

2016 – 2017 GUIDE TO THE SOCIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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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, and 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, Kara Brant, and the Department's undergraduate chair, Dr. Regina Werum, 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

Major 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. (For more information on the difference between a B.A. and a B.S, visit <https://bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate/college/Arts+%26+Sciences#college-degree-requirements>.) Students majoring in Sociology are required to complete 30 credit hours in Sociology courses.

THE REQUIRED COURSES ARE:

Sociology 101	Introduction to Sociology (ACE 6)
Sociology 205	Introduction to Social Research I
Sociology 206	Introduction to Social Research II (ACE 3)
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 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. Per institutional rules, 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.

Minor 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. Per institutional rules, students must earn at least a “C” to satisfy the requirements. You can talk with an advisor about how to create a Sociology minor that works with your career goals.

Double Majors/Minors

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.

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 go on to careers in a variety of fields, such as:

- Education
- Management and Human Resources
- Research – especially market research and marketing, public health
- Law and Criminal Justice
- Public Service/Government and Administration
- Private-sector for-profit companies
- Private-sector non-profit organizations
- Occupations requiring research, data analysis, and project direction skills.

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.

Gaining experience as a research assistant (SOCI 396) can help students explore various career paths and options, including careers in applied research and in academia. (Think graduate school!)

Sociology in Focus

Students can pursue substantive focus areas in preparation for employment in related fields. Our program has 5 focus areas designed to guide students toward a targeted sequence of courses. 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 and Policy; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Case Work
- **Family in Focus:** SOCI226 (Families and Society); SOCI325 (Contemporary Family Issues); SOCI448 (Family Diversity); SOCI449 (Perspectives on Families); SOCI 471 (Human Sexuality and Society)
Careers in: Human & Family Services; Social Work; Counseling; Education

- **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/Nutrition; Health Policy
- **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; Human & Family Services; Education
- **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; Policy

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. We strongly encourage students to take SOCI 101 as early as possible, and to take SOCI 205 in their sophomore year, or as soon as they have taken 2-3 Sociology courses.

Many Sociology courses complement one or several of the five Focus Areas, especially at advanced levels. Focus areas serve merely as suggested directions for study. They should not be viewed as exclusive or distinct “tracks.” For example, students with a Health Focus may take SOCI309, students with a Family Focus may take SOCI444, and students pursuing an Inequality Focus may take SOCI448. Regardless of whether students choose to pursue a Focus Area, students should strongly consider an internship (SOCI397) to apply the perspectives gained in their coursework and acquire practical experience in a related career path.

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 (310a is a prereq for 310b. The minimum grade rule (“C”) applies before enrollment in 310b). Special topics courses, such as SOCI398, SOCI496, and SOCI 498, explore a topic in detail. Recent topics include Family Violence, Social Network Analysis, and Public Opinion & Public Policy.

We also offer several advanced-level courses on specific social institutions. These courses exist independently of Focus Areas and include e.g., SOCI373 (Sociology of Mass Media); SOCI320 (Sociology of Sport); SOCI346 (Environmental Sociology); SOCI452 (Sociology of Religion); SOCI460 (Education and Society); SOCI491 (Political Sociology); SOCI442 (Personality and Social Structure). These courses are offered less frequently – so please take the opportunity when it presents itself!

INTERNSHIP, RESEARCH, AND TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES IN SOCIOLOGY

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

Starting in their junior year, all Sociology majors and minors 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	National Research Corporation
CEDARS	Nebraska Appleseed
Catholic Charities	Nebraska Attorney General's Office
City Impact	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Developmental Services of Nebraska	People's City Mission
Friendship Home	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Lincoln Police Department	Voices of Hope
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital	

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 (usually juniors and seniors) 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.

To take either *SOCI399* or *SOCI399H*, students 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 (usually juniors and seniors) 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 projects

developed in independent study courses to make conference presentations and to successfully compete for graduate assistantships and awards given by the Midwest Sociological Society, Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium, and other professional associations.

Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research Students (USTARS)

Sociology majors (and, in special circumstances, minors) are eligible to gain research or teaching experience in the Department's USTARS program. Faculty or advanced Ph.D. graduate students can sponsor USTARS assistants to work with them as teaching or research assistants, for credit (SOCI 396 or 399) and/or pay (USTAR). 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). This is an excellent opportunity to apply and build nascent research skills, especially for students interested in exploring a range of career paths involving research. The department offers academic year and summer opportunities, including the possibility of departmental support to attend the American Sociological Association's annual conference for professionalization purposes. Visit the advisor or the undergraduate program chair for more information.

Undergraduate Creative and Research Experience (UCARE)

Many students who start as USTARS in their freshmen and sophomore years apply to the university-wide UCARE program for research support in subsequent years. Funded by the Pepsi Endowment, UCARE supports undergraduate research with faculty members engaged in research at UNL. This is an excellent opportunity to apply and further hone research skills, especially for students interested in wide range of careers involving research, as well as graduate school. UCARE undergraduate research assistants are funded with a monthly stipend. Visit www.unl.edu/ucare for more information.

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.

Certificate in Civic Engagement

Sociology students can also earn a 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.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND AWARDS

Undergraduate Sociology Advisory Board

The Department of Sociology's Undergraduate Sociology Advisory Board (USAB) convenes to provide feedback and insight into the undergraduate program. The USAB is tasked with generating ideas for improving the undergraduate experience of our majors and minors, frequently in collaboration with the Undergraduate Program Chair or other faculty members. USAB also helps organize activities or events (including guest speakers) they think might be of interest to UNL students. The USAB also selects the recipient of the annual Helen Moore Undergraduate Sociology Teaching Award. Contact Dr. Bosch for more information.

Scholarships, Awards, Alpha Kappa Delta

The Sociology Department sponsors several scholarships, awards, and a paper competition in most years. Awards range from \$100 to \$1,000 each and reward Sociology majors' academic performance. Self nominations are welcome. The deadline for submissions is typically in the middle of the Spring semester. Contact the advisor, the Undergraduate Program Chair, or stop by 711 Oldfather Hall for more details.

Alpha Kappa Delta is the international sociology honor society. Eligibility 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 each Spring semester. *The department will sponsor eligible students' membership in AKD for as long as they are a Sociology major at UNL.*

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS

The departmental grade appeals process reflects guidelines provided by the College of Arts and Sciences. Legitimate grounds for a grade appeal exist if: *"there is reason to suspect that the awarding of the grade may have involved a denial of due process, through arbitrary, capricious or prejudiced action on the part of the instructor or elsewhere in the department"* (<http://cas.unl.edu/grading-appeals>). Filing an appeal will not affect grades for other coursework. To initiate an appeal for an assignment grade or course grade, the student should take the following steps:

1. Talk to the professor in an effort to resolve the matter in a mutually agreeable way. If unsuccessful,
2. Talk to the Undergraduate Program Chair about options to resolve the matter or file an official grade appeal.
3. If the determination is made to proceed with a grade appeal, the student will assemble all relevant documents that pertain to the case, as well as evidence that the student attempted to resolve the case in consultation with the instructor (steps #1 and #2). The student will submit those documents to the Department's Undergraduate Program Chair. The student will also submit a written statement that provides an account of the facts surrounding the awarding of the grade. In the statement, the student should be as specific as possible with respect to the evidence introduced, giving dates, places, and times where memory provides them. The student is cautioned not to make the statement a vehicle for unsubstantiated charges. Rather, the statement is intended as a source of information for the Grade Appeals Committee.

Once the student submits the documents and written statement, the Undergraduate Program Chair forwards it to the department's Grade Appeals Committee as a whole and to the instructor involved. At that time, the Committee will also request documentary evidence (exams, papers, etc.) from the instructor pertinent to the

case. The Committee may ask the student and/or instructor for clarification, either in writing or in an interview. Based on the evidence presented by both sides, the Committee makes a determination about whether (and if so, how) to proceed with the appeal. The Undergraduate Program Chair will notify the student regarding the student may appeal the decision at the college level. For information visit <http://cas.unl.edu/grading-appeals>.

Please direct questions about the process and submit documents to Dr. Regina Werum, Undergraduate Program Chair, 739 Oldfather Hall, email rwerum2@unl.edu.

EVALUATION OF THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

The Sociology Department also evaluates the academic performance of majors as a group, as part of a university effort to evaluate student learning outcomes. Therefore, instructors of 205, 206, 355, and 495 (core courses) provide the department an overall evaluation of students' learning achievements at the end of the semester. 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.

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 (SOCl) Courses. Below is a *list of courses routinely offered* by the Sociology Department. Please note that the Undergraduate Bulletin lists additional courses; these 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)	398	Special Topics in Sociology
189H	University Honors Seminar (A9)	399	Advanced Readings*
200	Gender in Contemporary Society (A9)	399H	Honors: Advanced Readings*
201	Social Problems (A6,9)	407	Strategies of Social Research: Qualitative Methods
205	Introduction to Social Research I	442	Personality and Social Structure
206	Introduction to Social Research II (A3)	443	Sociology of Mental Health
209	Sociology of Crime (A6)	444	Social Demography
217	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (A6,9)	448	Family Diversity
226	Families and Society (A6,9)	449	Perspectives on Families
252	Health, Medicine, and Society	452	Sociology of Religion
373	Sociology of Mass Media	454	Physical Health Disparities
309	Drugs and Society	455	History of Sociological Theory
310a	Applied Sociology: Community-based Research I	460	Education and Society
310b	Applied Sociology: Community-based Research II (A10)	462	Basic Regression Analysis*
311	Juvenile Delinquency	463	Advanced Social Research Methods*
320	Sociology of Sport	464	Sociological Theory
325	Contemporary Family Issues	465	Survey Design and Analysis
333	Practicum in Public Opinion Research	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

Examples of cross-listed courses in Sociology

170	Introduction to Great Plains Studies	466	Pro-seminar in International Relations
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

*=By permission only A=ACE course

STUDENT RESOURCES

Sociology Research Units and Related Research Units

- Bureau of Sociological Research (bosr.unl.edu)
- Research, Evaluation, and Analysis for Community Health (reach-lab.org)
- Minority Health Disparities Initiative (mhdi.unl.edu)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium (sbsrc.unl.edu)

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?](http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/research/BachelorsinSociology.pdf)
<http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/research/BachelorsinSociology.pdf>
 - Career Resources in Sociology
<http://www.asanet.org/teaching-learning/undergraduate-student-resources>
 - Jobs, Careers & Sociological Skills
<http://www.asanet.org/research-and-publications/research-sociology/research-briefs/jobs-careers-sociological-skills-early-employment-experiences-2012-sociology-majors>
 - Considering graduate school?
<http://www.socwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/Vol-36-Undergrad-Advice-Webber-Ray.pdf>