

## *Sociology Major and Minor*

[www.sociology.pitt.edu/undergraduate](http://www.sociology.pitt.edu/undergraduate)

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Sociology is a systematic, scientific attempt to explain, predict, and understand human behavior. For sociologists, the social group is the unit of analysis. Sociologists study human behavior as it is shaped by group life. Sociological insights are valuable tools, which can apply to virtually every type of group setting, ranging from families, marriages, and small groups to institutions, organizations, and nations. Students of sociology are in a special position to help to improve the quality of human life.

Sociologists study social organization. For some, this is to examine societies – how they are structured, how they work, and how they change. The world is a global laboratory with interesting and challenging phenomena. Other sociologists study how small social groups work and how they change. This study includes social networks that people form as part of their social life. Issues of race, class, and gender demand analyses. Sociologists study how people belong to families, groups, and organizations – how people develop identities and how their social organizations become real. Others focus on broad patterns of social organization – socialization, education, welfare, healthcare, and the legal system, for example. In short, the social world is endlessly fascinating.

Sociology is a useful preparation for students looking forward to careers in social services, education, law, business, social work, criminology, urban planning, child development, and the health-related professions. An undergraduate degree in sociology can provide an excellent steppingstone to graduate school.

### **Required courses for the Sociology major**

The sociology major requires the completion of 27 credits in sociology and four credits in statistics, distributed as follows.

#### **One of the following**

SOC 0002 Sociology of Everyday Life  
SOC 0005 Societies  
SOC 0010 Introduction to Sociology

#### **Both of the following**

SOC 0150 Social Theory  
SOC 0230 Social Research Methods

#### **One of the following**

STAT 0200 Basic Applied Statistics  
STAT 1000 Applied Statistical Methods

**Note:** The above courses are prerequisites for the research practicum and must all be completed prior to taking it.

#### **Research Practicum**

SOC 1500 Capstone Research Practicum for Majors

#### **Elective courses**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 elective credits in SOC, six of which must be at the 1000 level. Internships and directed research do not count toward the six 1000-level elective credits.

**Grade requirements:** A minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher in departmental courses is required for graduation.

**Satisfactory/No Credit option:** No more than six credits in SOC can be taken on an S/NC basis. After declaring the major, SOC 0150 and SOC 0230 may not be taken on an S/NC basis.

**Writing (W) requirement:** Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

**Related area:** A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

**Honors major requirement:** Honors in sociology is granted if in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the major, the student:

- maintained a GPA of 3.5 or above in SOC courses;
- maintained an overall GPA of 3.25 or above;
- completed SOC 0150 and SOC 0230 prior to completing a three-credit SOC 1002 honors seminar; and
- completed a three-credit SOC honors thesis, written under the direction of a faculty mentor.

**Note:** The honors seminar, which is offered every fall term, and the honors thesis, which is offered every spring term, may replace six of the 15 required elective credits. Students pursuing the honors major are required to complete the same number of credits that are required for the standard major. For additional details, students are encouraged to consult with the undergraduate advisor.

**Thematic cluster certificate:** For sociology majors wishing to pursue specific themes within the discipline, the Department of Sociology currently offers five thematic clusters: global and area studies; social movements / inequality; race, gender, and sexuality; the helping professions; and health, environment, and technology.

Upon graduation, students who have completed three approved courses in one of these clusters will be awarded a certificate of achievement by the Department of Sociology.

**Internships:** The Department of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh is strongly committed to the career development of its students and sponsors a wide variety of strategic internships. Numerous local internship opportunities exist, involving childhood counseling and education, hospitals and healthcare, psychological and substance abuse counseling, criminal justice, business, law, and politics. The following list includes just some of the sites where sociology majors have held internships.

- Office of U.S. Senator Robert Casey
- The American Civil Liberties Union
- The Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection
- The Allegheny County Coroner's Office
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation
- The Homeless Children's Initiative

#### Advising and internships

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#### Courses for special programs

The Department of Sociology offers courses that are particularly suitable for the following special programs.

- Pre-education: SOC 0426, SOC 0478
- Pre-law: SOC 0471, SOC 0472, SOC 0474, SOC 1443, SOC 1516, SOC 1518
- Pre-social work: SOC 0424, SOC 0438, SOC 0460, SOC 0471, SOC 0477, SOC 1413, SOC 1450
- Women's studies: SOC 0436, SOC 0446, SOC 1333, SOC 1365, SOC 1448
- Pre-medical: SOC 0312, SOC 0441, SOC 0475, SOC 0477, SOC 1370, SOC 1450, SOC 1467, SOC 1470, SOC 1488

#### Checklist for the Sociology major

##### One of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0002  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0005  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0010

##### Both of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0150  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0230

##### One of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ STAT 0200  
\_\_\_\_\_ STAT 1000

##### All of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 1500  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (1000-level elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (1000-level elective)

#### Checklist for the Sociology minor

##### One of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0002  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0005  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0010

##### All of the following

\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0150  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 0230  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)  
\_\_\_\_\_ SOC 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (1000-level elective)

**Note:** Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.