

The University of Kansas

Department of Sociology

GUIDE FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJORS

Sociology majors must complete College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements for both the BA or BGS degree and a total of 33 credit hours of course work in Sociology. For students declaring the major on or after August 18, 2005, the course work in Sociology must include the following:

1. Specifically required courses:
 - One elements or principal course: SOC 104, SOC 105, or SOC 304
 - Two research skills courses: SOC 310* **and** SOC 510*
 - One theory course: SOC 500*

* Please note that SOC 310 is a prerequisite for SOC 510, and SOC 510 is a prerequisite for SOC 500. **These courses cannot be taken concurrently.**

2. Fifteen of the remaining 21 credit hours must be in courses numbered 300 or above. No more than 3 credits of SOC 490, SOC 499, SOC 598, and SOC 698 can be used to satisfy this 15 credit hour requirement.
3. The grade point average for all Sociology course work at the 300 and above levels must be no lower than 2.0.
4. At least 12 credit hours of the 300 or above level credit hours must be KU courses.
5. No more than 6 credit hours from KU Continuing Education may be applied toward the major.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS

Students majoring in various disciplines are encouraged to minor in Sociology. The minor consists of 18 credit hours of course work, which includes SOC 104 and at least 12 hours of Sociology courses at the Junior/Senior level. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in SOC coursework is required to graduate with the minor.

DECLARATION OF THE MAJOR

Students who are interested in exploring a major in Sociology are encouraged to talk with our Advising Specialist in 719 Fraser (864-9425) who will advise students on general education requirements as well as general information about the major and minor. ***The Sociology department urges students to apply to the major as soon as they complete SOC 104 and one additional Sociology course.*** Once students have completed these two courses, they should bring an ARTS form to a meeting with the Advising Specialist, who will verify their coursework in Sociology, help the new major plan their path through the major, and give them a Major Declaration form to fill out. Prospective majors then schedule a meeting with a faculty member of the department's Undergraduate Studies Committee who will sign the Major Declaration form and discuss the content of the major.

ADVISING

We urge you to consult with faculty advisors during enrollment and at other times during the semester. Enrollment advising is provided by members of the faculty during the times set forth in the University Timetable.

Because Sociology is a diverse discipline, Sociology majors have a wide range of courses from which to choose. Faculty can help students select those courses in Sociology and in related departments that are most useful for their individual interests and goals.

At least as important as enrollment advising is the advice faculty members can provide on an ongoing basis to

help them to reflect on their intellectual interests and needs and identify ways to fulfill them. Faculty members of the department's Undergraduate Studies Committee have the responsibility for responding to the needs and concerns of Sociology majors. Members of this committee can be contacted through the departmental office (716 Fraser, 864-4111 or online at <http://www.ku.edu/~socdept/>). **We strongly recommend that majors establish an advising relationship with one or two specific faculty members.** Majors and prospective majors are welcome to consult with any member of the Sociology faculty.

GETTING STARTED

Several Sociology classes have no prerequisites and, thus, can be taken as a first course in Sociology. These courses can usually be used to meet the prerequisites for other SOC courses, and can be used to fulfill various general education requirements:

SOC 104/105 (SC)	SOC 150/151 (SI)
SOC 110/112 (SC)	SOC160/161 (SF)
SOC130/132 (NW)	SOC 220 (SC)

Sociology offers optional concentrations in the major. Please consult with your faculty advisor to determine whether this option best serves your own needs and goals. Students pursuing concentrations are urged to begin no later than the first semester of their junior year.

COMPLETING REQUIREMENTS

Not every course required for the Sociology major is offered each semester. Majors must take required courses in the sequence below. Because they provide a general background for appreciating the issues and themes in more specialized Sociology classes, taking them at the appropriate time will enhance the learning experiences in other Sociology courses. For example, students benefit from taking a research course as early as possible, as research is fundamental to the sociological enterprise. In any case, it is unwise to defer a required class until the last semester before graduation, as it might not be offered during a given semester. The Sociology Department is committed to offering all courses required for its major at least once each year.

RECOMMENDED PATH THROUGH THE MAJOR:

Year 1 and 2:	Take SOC104 and at least one other SOC course
Year 2:	When qualified, declare major. Take SOC 310 (Methods) and 1-2 other courses at the 300 level or above
Year 3:	Take SOC 510 (Statistics) and 1-2 other courses at the 300 level or above Discuss options for independent work (readings, internship, honors research) with your advisor. If planning internship, apply for approval.
Year 4:	Take SOC 500 (Theory) and 1-2 other courses at the 300 level or above; do internship, if pursuing Honors in Major, begin work on thesis under direction of your advisor. Complete required credits by pursuing special interests; if pursuing honors: complete research

HONORS IN SOCIOLOGY

To qualify for "Graduation with Honors in Sociology," a major must earn a 3.25 GPA for all college work and a 3.5 GPA in Sociology. S/he also must complete 6 hours of course work in SOC 499, culminating in a superior thesis, which will be reviewed by three members of the College faculty, at least two of whom must be in Sociology. Honors work almost always requires more than one semester from the time it is initially planned until its completion. It typically involves a close working relationship with a member of the Sociology faculty expert in the field of the honors student's thesis. Therefore, students should begin planning for honors in the major early.. **Students planning on doing honors research should contact a member of the Sociology faculty no later than the end of the third**

semester prior to graduation.

CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY

Earning a B.A. or a B.G.S in Sociology will prepare you for many different careers post graduation. If you choose to pursue an undergraduate degree only, you will be well prepared for entry level positions in social science, business, government, journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration. Either degree will also prepare students for graduate work in Sociology, thus becoming a professor, researcher or applied sociologist.

OPTIONAL AREAS OF CONCENTRATION IN THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

Optional concentrations are fulfilled by taking 12 credits from the list of approved courses. Most courses are offered at least once a year, but some courses are offered less regularly. Please consult with your faculty advisor to find out about anticipated course offerings. Students who want to develop concentrations are urged to begin early. On completion of a concentration, send a note with a copy of your ARTS form to the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies indicating that you would like a letter verifying that you have done this work.

Social and Cultural Diversity

330 American Society
352 Sociology of Sex Roles
371 Unusual Groups
521 Social Stratification
522 American Racial and Ethnic Relations
523 The Sociology of Aging
531 Third World Social Change
534 Comparative Racial and Ethnic Relations
561 Social Deviation
570 Social Conflict
601 Introduction of Feminist Social Theory
623 Women and Work
630 Latin American Society

Social Policy

522 American Racial and Ethnic Relations
523 The Sociology of Aging & the Life Course
524 Sociology of the Economy
560 Law and Criminal Justice
562 Sociology of Law
573 Sociology of Violence
619 Political Sociology
624 Sociology of Health and Medicine
627 School and Society
661 Causation of Crime and Delinquency
662 Corrections
671 Social Movements

Work and Economy

330 American Society
521 Social Stratification
524 Sociology of the Economy
525 Sociology of Work
531 Third World Social Change
572 Dispute Settlement
620 Social Organization
623 Women and Work

GRADUATE STUDY

It is recommended that any student who is considering graduate study in Sociology at KU or another university complete all of the following courses: SOC 104, SOC 310, SOC 499, SOC 500, and SOC 510. For questions regarding graduate school, please contact the director of graduate studies, [Professor Eric A. Hanley](#) at 864-4111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and news of visiting speakers and other events are posted on the department's web page, the bulletin board outside the department office and in the glass display case in the first floor

lobby of Fraser Hall.