationabroad.unl.edu
- UNL Career Services for internship and employment listings in 230 Nebraska Union or www.unl.edu/careers
- UNL UCARE program at www.unl.edu/ucare
- UNL Center for Civic Engagement at engage.unl.edu

Sociology Resources

- American Sociology Association Career Resources in Sociology at
 - [What Are They Doing with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology?](#)
 - [21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology](#)
 - [Career Resources in Sociology](#)

EVALUATION OF THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

The Sociology Department evaluates our majors' performance, as a group, as part of a university effort to evaluate student learning outcomes. Therefore, instructors of 205, 206, and 355 provide the department an overall evaluation of students' learning achievements at the end of the semester. Additionally, the final papers collected during 495 are used for an annual assessment of our sociology majors' performance. These papers are evaluated anonymously by the department's undergraduate committee. In order to assist the department in evaluating the effectiveness of its programs, majors are also asked to complete an exit survey during their final semester. The Department will inform the students of the scheduling and format of the survey. Participation in these assessment activities will not affect a student's individual grade in a course, overall GPA, or graduation in any way.

