

College of Arts and Sciences

Sociology

B.A. in Sociology

Admission to the Program

Formal admission to the major requires department approval.

University Requirements

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

General Education Requirements

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

- 43 credit hours with grades of C or better; no more than 13 credit hours may be at the 100 or 200 level

Course Requirements

- SOCY-150 Global Sociology 4:1 (3)
- SOCY-315 Major Social Theorists (3)
- SOCY-320 Introduction to Social Research (3)
- SOCY-491 Internship (3)
or
SOCY-392 Cooperative Education Field Experience (3)
or an approved equivalent experience
- SOCY-492 Major Research Seminar (3)
- 3 credit hours of advanced theory from the following:
SOCY-415 Current Issues in Social Theory (3)
SOCY-515 Models of Societal Development (3)

- 3 credit hours of advanced research methods from the following:
SOCY-525 Social Advocacy and Change (3)
SOCY-580 Social Policy Analysis (3)
or other methods course approved by the advisor
- STAT-202 Basic Statistics (4)
- 18 credit hours in sociology electives, with no more than two courses at the 100 or 200 level, and at least one course at the 500 level. Students should take at least one course from four of the following concentrations:

Race, Gender, and Social Justice

Global Sociology/Regional Studies

Social Inequality

Gender and Family

Applied Sociology/Social Policy

University Honors Program

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/.

Minor in Sociology

- 21 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor

Course Requirements

- SOCY-150 Global Sociology 4:1 (3)
- SOCY-315 Major Social Theorists (3)
- SOCY-320 Introduction to Social Research (3)
- 3 credit hours of advanced theory or research methods from the following:
 - SOCY-415 Current Issues in Social Theory (3)
 - SOCY-515 Models of Societal Development (3)
 - SOCY-525 Social Advocacy and Change (3)
 - SOCY-580 Social Policy Analysis (3)
- 9 credit hours in sociology electives, with no more than one course at the 100 or 200 level. Students should take one course from three of the following concentrations:

Race, Gender, and Social Justice

Global Sociology

Social Inequality

Gender and Family

Applied Sociology/Social Policy

Combined B.A. and M.A. in Sociology

Admission to the Program

Students should apply for this program in the second semester of the junior year. Students must have a minimum overall 3.00 grade point average. Admissions decisions to the combined program follow the same procedures and standards used to evaluate graduate applicants to the M.A. Students interested in applying to this combined program should consult with their advisor and other faculty members before formal application is begun.

Requirements

- All requirements for the B.A. in Sociology
Undergraduate students may apply up to 12 credit hours of approved graduate-level course work in sociology, including STAT-514 Statistical Methods, to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.
- All requirements for the M.A. in Sociology, including a minimum of 18 credit hours completed in residence in graduate status after the undergraduate degree has been awarded.

M.A. in Sociology

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for admission to graduate study, including a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, with at least a 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) grade point average. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores are required. A background in the social sciences is strongly preferred. Admission to the program is at the discretion of the department's Graduate Committee and is based on academic record and letters of recommendation from two persons able to evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study in sociology. Provisional admission may be considered on a case-by-case basis where minimum university requirements are not fully met.

Degree Requirements

- 36 credit hours of approved graduate work, including the research requirement
- Tool of research: STAT-514 Statistical Methods, or another approved graduate-level statistics or specialized methods course
- One written comprehensive examination covering sociological theory and methods of social research:
The exam is taken after completion of two theory courses and two research methods courses. Full-time students must take the exam before beginning their second year in the program. Students who have taken prior relevant course work in sociology may opt to take the exam before taking the required courses. After taking the related courses, a maximum of two attempts of the exam are permitted.
- Research requirement:
SOCY-797 Master's Thesis Independent Study (3 or 6 credit hours)
The thesis offers students the opportunity to specialize as well as further develop research skills. Students chose the subject of the thesis in consultation with their advisor.
or
SOCY-795 Master's Research: Independent Study (3)
Completion of a substantial research report related to the student's field of concentration under the guidance of a professor of the student's choice.
Advanced courses in research methods, an advanced seminar in the student's field of concentration, or an independent study course in the field of concentration (3)
All course work taken for the research requirement must be taken with grades of B or better.

Course Requirements

- SOCY-610 History of Sociological Theory (3)
- SOCY-611 Modern Sociological Theory (3)
- SOCY-620 Social Research I (3)

- SOCY-621 Social Research II (3)
- STAT-514 Statistical Methods (3)
- SOCY-795 Master's Research: Independent Study (3)
or
SOCY-797 Master's Thesis Independent Study (1–6)
- 9–12 credit hours from one of the following concentrations, chosen in consultation with the student's advisor. Lists of approved courses for concentrations are available from the Sociology Department:

Public Sociology

Race, Gender, and Social Justice

Global Sociology

Social Inequality

Gender and Family

- 6–9 credit hours in approved elective courses, including a 3-credit hour internship

Graduate Certificate in Social Research

Admission to the Program

Open to students with a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution.

Certificate Requirements

- 15 credit hours of approved course work with at least 6 credit hours at the 600-level or above, with grades of C or better
Grades of C- or D in certificate program courses are not accepted toward the fulfillment of certificate requirements, although these grades will be included in the calculation of the GPA. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in certificate courses in order to be awarded a certificate. Students in certificate programs must take a minimum of 6 credit hours during each 12-month period and complete the certificate in four years. International students must enroll in 9 credit hours each semester (except for summer). A maximum of 3 credit hours earned at an accredited college or university may be applied toward the certificate as transfer credit.

Prerequisite

- STAT-514 Statistical Methods (3), or other graduate-level statistics course, or statistics examination

Course Requirements (15 credit hours)

- SOCY-620 Social Research I (3)
- SOCY-621 Social Research II (3)
- 9 credit hours from graduate-level sociology courses selected in consultation with the graduate director. Courses outside the Sociology Department may substituted with the approval of the graduate director.