

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
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 is required.

DECLARATION OF THE MAJOR

Students who are interested in exploring a major in Sociology are encouraged to talk with Dawn Shew, our Advising Specialist in 719 Fraser (864-9425 or dshe@ku.edu) 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 Dawn Shew who will verify their coursework in sociology, 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 help the new major plan their path through 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 a specific faculty member.*** 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 classes that require one: SOC 104, 105, 130, 132, 150, 160, 161, 220, 273, 352, 371. 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 are strongly encouraged to 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 immensely 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 & 2: Take SOC104 and one other SOC course

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| Year 3: | Fall Semester | Declare major. Take SOC 310 (Methods) and 1-2 other courses at the 300 level or above |
| | Spring Semester | 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: | Fall Semester | Take SOC 500 (Theory); do internship, if pursuing Honors in Major, begin work on thesis under direction of your advisor |
| | Spring Semester | 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 meet the College's requirement for 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, including two from 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, very early planning for the honors major is strongly recommended. **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.

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 864-9412

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and news of visiting speakers and other events are posted on the bulletin board outside the department office and in the glass display case in the first floor lobby of Fraser Hall.