SOCIOLOGY (BA)

Introduction

Sociology is the study of our behavior as social beings, covering everything from the analysis of small groups to the study of global social change. We hold that social forces external to the individual play an important role in shaping behavior and beliefs. Social forces are the economic and political make-up of society, and cultural influences, such as our beliefs, habits, and values. The sociology major prepares students for a wide variety of careers and graduate fields, including sociology, social work, planning, public administration, education, public health, business, and law.

For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the Sociology website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/sociology/).

Qualifications

Students must have a minimum grade of C in all required courses and maintain a 2.0 GPA in their major and a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in sociology.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. This decision may be based on career goals, planned graduate studies, and/or other student interests. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean.

Per college policy, each additional major requires a minimum of 15 credits that do not apply to the student’s first or subsequent major. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in other cases additional course work may be required. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete. Both (all) majors appear on a student’s transcript.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. To receive a minor, the student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their other credentials (i.e., majors, other minors). The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors/) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

In addition to the Sociology minor the department also supports two interdisciplinary minors: Child, Family and Community Studies and Peace and Justice Studies.

Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum/all-college-honors-program/). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with a bachelor’s degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor’s degree may vary depending on the student’s major(s) and minor(s).

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 111</td>
<td>Contemporary Social Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSV 303</td>
<td>Research Methods in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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Focused Method Option: Choose 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 342</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 375</td>
<td>Ethnography and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 131</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 432</td>
<td>Theories in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six 3 credit sociology electives</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 33

Major Electives

A student’s electives must be 6 courses from any of the designated major tracks.

Society and Culture Track

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 234</td>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 273</td>
<td>Social Movements and Social Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 324</td>
<td>Visual Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 122</td>
<td>Sociocultural Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 341</td>
<td>Environmental Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 355</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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Identity and Diversity Track

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 291</td>
<td>Gender and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 341</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOC 390  Life Course and Family  3
SOC 340  Sociology of the City  3
SOC 385  International Migration  3
PSC 241  Human Rights and Globalization  3

Crime and Society Track

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 355</td>
<td>Deviant Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJ 337</td>
<td>Violence and the Family</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJ 354</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td>3</td>
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Methods and Application Track

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 315</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 324</td>
<td>Visual Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 342</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods (if not chosen as methods option)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 351</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods (if not chosen as methods option)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 131</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Sciences (if not chosen as methods option)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 498</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 499</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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Additional Course Considerations

The department encourages sociology majors to study a foreign language of their choice and to participate in the college study abroad program. Students considering study abroad should consult with their advisor regarding course sequencing.

Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements

**Freshman**

- **Fall**
  - SOC 110
  - SOC 111

- **Sophomore**
  - **Fall**
    - HSV 303
    - SOC elective
  - **Spring**
    - SOC elective

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**Junior**

- **Fall**
  - Take one of the following research methods courses:
    - SOC 342
    - SOC 375
    - MAT 131
    - SOC elective
  - **Spring**
    - SOC elective

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**Senior**

- **Fall**
  - SOC 432
  - SOC elective

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**Learning Goals & Objectives**

**Student Learning Goal 1**

Sociology majors will demonstrate that they are able to think critically about sociological concepts.

Students will:

- **Objective A**: apply scientific methodology to the study of sociology
- **Objective B**: evaluate the quality of quantitative and qualitative research in sociology

**Student Learning Goal 2**

Sociology majors will demonstrate that they have the knowledge necessary for careers or graduate school.

Students will:

- **Objective A**: become familiar with the major concepts, theories, and theorists in sociology.
- **Objective B**: apply sociological theories and methods to real world situations.

**Student Learning Goal 3**

Sociology majors will appreciate the diverse nature of society.

Students will:

- **Objective A**: conceptualize of diversity today and in the past.
- **Objective B**: recognize of the vastness of human diversity.

**Minors**

- Sociology Minor (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-minor/)
- Environmental Sustainability Minor (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/sociology/environmental-sustainability-minor/)
- Interdisciplinary Minor in Peace and Justice Studies (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/sociology/interdisciplinary-minor-peace-justice-studies/)

**Courses**

**SOC 100 The Architecture of Identity: Sociological and Literary Perspectives**  
3 Credits

What shapes our cultural and personal identities? What is the interplay of cultural and personal identities? How do we know? The theme of identity is central to any society and one we consistently consider along the pathways of our individual lives. It is a particular theme for those entering college and looking for a pathway to their future. This interdisciplinary course explores the social construction of identity in the hope that the intellectual issues we engage will give rise to personal insights for those looking for the most rewarding pathway forward in life. We will rely on a sociological approach to create a research-based perspective on what we have learned on the social construction of identity. What stories does the research reveal? At the same time, we will rely on the humanities-- including fiction, literary non-fiction, memoir, documentary and film, media and art-- to further illustrate the cultural narratives of identity that sociological research reveals as validating or denying and marginalizing us as individuals.

**Prerequisite:** None. **Corequisite:** None.

**Offered:** every fall.
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology

Topics include theory, methods, culture, socialization, race and ethnicity, social inequality, and analysis of everyday events using sociological imagination.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

Offered: fall.

SOC 111 Contemporary Social Problems

Exploration of selected social problems from various sociological points of view, emphasizing some of the sociological concepts and methods employed in analyzing these problems.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

Offered: spring.

SOC 234 Environment and Society

Explores connections between environmental issues and their social causes and consequences. Topics of analysis include environmental racism, environmental health, risk and uncertainty, political economy, globalization, and sustainability.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

Offered: spring.

SOC 273 Social Movements and Social Change

Explores the development of social movements as a force of social change in society. Focus is on theoretical developments in movement theory, as well as explorations of social movements through history.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences), Justice

Offered: spring.

SOC 291 Gender and Society

Exploration of origin of gender roles; socialization into masculine and feminine roles; intersection of gender and social institutions such as family, work and education.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

SOC 300 Special Topics in Sociology

Critical examination of a selected topic in sociology. Subject matter determined by the instructor.

SOC 315 Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences

This course will introduce students to basic mapmaking skills using the program ArcGIS, and the ways that those skills can be applied to the study of human society, relationships, and environments. By the end of this course, students will know how to find or create geographic data, build a spatial data base, and analyze that data to answer specific research or predictive questions. Students will also consider the principles of cartography, design, and storytelling which contribute to an effective map, and will produce a map project by the end of the course.

Prerequisites: none.

Offered: every spring.

SOC 324 Visual Sociology

Emphasizes a visual approach to analyzing social concepts. Analysis of visual media forms to explore core ideas in sociology such as gender, race, environment, social class, family and global diversity.

Offered: spring.

SOC 340 Sociology of the City

Exploration of how people experience and understand city life, how cities grow and develop, and various issues affecting cities today such as suburbanization and urban sprawl.

SOC 341 Race and Ethnicity

Focus is on issues surrounding race and ethnicity in the United States, including the social construction of race and ethnicity, prejudice and discrimination, unequal opportunity structures, and the racial/ethnic makeup of the U.S. and global population.

Fulfills College Core: Field 5 (Social Sciences)

Offered: fall of even-numbered years.

SOC 342 Quantitative Research Methods

Overview of the major steps in constructing social science research, from developing a research question, operationalization and measurement through quantitative data collection and analysis.

Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in MAT 131.

Offered: fall.

SOC 355 Deviant Behavior

Students will explore how societies define some behaviors and characteristics as deviant as well as explanations of social deviance, how societies and groups respond to social deviance. Alternative social science theories about such behavior are compared and contrasted. Research methodologies and findings in recent social science literature are examined and interpreted.

SOC 375 Ethnography and Culture

Research designs from a qualitative perspective, including field research, participant observation, content analysis, ethnography, and focus groups. Analysis and reporting of qualitative data.

Offered: every fall.

SOC 385 International Migration

This course is an examination of the issues arising from the movement of peoples across national boundaries, including labor migration, illegal migration, forced migration, and trafficking.

Prerequisite: SOC 110. Restrictions: Junior or Senior standing.

Offered: every other fall.

SOC 390 Life Course and Family

Covers family development from relationship formation through the life course which may include marriage, divorce and remarriage. Includes sexuality, sexual orientation, cohabitation, parenting and the intersection between the family and major social institutions.

Offered: spring of even-numbered years.

SOC 432 Theories in Sociology

Course emphasizes theory development as a tool to understand society. Focuses on major social theorist and their contributions as well as classical and modern theoretical schools in sociology.

Restriction: must be a sociology major or minor with senior standing.

Offered: every fall.

SOC 461 Sociology Capstone

Integrating experience for majors; focus is on demonstrating proficiency in the discipline and preparation for post-graduate studies or employment.

Offered: spring.

SOC 498 Internship

Opportunity for students to participate in the daily work of an agency or organization. Internships require an application and approval by the associate dean.

Prerequisite: minimum GPA of 2.75, signature of instructor, and approval by both the chair & associate dean.

Offered: fall & spring.
SOC 499 Independent Study 1-3 Credits
Independent studies allow in-depth study of a specific topic and are most often reserved for seniors who cannot otherwise fulfill a graduation requirement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.

**Prerequisite:** permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.

**Offered:** fall & spring.