SOCIOLOGY MAJOR, B.A.

Contact Information

Department of Sociology
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The undergraduate major in sociology at UNC–Chapel Hill provides students with theoretical, methodological tools, and substantive insights for understanding human social life and institutions. The major is designed to offer its students training in critical thinking, analytical problem solving, reasoned judgment, and effective communication as well as broad knowledge of human relations and social systems, providing useful tools for a variety of careers. The curriculum and requirements are flexible enough to permit students to tailor their program to fit individual needs and interests. The undergraduate sociology program includes opportunities to put sociological ideas into practice through research by means of independent studies, theses, and internships.

Department Programs

Majors
- Sociology Major, B.A. (p. 1)

Minor

Graduate Programs
- M.A. in Sociology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/sociology)
- Ph.D. in Sociology (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/sociology)

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

- attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC-Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC-Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 101</td>
<td>Sociological Perspectives (with a grade of C or better) H</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 250</td>
<td>Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCI 253</td>
<td>Sociological Theory - Experiential</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 251</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 252</td>
<td>Data Analysis (taken during the junior year, if possible) J</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Three SOCI electives numbered above 400 (upper-level). With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, one of the following courses may count as a 400-level elective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 290</td>
<td>Special Topics in Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 396</td>
<td>Independent Study and Reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 691H</td>
<td>Senior Honors Research and Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 692H</td>
<td>Senior Honors Research and Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two additional three-hour SOCI courses (six hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 27

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

1 If possible, SOCI 101 should be taken by the end of the sophomore year.

2 Students who are double majoring in psychology and sociology may replace SOCI 252 with PSYC 210 plus (+) an additional 400-level SOCI course.

3 First-year seminars in sociology can count toward the major but may be taken only by first-year students.

Sociology (SOCI) course descriptions (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/sociology/#coursestext).

University graduation credit will be given for only one in each of the following sets of courses: SOCI 130 and SOCI 425, SOCI 250 and SOCI 253, SOCI 273 and SOCI 274, SOCI 411/PWAD 411 and SOCI 413, SOCI 414 and SOCI 417, SOCI 423 and SOCI 426.

Students must earn grades of C or better in SOCI 101 and at least 18 hours in the major.

Courses in Career Areas

The sociology major provides an excellent foundation for many careers. We recommend the following clusters of courses for students with specific career goals in the following areas:

Business and Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 131</td>
<td>Social Relations in the Workplace</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 251</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 252</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 410</td>
<td>Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 415</td>
<td>Economy and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 427</td>
<td>The Labor Force</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

International Affairs and Development

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 420</td>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 450</td>
<td>Theory and Problems of Developing Societies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 453</td>
<td>Social Change in Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Education
- SOCI 412 Social Stratification 3
- SOCI 423 Sociology of Education, Experiential Education 3
- SOCI 426 Sociology of Education 3

### Law
- SOCI 122 Race and Ethnic Relations 3
- SOCI 123 Crime and Delinquency 3
- SOCI 133 Sociology of Politics 3
- SOCI 273 Social and Economic Justice, Experiential Education 3
- SOCI 274 Social and Economic Justice 3
- SOCI 420 Political Sociology 3
- SOCI 424 Law and Society 3
- SOCI 442 Conflict and Bargaining 3

### Public Policy
- SOCI 133 Sociology of Politics 3
- SOCI 251 Research Methods 3
- SOCI 252 Data Analysis 3
- SOCI 273 Social and Economic Justice, Experiential Education 3
- SOCI 274 Social and Economic Justice 3
- SOCI 412 Social Stratification 3
- SOCI 414 The City and Urbanization 3
- SOCI 415 Economy and Society 3
- SOCI 417 The City and Urbanization, Experiential Education 3
- SOCI 420 Political Sociology 3
- SOCI 422 Sociology of Health and Mental Illness 3
- SOCI 424 Law and Society 3
- SOCI 429 Religion and Society 3
- SOCI 431 Aging 3
- SOCI 468 United States Poverty and Public Policy 3

### Community Service, Organizing, and Advocacy
- SOCI 133 Sociology of Politics 3
- SOCI 273 Social and Economic Justice, Experiential Education 3
- SOCI 274 Social and Economic Justice 3
- SOCI 411 Social Movements and Collective Behavior 3
- SOCI 412 Social Stratification 3
- SOCI 413 Social Movements and Collective Behavior, Experiential 3
- SOCI 427 The Labor Force 3
- SOCI 429 Religion and Society 3
- SOCI 468 United States Poverty and Public Policy 3

### Medicine and Public Health
- SOCI 251 Research Methods 3
- SOCI 252 Data Analysis 3
- SOCI 422 Sociology of Health and Mental Illness 3
- SOCI 431 Aging 3
- SOCI 468 United States Poverty and Public Policy 3
- SOCI 469 Health and Society 3

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**Special Opportunities in Sociology and Management and Society**

### Honors in Sociology
The department attempts to identify and invite all qualified students to participate in the senior honors program. Students who are not contacted, especially double majors, transfer students, and students who declare their major in sociology relatively late in their college careers, are encouraged to speak with their major advisor or the department’s honors advisor no later than the preregistration period during the second semester of their junior year.

To graduate with honors in sociology, a major must meet the following requirements:

- At least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average in major courses and all courses taken at the University
- Completion of an honors thesis based on independent study, which may involve collection of data by the student, under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor
- Participation in an honors seminar program during the fall and spring semesters of the senior year.

Students may receive credit for one or both senior honors research and seminar courses (SOCI 691H and SOCI 692H) depending on the extent of their thesis work.

For more information on honors, contact Professor Howard Aldrich (howard_aldrich@unc.edu), CB# 3210, 202 Hamilton Hall, (919) 962-5044.

### Honors in Management and Society
A student may, as a result of distinguished work (3.3 grade point average or higher), be awarded a degree with honors or highest honors. This requires completion of a senior honors thesis. Interested students should contact the management and society office for more information. Honors students should enroll in MNGT 691H and MNGT 692H. MNGT 692H will fulfill one of the course requirements from the social context of business group listed above.

### Student Clubs
The Sociology Club is a student-run, student-driven organization that may provide relevant presentations, discussions, guidance, and/or service opportunities in sociology. The Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) is a student-run, student-driven organization that may provide relevant presentations, discussions, guidance, and/or service and intern opportunities in management and society.

### Independent Study and Reading
SOCI 396 may be taken for one to three hours of course credit depending on the amount of academic work planned by the student. It is usually taken by juniors and seniors who have completed at least two or three semesters of the senior year. Students may use independent study to:

- Do reading and research in an area in which no course is offered
- Take advanced or more specialized coursework in a specific area of sociology

After an area of study has been selected, the student contacts a faculty member in the department whose interests are in or related to the topic area. If the faculty member agrees to direct the student’s independent study, the student needs final approval by the department’s director of undergraduate studies. It is the student’s and faculty supervisor’s
responsibility to determine the amount of reading and/or outside work to be done, the frequency with which the student’s progress will be assessed, and the papers or examinations that will constitute the course requirements. An approved learning contract is necessary, and some written work involving sociological analysis is required to receive credit for SOCI 396. Students must sign up for SOCI 396 before the end of the first week of classes.

**Independent Experiential Internship**

Students may combine employment and study in the form of an internship program for which they receive one to three academic credits through SOCI 393. The student must assume responsibility for employment arrangements. Students may not receive credit for paid employment. The student contacts a faculty member in the department whose interests are in or related to the area of the internship. If the faculty member agrees to direct the internship, the student needs final approval by the department’s director of undergraduate studies. Credit is not provided for the internship alone; some written work involving sociological analysis is required to receive credit for SOCI 393. Because of the expectation that students doing an internship for academic credit will conduct substantive sociological analysis, it is very important that planning begin early. Students must secure all approvals for the contract before the first day of the internship.

**Undergraduate Howard W. Odum Award**

The Undergraduate Howard W. Odum Award is presented yearly to a graduating senior who has displayed excellence in undergraduate sociological achievement. This award was established in 1967 in honor of Professor Howard Odum, who founded and first chaired the UNC–Chapel Hill Department of Sociology. Odum was a pioneer in American sociology and a major influence on the discipline. The department faculty selects the recipient of the annual award on the basis of grade records and other demonstrations of academic talent and accomplishment as an undergraduate.

**Undergraduate Research**

Students interested in working with faculty on their research projects should contact the Office for Undergraduate Research for more information and also speak with the director of undergraduate studies.