

# Sociology

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(301) 405-6389

<http://www.socy.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>

## Key Features of a Sociology Major

- At the individual level, sociologists focus on how the behavior, thoughts, and emotions of individuals are created and modified by the social and cultural conditions in which they live.
- At the societal level, sociological inquiry focuses on the components of society—biophysical environment, technology, population, social organization and culture—how these are interrelated, how they change, and how they come to shape our collective social existence.
- The University of Maryland’s Sociology Department is ranked 24th among all sociology departments nationally by the U.S. News and World Report’s annual rating system. Importantly, this department has an internationally reputed faculty in the specialty areas of Comparative Sociology, Demography, Development, Gender, Work and Family, Military Sociology, Social Psychology, Stratification, and Theory.
- Local collaborative research projects are commonly practiced by students in the Sociology Department with research centers such as the Maryland Population Research Center, Center for Research on Military Organization, Maryland Stress & Health Program, and Center for Innovation.
- The undergraduate program offers three areas of specialization: Family and Demography, Social Organizations, and Social Stratification. These specializations can often be integrated with a second major.

## Career Options and Salaries with a Sociology Major

Sociologists analyze how social influences affect different individuals. They are also concerned with the ways organizations and institutions affect the daily lives of individuals and groups. To analyze social patterns, sociologists design research projects that use a variety of methods including historical analysis, comparative analysis, and quantitative and qualitative techniques. The results of sociological research aid educators, lawmakers, administrators, and others who are interested in resolving social problems and formulating public policy. Most sociologists work in one or more specialties such as social organization, stratification, and mobility; racial and ethnic relations; education; the family; social psychology; urban, rural, political, and comparative sociology; gender relations; demography; gerontology; criminology; and sociological practice.

As of May 2016, the median annual wage and salary earnings of sociologists were \$73,760.

(Salary information taken from *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17*. <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>)

## Advising

If you are considering a major in Sociology, you can easily meet with an advisor in the Sociology Department to answer any questions you may have. To make an appointment, call or visit:

- Phone: (301) 405-6389
- 2108 Art/Sociology Building

## Declaring a Sociology Major

- ***Sociology is not a Limited Enrollment Program. If you have decided to major in this field, you can declare immediately!***

When you declare that you will major in Sociology, you are also declaring that you will be a student in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), which houses the Sociology Department. There are two levels in your process of declaring and later advising, the department (Sociology) and the College (Behavioral and Social Sciences). The College will advise you regarding your CORE or General Education requirements and the Department will advise you regarding your major requirements.

- 1) Review the Sociology Department's website, focusing on the information for undergraduates (<http://www.socy.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>)
- 2) Make an appointment with the undergraduate advisor in Sociology to talk further about your interest (See contact information above). The advisor will review the requirements for the major and explain your new academic department to you.
- 3) Register on-line for an academic planning workshop with BSOS Advising at [www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu](http://www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu). Workshops are held several times a semester.
- 4) After the workshop, complete an academic plan and submit it to BSOS Advising for review.
- 5) Wait to hear from BSOS advising by email. They will contact you if you need to amend your academic plan or to notify you that you have been officially added as a Sociology Major to the college of BSOS. This can take as little as a few days or as long as three weeks. Declaring at the end of the semester will take longer than declaring at the beginning or middle of a semester.

## Four Year Plan (GenEd)

Year 1	Fall		Spring	
Complete your graduation plan!  Benchmark 1 requirements must be completed within 2 semesters Academic Writing Gen Ed course 1 Gen Ed course 2 MATH 111, 220, 140, or STAT 100 SOCY 100 SOCY Course of Choice	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	ENGL101 (AW: Academic Writing)	3	AR (Analytic Reasoning)	3
	MA: Math (based on placement)	3	OC (Oral Communication)	3
	HU (Humanities)*	3	NL (Natural Sciences Lab)*	4
	SOCY 100	3	HS (History/Social Sciences)*	3
	Elective	3	SOCY Elective 1	3
	UNIV 100	1		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>
Year 2	Fall		Spring	
Check in with your advisor regarding your benchmark or gateway progress!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	HU (Humanities)*	3	NS (Natural Sciences)*	3
	SOCY 202 SP (Scholarship & Practice -major)*	4	SP (Scholarship & Practice -non-major)*	3
	UP (Understanding Plural Societies) or CC (Cultural Competence)	3	SOCY Breadth 1/Depth 1	3
	SOCY 201	4	Elective	3
	Elective	2	Elective	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Year 3	Fall		Spring	
Complete an academic audit (review of academic record) between 75—89 credit!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	UP (Understanding Plural Societies)	3	PW (Professional Writing)	3
	SOCY Breadth 2	3	SOCY Depth 2	3
	SOCY Breadth 3	3	Supporting Course 1	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Year 4	Fall		Spring	
Apply for graduation!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	SOCY Depth 3	3	SOCY IRMC	3
	SOCY Elective 2	3	SOCY 203	3
	Supporting Course 2	3	Supporting Course 4 (400 level)	3
	Supporting Course 3 (400 level)	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

\*Important Planning Notes:

**Cumulative Credits + Planned Credits = Total Credits**    120

- All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for the I-Series requirement (I-Series are not listed separately)
- Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category

## Four Year Plan (CORE)

### First Year:

SOCY 110	3
MATH 111	3
ENGL 101	3
HA	3
UNIV 100	2
	<hr/>
	14 credits

SOCY 201	3
HL	3
SB	3
HA/HL/HO/IE	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	16 credits

### Second Year:

SOCY 202	3
SOCY Breadth #1	3
SH	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

SOCY 203	3
SOCY Breadth #2	3
LL/PL	4
Diversity	3
Elective	2
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	15 credits

### Third Year:

SOCY Research Methods	3
SOCY Breadth #3	3
Supporting Course #1	3
LS/PS	3
Elective	3
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	15 credits

SOCY Depth Course #1	3
SOCY Depth Course #2	3
Supporting Course #2	3
ENGL 39x	3
Elective	3
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	15 credits

### Fourth Year:

SOCY Depth Course #3	3
Supp. Course #3 400 Level	3
Advanced Studies #1	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
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	15 credits

SOCY Additional Course	3
Supp. Course #4 400 Level	3
Advanced Studies #2	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

**TOTAL = 120 Credits**

## Q & A

***How long will it take for me to become a Sociology Major after I follow the steps above?***

The above process of declaring normally takes several days, depending partly upon how fast a student acts and partly upon the number of plans under review by the College. The weeks prior to registration and during registration for a new semester are all times when an unusually large number of students seek approval of their plans. During these times, the change of major process will take longer —as much as two to three weeks. You can minimize the time you wait if you "plan ahead" and get these steps done during other time periods.

***Can I tailor my Sociology major to a particular specialization?***

Yes. Sociology offers four concentrations within the Major: Family and Demography, Social Organizations, and Social Stratification. For an explanation of these concentrations, please see <http://www.socy.umd.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-areas-specialization>.