

BA in Sociology

Degree Program Description

Sociologists systematically investigate the causes of social problems and how people make meaning collectively using both quantitative (statistical) and qualitative techniques. Sociologists are curious about the hows and whys of human social life. Sociological perspectives and methods have many applications: in non-profit organizations, marketing departments, criminal justice organizations, public health agencies, and many other academic disciplines. Sociological knowledge helps businesses, policy makers, and the public navigate the complex social and cultural structures that shape everyday life.

A Bachelor of Arts with a major in Sociology consists of 30 credits including introductory courses, the fundamentals of research and theory, and more in-depth coursework that leads to a capstone experience. The capstone, taken during the senior year, allows students to choose between a professional internship, a research oriented course, or an honor's thesis if they qualify.

Sociology at Mizzou offers students the opportunity for in-depth study of some of the big questions and problems of the 21st century: culture and identities, justice, social inequalities, and health and environment. Sociologists are involved in analyzing some of the most critical issues of the contemporary world: class, race and gender oppression, sex and gender diversity, and global issues like health disparities and climate change. Sociologists empirically study these issues not simply to understand them, but to help create a more just society through the production of evidence-based knowledge. Sociology majors gain key skills necessary for today's careers, including critical thinking, global/intercultural fluency, teamwork, and oral and written communication. Sociology majors also build cultural literacy that helps them understand current events and their own place in history.

Major Program Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts with a major in Sociology consists of 30 credits organized to provide progressively more sophisticated levels of sociological analysis culminating in a capstone course. It is expected that students start with entry courses, progress to basic courses and then to upper-level electives.

In addition to University (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated.

Major core requirements

Entry courses		
SOCIOL 1000	Introduction to Sociology (Recommended)	3
SOCIOL 2200	Social Inequalities	3
Basic courses		
SOCIOL 3100	Recent Theories in Sociology (prerequisite: SOCIOL 2200)	3

SOCIOL 3950	Social Research	3
Post-basic courses		
Three additional sociology courses numbered 3000 or above; may include no more than 3 credits in SOCIOL 4940 or SOCIOL 4960		9
Additional hours in sociology		6
An additional 6 credits in elective coursework in the major		
Capstone course		
A choice between a 4000 Level Course (3 hours), Internship in Sociology (SOCIOL 4940) or an Honors Thesis (see Departmental Honors below). The capstone should be taken in the last two semesters of undergraduate work.		
Departmental honors		
SOCIOL 4995	Honors in Sociology (1st semester of senior year)	3
SOCIOL 4995	Honors in Sociology (2nd semester of senior year)	3
Students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 are eligible for departmental honors in sociology. Qualified students who seek this option must write an honors thesis under the supervision of a sociology faculty member. Students enroll in SOCIOL 4995 for 3 credits each semester of the senior year.		
Total Credits		30

Accelerated BA in Sociology to MPA in Public Affairs

This accelerated program provides students the opportunity to earn both the BA and MPA within five years, rather than six years if pursued consecutively.

Students in this accelerated program will complete three years at the undergraduate level within the Sociology program. During the fourth year, students complete up to fifteen credits at the graduate level which will count as dual credit toward the BA and the MPA. Following this year, the BA is conferred, and students are admitted fully to the MPA program to complete the remaining courses for the MPA degree.

MPA Core Courses

PUB_AF 8110	Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Management	3
PUB_AF 8170	Public Policy Processes and Strategies	3
PUB_AF 8180	Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs I	3
PUB_AF 8181	Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs II	3
PUB_AF 8210	Public Service and Democracy	3
PUB_AF 8280	Public Affairs Internship	3
PUB_AF 8211	MPA Capstone (Applied Project)	3

Elective and Specialization Courses - 15 credit hours

Courses in Public and Nonprofit Management		
PUB_AF 7340	Regional and Economic Development Policy	3
PUB_AF 7540	Local Government Management	3
PUB_AF 8150	Collaborative Governance	3
PUB_AF 8160	Organizational Dynamics and Leadership	3
PUB_AF 8510	Public Budgeting and Taxation	3
PUB_AF 8530	Strategic Management of Public Service Organizations: People, Information and Money	3
PUB_AF 8720	Budgeting and Financial Management in the Nonprofit Sector	3

Course in Public Policy		
PUB_AF 7340	Regional and Economic Development Policy	3
PUB_AF 7175	Early Childhood Policy	3
PUB_AF 8171	Environmental Policy	3
PUB_AF 8190	Economic Analysis for Public Affairs	3
PUB_AF 8420	Public Program Evaluation	3

An elective could be taken during the summer between the 4th and 5th year along with PUB_AF 8280 (internship) or added to the fifth year fall or spring term.

Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary based on course choices where options are available.

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
SOCIOL 1000		3 SOCIOL 2200	3
ENGLISH 1000		3 Math and Quantitative Reasoning	3
Missouri State Law Requirement: Social Science from Arts and Science		3 Biological or Physical Science Lab	4
Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science		3 Humanities	3
Humanities		3 Social Science	3
	15		16

Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Sociology		3 Sociology	3
Second Language Requirement		4 Second Language Requirement	4
Behavioral Science		3 First Writing Intensive	3
Humanities from Arts and Science		3 Behavioral Science from Arts and Science, 2000+ level	3
Social Science, 2000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective	3
	16		16

Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
SOCIOL 3950		3 SOCIOL 3100	3
Second Language Requirement		4 Sociology, 3000+ level	3
Humanities, 2000+ level		3 Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective	3
	16		15

Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Sociology, 3000+ level, Writing Intensive		3 Sociology, 4000+ level	3
Sociology, 3000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level		3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ level	3

Second major, minor, certificate, or elective	3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective	3
Second major, minor, certificate, or elective	2	

	14	12
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Total Credits: 120