

SOCIOLOGY BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN SOCIAL SERVICES, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

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.

Sociology Major with a Concentration in Social Services, Policy & Advocacy

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 and rhetoric 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
SOC 001	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3
SOC 042	SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY	3
SOC 060	SOCIAL SERVICES, POLICY, AND ADVOCACY	3
SOC 065	SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA LITERACY	3
or PSY 011	INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS	
SOC 159	SOCIAL RESEARCH PRACTICUM	3
SOC 175	THEORIES OF INEQUALITY	3
SOC 199	SENIOR SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	3
Communication Elective		
Select one of the following:		3

SOC 090	EFFECTIVE LISTENING	
ANTH 136	DIGITAL STORYTELLING	
ENG 094	BUSINESS & ADMIN WRITING	
ENG 119	COMMUNITY WRITING	
ENSS 054	ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION	
WLC 148	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION	
Disciplinary Sociology Electives ¹		9
Cognate Electives		9
Total Hours		42

¹ Choose 9 credits from sociology electives, with at least 3 credits upper-level.

² An additional 9 credits of electives can be chosen from sociology, anthropology or approved courses from following disciplines. No more than 6 credits can come from the same discipline with the exception of sociology and anthropology.

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- English
- Environmental Science and Policy
- History
- Law, Politics, and Society
- Philosophy
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Religion
- Sociology

To graduate with a sociology major, students must earn a grade of "C-" or higher in each core course. SOC majors may not earn a double major in ANSO.