Sociology

Sociology is the study of group life. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations and societies. The goal is to understand the characteristics, causes and consequences of human behavior and social relationships in various kinds of groups and settings. Because human behavior is diverse, the field of sociology covers a diversity of subjects. Sociologists may specialize in the family, the urban community, education, health and medicine, social movements, deviance, crime and law, religion, politics, work and occupations, sports and leisure, race and ethnic minorities, gender and sex roles, or other areas of human behavior. Sociology is a liberal arts/social science major that provides graduates with the scientific tools and the perspective necessary to better understand social issues and complex societal problems.

Pursuing Sociology at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in sociology within the College of Arts and Sciences.

For students interested in majoring in sociology, the first step is to see an undergraduate advisor in the Department of Sociology to plan course work for the major and the completion of the General Education requirements.

Sociology Requirements
Core requirements
As a prerequisite to declaring a major in sociology, students must complete Sociology 1101, Introduction to Sociology. This three-hour course may be taken concurrently with other lower-level sociology courses. Students majoring in sociology must complete the following core requirements:
• Sociology 3463: Social Stratification: Race, Class and Gender
• Sociology 3487: Research Methods in Sociology
• Sociology 3488: Introduction to Sociological Theory
• Sociology 3549: Statistics in Sociology

Additional Sociology Courses
Students majoring in sociology also must complete a minimum of 24 additional credit hours of course work in sociology, including a minimum of 12 hours of 4000- or 5000-level sociology courses. Students should consult with a sociology advisor to develop a plan of study that is appropriate for meeting their academic and career interests and goals.

In an effort to best prepare them for life after college, sociology students are required to complete either a research or internship experience. Students will enroll in either Sociology 3191, Internship Program; Sociology 4998, Undergraduate Research; Sociology 4005, Proseminar in Sociology; or Sociology H4999, Senior Honors Thesis.

World Renowned Faculty
The sociology faculty is nationally and internationally recognized for their contributions to research, scholarship and teaching. Students have the opportunity to study with some of the leading scholars in the world in their respective fields. The contacts and references provided by this faculty can be invaluable when applying to graduate school or for landing a great job after graduation.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
The Department of Sociology has developed a strong internship program. Sociology students may augment their course work with career-related internship and volunteer field experiences. Students participate in community-based experiences at settings such as the American Red Cross, Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resource Center and State Senator Offices. Students can receive credit for their internship experiences. Learn more at sociology.osu.edu/undergraduate-program.

The Department of Sociology has an active chapter of the national Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honorary society, which hosts annual recognition events and is a forum for intellectual exchange.

The Department of Sociology also hosts a Sociology and Criminology Club, with which students may do service work, attend speaking events, discuss movies and participate in a variety of social activities.

For more information, check these websites:
Sociology: sociology.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Honors & Scholars Program

Honors students who pursue a major in sociology can enroll in Honors-specific courses, conduct research with faculty, attend departmental forums, and engage in intellectual discussions as a member of the Honors community. The following courses all have Honors sections offered at least once a year:

- Sociology H1101: Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology H2345: American Society
- Sociology H2367.01: The Political Elite and Interest Groups
- Sociology H2367.03: Work and Family in the United States
- Sociology H3410: Criminology
- Sociology H3463: Social Stratification: Race, Class and Gender
- Sociology H3487: Research Methods in Sociology

Honors students are exposed to research in several ways. Most courses at the 4000 level and above require students to read and critique research articles. Relationships developed in class lead many students to become involved in faculty-led research projects or conduct their own independent research (Senior Honors Thesis) under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Career Prospects in Sociology

An undergraduate major in sociology is good general preparation for a variety of careers. Major sectors of employment for undergraduate sociology majors include: health and social services (in family planning, substance abuse, group work with youth or the elderly, recreation, or administration); community work (in fund-raising, social service organizations or child welfare agencies); criminal justice and corrections (in law enforcement, probation and parole); the business community; and the federal, state or local government (in transportation, housing, agriculture and labor).

Many undergraduate sociology majors go on to post-baccalaureate work in law, business, public administration, social work, public health and urban planning.

Many students also will use the undergraduate major as preparation for graduate work in sociology. Graduate degrees lead to teaching and/or research positions in universities or colleges, governmental agencies, business and industrial firms, or research institutes in the nonprofit sector. Some sociologists are employed in clinical or applied roles and help identify problems, define their root causes and implement possible solutions.

Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the sociology program, visit sociology.osu.edu/undergraduate-program.