

SOCIOLOGY BACHELOR OF ARTS

Program Overview

Sociology is the systematic and empirically-based study of human social interaction ranging from the most simple exchanges between people to complex, multi-layered and multi-scaled global processes and structures. It also examines the central place of language, a shared and dynamic set of symbols and meanings, in human lives. Students learn both about the worlds in which they and others live and how to understand and explain how these worlds work and sometimes do not. And they consider, based on these understandings, what sorts of interventions, through policy or practice, might serve to change aspects of those worlds for the better for those living in them. The department offers students literacy and training in multiple theories and methods of social inquiry, giving special attention to qualitative and historical analysis.

Students in the program enjoy frequent collaboration with the Des Moines community through research assignments, service learning, and internships. Recent graduates have gone to graduate school in social work, business, law, paralegal studies, sociology, criminology, and anthropology. They also have found jobs in government agencies, businesses, and social service organizations according to their interests and past experiences.

B.A. Degree Requirements

The sociology major offers sound preparation for careers in law and public administration, medicine and public health, activism, social work, advertising and marketing, politics and public policy, business, banking, and consulting, to name just a few. The various courses in the sociology program examine social groups and processes in a wide diversity of contexts, with an emphasis on critical thinking and social justice.

The program has flexibility built into the core course requirements and allows anthropology courses to contribute to the curriculum for majors. Students are encouraged to work with their advisers to assure selection of courses compatible with their educational and career objectives.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
SOC 001	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3
SOC 042	SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY	3
SOC 065		3
SOC 175	THEORIES OF INEQUALITY	3
SOC 199	SENIOR CAPSTONE	3
Select one additional methods courses from the following:		3
SOC 159	METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH	
ANTH 156	ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS	
SOC 165	THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW	
ANTH 140	THE PRACTICE OF ORAL HISTORY	
Sociology Electives		
Select four of the following: ¹		12
ANTH 125	TRAVELING CULTURES	
ANTH 143	TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION	
ANTH 156	ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS	
ANTH 170	GLOBAL POLITICAL VIOLENCE	

ANTH 175	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 180	RITUAL AND MYTH
SOC 050	SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
SOC 060	
SOC 078	SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD (Inequality and Public Health)
SOC 078	SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD
SOC 080	SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SOC 081	MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOC 085	SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE
SOC 090	EFFECTIVE LISTENING
SOC 105	RACE, GENDER & POVERTY
SOC 122	MAKING FAMILIES PUBLIC
SOC 137	WOMEN, MADNESS & CULTURE
SOC 140	YOUTH AND CRIME
SOC 146	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
SOC 154	POVERTY & SOCIETY
SOC 161	RACE & ETHNICITY
SOC 170	DEVIANCE
SOC 171	GRIEF AND LOSS
SOC 177	GENDER AND VIOLENCE
SOC 179	MASS INCARCERATION
SOC 180	CONSTRUCTING NORMAL
SOC 181	DEATH & SOCIETY

Interdisciplinary Electives

Select two of the following:		6
EDUC 162	URBAN EDUCATION IMMIGRATION	
EDUC 164	PERSPECTIVES IN RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER	
EDUC 183	SOCIAL CONTEXT FOR URBAN SCHOOLS	
EDUC 186	YOUTH, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY	
ENG 022	CRITICAL MEDIA STUDIES	
ENSS 107	CIVIC ENVIRONMENTALISM AND GROWTH	
ENSS 135	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: THE SCIENCE AND POLICY OF GLOBAL WARMING	
ENSS 157	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
HIST 185	PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL HISTORY	
HIST 188	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY	
LPS 113	LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE	
LPS 135	SPECIAL TOPICS IN LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY (Justice Reform)	
PHIL 136	THEORIES OF JUSTICE	
POLS 117	RACE AND AMERICAN POLITICS	
POLS 153	RACIAL JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS	
POLS 154	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	
POLS 156	GLOBAL HEALTH	
POLS 157	Crime and Punishment in the United States	
PSY 135	PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE	
WLC 148	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION	

Total Hours 36

¹ At least 6 credits need to be above 100 level. Up to 6 credits can be Anthropology courses

In addition to programmatic requirements, students are responsible for satisfying all requirements of the Drake Curriculum (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/drake-curriculum/>), including Areas of Inquiry (AOI)

Student must also satisfy university graduation requirements (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/graduation-requirements/>) for all undergraduate students..