

Sociology, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

Sociology examines human society with an emphasis on social structure, processes of social interaction, and social change. Students learn the methods of social science as well as the specialized knowledge and insights of discipline while selecting from a range of substantive course topics. These include but are not limited to: Racial and ethnic relations, sex and gender, social class and poverty, families and relationships, social psychology and media, health and health care, and urban and rural sociology. Courses in the department also are intended to facilitate the application of sociological principles to a wide range of contemporary social problems.

The major prepares students to pursue a broad range of careers that require knowledge of social organization and social processes. It also prepares students for graduate studies in the social sciences in pursuit of academic or applied research careers or for professional training in law, public administration, social work, public health and other fields. For more information about this program, please visit the departmental website (<http://soca.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/>).

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

FACULTY

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

- Daniel Renfrew - Ph.D. (Binghamton University) Anthropology
Environmental and political anthropology, Social movements, Latin American cultures

PROFESSORS

- Sharon R. Bird - Ph.D. (Washington State University) Sociology
Social Inequality (race/ethnicity/class/gender/LGBTQ+), Workplace equity, Research methods
- Henry H. Brownstein - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology
Distinguished Research Professor. Drugs and society, Drug policy, Violence, Qualitative research methods
- Katie E. Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Washington) Sociology
Theory, Organizations, Culture, Criminology, Religion, Social networks
- Walter S. DeKeseredy - Ph.D. (York University) Sociology
Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences. Violence against women, Critical criminology, Masculinities and crime, Criminology theory
- R. Gregory Dunaway - Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati) Sociology
Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- S. Melissa Latimer - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky) Sociology
Gender/race/ethnicity, Inequality/labor markets/welfare systems
- James Nolan, III - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology
Criminal justice, Group and social processes
- Jason Manning - Ph.D. (University of Virginia) Sociology
Conflict and social control, Violence, Sociology of knowledge
- Rachel Stein - Ph.D. (University of Akron) Sociology
Criminology, Victimization, Media and crime
- Karen Weiss - Ph.D. (SUNY-Stony Brook) Sociology
Criminology, Victimization, Gender/sexuality/culture
- Rachael A. Woldoff - Ph.D. (Ohio State University) Sociology
Community, Crime, Inequality/race/class
- Joshua Woods - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
Social psychology, Media, Complex organizations, Sociology of risk

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Corey Colyer - Ph.D. (Syracuse University) Sociology
People processing systems, Agencies of social control
- Amy Hirshman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Anthropology
Mesoamerican archaeology, Social complexity, Ceramics
- Christopher P. Scheitle - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Sociology
Religion, Science in society, Crime, Organizations
- Jennifer Steele - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Rural Sociology
Natural resource sociology, Rural and community development
- Jesse Wozniak - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
Policing, Criminology, Deviance, State power

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Daniel Brewster - M.A. (West Virginia University) Communication Studies
Culture, Community
- Brandie S. Pugh - Ph.D. (University of Delaware) Sociology
Inequality, Corporate crime, Interpersonal violence, Philosophy of science
- Genesis Snyder - M.A. (Western Michigan University) Anthropology
Historical archaeology

TEACHING INSTRUCTORS

- Douglas Sahady - M.A. (California University of Pennsylvania) Social Science

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Ronald C. Althouse - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology
Theory, Work, Occupational safety and health
- Ann L. Paterson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
- Patricia C. Rice - M.A. (Ohio State University) Anthropology
- Joseph J. Simoni - Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) Sociology
- William I. Torrey - Ph.D. (Columbia University) Anthropology

Admissions for 2026-2027

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major. Students must have a placement into a Math course to receive a complete schedule for their first semester.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with fewer than 24 credits and at least a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with 24 hours or more must have at least an overall GPA of a 2.0 and meet the following requirements prior to being admitted to the major: completion of SOC 101 (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=SOC%20101>) with a C- or higher and eligibility to take MATH 124 (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=MATH%20124>).

Major Code: 14C4

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 4\)](#)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6

F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning	3-4
F4 - Society & Connections	3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past	3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity	3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity	3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Sociology

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, Eberly Edge Program requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

- **Calculation of GPA in the major:** A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements, with a minimum grade of C- is required in ANTH 105, SOC 101, and SOC 191. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** Sociology Bachelor of Arts students fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two **SpeakWrite Certified Courses**™: SOC 488 and a 2nd course selected from ANTH 350, ANTH 352, ANTH 354, ANTH 450, ANTH 457, ANTH 458, CRIM 318, HIST 203, HIST 207, HIST 221, HIST 241, HIST 242, HIST 259, HIST 264, PSYC 241, SOC 323, SOC 360, WGST 150, WGST 225.
- **Experiential Learning:** Students are encouraged to pursue a Professional Field Experience (SOC 491) or Independent Study (SOC 495) in their junior or senior year, combining experiential work with previously acquired skills in a project appropriate to their career goals. SOC 490, SOC 491, and SOC 495 can be taken for variable credit and will count as general elective credits towards graduation, but they cannot be applied to major requirements.
- **Capstone Requirement:** The General Education Foundation requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Sociology majors must complete SOC 488.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	65
	Eberly Edge Requirements	15
	Sociology Major Requirements	40
	Total Hours	120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8	30
	General Electives	35
	Total Hours	65

Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	EDG 1: Data and Society	3
	EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
	EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3
	EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (ANTH 105)	
	EDG 5: Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)	3
	EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
	Total Hours	15

Sociology Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Orientation to the Major		1
SOC 191 or SOC 361	First-Year Seminar (Minimum Grade of C-) Practicing Sociology and Anthropology	
Common Core Requirements		12
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology (Minimum Grade of C-)	
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (Minimum Grade of C-)	
SOC 301	Sociological Theory	
SOC 311	Social Research Methods	
Statistics Requirement		3
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference	
Sociology Requirements		15
Select five of the following (at least three must be 300 or 400-level):		
CRIM 302	Deviant Behavior	
CRIM 318	Hate Crime	
CRIM 415	Mass Media, Crime and Deviance	
SOC 207	Social Problems in Contemporary America	
SOC 221	Families and Society	
SOC 225	Inequality and the Media	
SOC 226	Sexuality and Society	
SOC 235	Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 304	Complex Organizations	
SOC 312	Death and Dying	
SOC 320	Social Psychology	
SOC 323	Sociology of Rural Life	
SOC 331	Sociology of Law	
SOC 333	Sociology of Work and Work Places	
SOC 337	Sociology of American Business	
SOC 360	Sociology of Gender	
SOC 405	Class, Status, and Power	
SOC 463	Economy and Society	
SOC 470	Cities and Urban Life	
Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Electives:		6
Two additional courses in sociology, anthropology, or criminology (at least one must be 300 or 400-level)		
Capstone Experience		3
SOC 488	The Capstone Experience	
Total Hours		40

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOC 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
SOC 101 (GEF 4)		3 ANTH 105 (GEF 7 & EDG 4)	3
GEF 3		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 5		3 GEF 6	3
EDG 1: Data and Society		3 EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
General Elective		1 General Elective	1
		14	16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 8*		3 GEF 8*	3
200-level Sociology Course		3 200-level Sociology Course	3
Statistics Requirement		3 EDG 5: Practicing Arts and Sciences (ARSC 380)	3
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility		3 General Elective	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 8*		3 SOC 311	3
SOC 301		3 Upper-level Sociology Course	3
Upper-level Sociology Course		3 EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Upper-level Sociology Course		3 SOC 488 (Capstone)	3
Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Elective 1		3 Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Elective 2	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
	15		15

Total credit hours: 120

*

Students completing a minor, a second major or a dual degree already fulfill F 8.

Degree Progress

Students are expected to meet the benchmarks set below.

- Complete SOC 101 and ANTH 105 with grades of C- or higher and be eligible to take MATH 124 by the end of the second semester in the program;
- Complete 200-level SOC coursework and STAT 211 by the end of the fourth semester in the program;
- Complete four 300-level courses (including SOC 301 and SOC 311) by the end of of the sixth semester in the program.
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all SOC, ANTH, and CRIM courses counting toward major requirements.
- All majors must meet with their adviser every semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Major Learning Outcomes

SOCIOLOGY

Students graduating with a BA in **Sociology** will have the ability to:

1. Describe sociology's core concepts and approaches to the study of social structures, social dynamics, and social issues, and how it is similar to and different from other social sciences.
2. Demonstrate the sociological imagination by describing how culture and social structure operate, how society shapes individuals and individuals shape society, and the intersectionality of race/ethnicity, gender, class, or other bases of inequality.
3. Identify and compare sociology's core theoretical and methodological approaches and discuss their role in building knowledge about society.
4. Apply ethical principles to the conduct of sociological research and the applications of its findings.
5. Critically analyze sociological questions and issues by retrieving and synthesizing appropriate information and evidence and identifying implications for research and practice/policy.
6. Demonstrate effective, clear and persuasive communication skills according to disciplinary conventions.