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 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/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

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Contemporary Social Problems</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Total Credits: 33

Major Electives
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Society and Culture Track

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Identity and Diversity Track

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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.
Suburbanization and urban sprawl. Cities grow and develop, and various issues affecting cities today such as

Exploration of how people experience and understand city life, how

SOC 340 Sociology of the City
3 Credits
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
3 Credits
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.

SOC 342 Quantitative Research Methods
3 Credits
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.

SOC 355 Deviant Behavior
3 Credits
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
3 Credits
Research designs from a qualitative perspective, including field research,
participant observation, content analysis, ethnography, and focus groups.
Analysis and reporting of qualitative data.

SOC 385 International Migration
3 Credits
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.

SOC 390 Life Course and Family
3 Credits
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.

SOC 391 Gender and Society
3 Credits
Exploration of origin of gender roles; socialization into masculine and
feminine roles; intersection of gender and social institutions such as family,
work and education.

SOC 392 Sustaining Social Change
3 Credits
Focuses on the role of social change in shaping the way society evolves
over time. The course will examine the processes and mechanisms that
underlie social change, as well as the outcomes of social change.

SOC 393 Special Topics in Sociology
3 Credits
Critical examination of a selected topic in sociology. Subject matter
determined by the instructor.

SOC 394 Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences
3 Credits
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 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.

SOC 395 Sociology Capstone
1 Credit
Integrating experience for majors; focus is on demonstrating proficiency in
the discipline and preparation for post-graduate studies or employment.

SOC 461 Sociology Capstone
1 Credit
Integrating experience for majors; focus is on demonstrating proficiency in
the discipline and preparation for post-graduate studies or employment.

SOC 498 Internship
2-4 Credits
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.