College of Arts & Sciences

Sociology

Overview
Sociology is the scientific study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. The sociology program provides exposure to human cultures around the world, critical thinking, intellectual skills, research skills, and integrative learning about the U.S. and the world at large. The skills obtained provide for a wide array of career possibilities in jobs that require knowledge of human behavior and group interaction and/or skills in conducting research.

Kansas State University offers a four-year undergraduate B.S. or B.A. degree in sociology. The program includes a basic core of sociology classes and provides an opportunity for students to select additional sociology classes designed around their special interests and career goals.

Professional options

Careers
A bachelor’s degree in sociology provides the option to continue your studies in graduate school or in the professions of law or medicine. Some graduates continue their education in graduate programs.

Many B.A. and B.S. graduates in sociology pursue a wide range of occupations. The following general categories represent employment and career paths.

Professions
- Counseling
- Research
- Teaching

Service occupations
- Population and demographic analyst
- Planning (urban, city, etc.)
- Parole/probation agent/officer
- Social services
- Child care

Management/administration
- Public administration
- Insurance

Employers

Local government employers
- Department/bureau of health
- Research institutes/agencies

Nonprofit sector employers
- Health services
- Religious organizations
- Professional associations
- Urban research organizations
- Community welfare

Private sector employers
- Communications firms
- Human resources firms
- Marketing firms
- Retailers

Job experience
Junior- or senior-year students in the sociology program may participate in a professionally supervised internship in a social service or criminal justice agency directly related to their career interests and aspirations. The aim of the supervised internship is to prepare beginning professionals for careers in a setting related to their major. The field experience component is coordinated with the career and employment services office.

Academics

Faculty
An excellent teaching faculty makes K-State’s well-balanced sociology program possible. Sociology faculty are participants in regional and national professional organizations representing various areas of specialization. They have contributed to the field by presenting papers at conferences sponsored by professional organizations, by conducting funded research, by publishing articles in professional journals and by writing books.

Points of pride
The Princeton Review named K-State among the best colleges in the country, K-State is a national leader among state-supported universities in its total of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall scholarship winners.

Advising
Advising is a major component of undergraduate education in the sociology department. Upon declaring a major in sociology, you will be assigned an academic advisor. You will meet with your academic advisor every semester. The advisor will review and help guide your program of study, though it’s your responsibility to know the requirements for the degree you are pursuing.

Activities

Clubs
The criminology club and the Delta chapter of Kansas Alpha Kappa Delta National Honorary Society provide opportunities for students to further their professional and campus interests outside the classroom.

Financial assistance

Scholarships
The sociology program awards several scholarships on an annual basis. Some scholarships are awarded to students majoring in either sociology or criminology. These scholarships include:
- The John Thurow-Hill Scholarship, awarded to a senior majoring in sociology or criminology.
- The Grace and Glen Long Scholarship, awarded to a junior or senior majoring in sociology or criminology.
- The Damaon and Carrie Hininger Scholarship in Sociology, awarded to a sociology or criminology major.
- The CCA Correctional Solutions Scholarship, awarded to a criminology major.
- The Ann McKee Regnier Scholarship for Sociology, awarded to a junior or senior majoring in sociology.
Suggested coursework

To receive a B.A. or B.S. degree with a major in sociology, you must complete the university’s general education requirements and the requirements of the sociology major. Sociology majors are required to complete 31 credit hours in sociology.

Tool and related courses*

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<tr>
<th>Hrs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 325 Introduction to Statistics</td>
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Sociology core requirements

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCIO 211 Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SOCIO 423 Methods of Social Research I</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCIO 431 Comparative Social Theories</td>
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*At advisor’s recommendation, students may be required to take 3 credit hours of CIS 101-104 to gain necessary computing skills.

Sociology electives

Twenty-one hours of sociology electives are required, with at least 12 hours at the 500 level or above. SOCIO 568 and 569 may not count toward those required electives.

Elective hours in sociology include courses focusing on social problems, international development, population dynamics, cities and metropolitan areas, rural communities, environmental issues, social inequality, criminology, gender studies, race and ethnicity, religion, work and international migration.

For more information about sociology, contact:

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