

UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION

**For
SOCIOLOGY MAJORS
And
SOCIOLOGY MINORS**

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Undergraduate Information For Sociology Majors and Minors

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed to help you put together a program of study in Sociology that will be most meaningful for you, and to help you understand the career choices available in the field of Sociology. It is not intended to be a substitute for advising from faculty members, but is meant to serve as an adjunct to the advising process. Dr. Michael Roberts serves as the department's Undergraduate Advisor. You should meet with Dr. Roberts to make sure your plan is "on track." All College of Arts and Letters majors are **required** to consult with their departmental advisor within the first two semesters after declaration or change of one's major or minor. Our goal with this handbook is to outline as clearly as possible the options that are available to you as a student majoring or minoring in Sociology at San Diego State University.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of human relationships. Sociologists focus on how people interact with each other to build, maintain, and change human society. We systematically observe social interaction and ask how such relationships arise, why they persist or dissolve, how they change, and what the consequences are for the people involved, as well as for other individuals and groups.

Every kind of human activity is of interest to sociologists – the normal and the abnormal, the everyday as well as the exciting. Sociologists study the homeless and business executives; delinquents and doctors; politicians and protesters; students and surfers. Sociology seeks to understand the interaction of individuals with institutions and social organizations in which we are inextricably involved, and the norms, values, beliefs, and traditions (the culture), that make social life possible and meaningful.

Sociology, by the way, is *neither* socialism *nor* social work (two common misconceptions), even though sociologists study both areas.

Sociology is a liberal arts field. It informs us of the vast array of human structure and interactions from a lover's quarrel to the world as a system. It helps its practitioners understand that, contrary to the American bias toward individualism, not everything in life is totally within one's control. Understanding social, historical, and cultural forces is freeing, for it points us toward a way to act and change the forces we find dehumanizing. Many classes in Sociology illuminate social life – the family, schools, hospitals, government, churches – as well as the operations of power, negotiation, growth, change, and so on.

These insights, when combined with sociological techniques and research methods, make Sociology also a technical specialty, although not all employers have yet realized this. Well-prepared sociology students leave school with a vast array of practical skills, including:

Locating information	Simple statistical analysis
Writing clearly	Organizing ideas
Good oral presentation	Troubleshooting difficulties
Sensitive social observation	Listening to others
Diagnosing problems in groups	Being aware of cultural differences
Data collection	Ability to work on a team
Promoting changes	Creating new understandings
Organizing people	Survey design

Regardless of the occupation or profession you desire, the study of Sociology helps to produce a well-rounded education and a well-rounded person. Indeed, one of the characteristics of a well-educated person is the perception and appreciation of things that others often take for granted. Thus, the individual with a sociological perspective is

in a position to better understand self and others, and to be more flexible in creating and adjusting to new and different situations.

WHERE IS THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY?

The Sociology Department at San Diego State University is located in Nasatir Hall. The departmental office (NH 224, telephone (619) 594-4826, FAX (619) 594-1325), the chairman's office, and faculty offices are found on the same floor of that building. Department resources include the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), which houses various computers. Staff members of the SSRI are available to aid in research activities. In addition to the SSRI, the Sociology Department has a small computer laboratory (shared with Political Science and Philosophy). This lab is used for classes and is available during non-class times for Sociology majors/minors who want to expand their computer, research, and statistical skills.

IMPACTION

The Sociology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the Sociology major, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete with a grade "C" or higher: Sociology 101, 102, and 201. NOTE: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215, will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201. These courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit -- all prerequisite courses (or their equivalents) must be taken for a letter grade.
2. Have successfully completed a minimum of 30 semester units.
3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher.
4. Fulfill the premajor requirements described in the catalog in effect at the time they declare the premajor at SDSU (assuming continual enrollment).

ADVISING FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS AND MINORS

Advising consists of assistance with graduation requirements, including general education requirements, and requirements in the major and minor. The faculty advisor will also assist students in choosing courses that best fit their career goal. The Undergraduate Advisor is Dr. Michael J. Roberts.

MAJORING IN SOCIOLOGY (30 Upper Division Units)

NOTE: Students majoring in Sociology MAY NOT take a Sociology course for both the major and to fulfill the Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education requirement in the Explorations area.

Majoring in Sociology requires that you take and satisfactorily complete 9 units of lower division "preparation for the major" courses and a minimum of 30 upper division units of Sociology with a 2.0 GPA BOTH in Sociology AND Overall. This is a University standard and cannot be appealed. A minor is NOT REQUIRED with this major. Majors must complete the core requirements and the requirement of upper-division sociology electives. Majors, and those planning to be majors, need to meet with the Department's Undergraduate Advisor as soon as possible for program planning and to make sure they are following the correct procedures. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology follow:

Preparation for the Major (9 units):

Sociology 101:	Introduction to Sociology – 3 units
Sociology 102:	Introduction to Social Problems (formerly Soc. 150) – 3 units
Sociology 201:	Elementary Social Statistics – 3 units

Note: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215, will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201 only if the student takes the course for a letter grade and earns a grade of “C” or higher.

Core Courses (18 units) -- required of all majors:

1) Research Methods (3 units):

Sociology 301:	Social Research Methods (formerly Soc. 250)
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2) Theory (6 units):

Sociology 401:	Classical Social Theory
and Sociology 403:	Contemporary Sociological Theory

3) Advanced Methods (3 units):

Sociology 406:	Intermediate Social Statistics
or Sociology 407:	Survey and Experimental Research Methods
or Sociology 408:	Qualitative Research Methods

4) Social Psychology (3 units):

Sociology 410:	Social Psychology: Mind, Self, and Society
or Sociology 412:	Social Construction of Reality

5) Social Organization (3 units):

Sociology 430:	Social Organization
or Sociology 433:	Wealth, Status, and Power

Sociology Electives (12 units):

Sociology 310:	Love, Jealousy, and Envy: The Sociology of Emotions
Sociology 320:	Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society
Sociology 335:	Mass Communication and Popular Culture
Sociology 338:	Sociology of Religion
Sociology 350:	Population and Contemporary Issues
Sociology 352:	Contemporary Social Problems
Sociology 355:	Minority Group Relations
Sociology 420:	Sexuality in Modern Society
Sociology 421:	American Families
Sociology 436:	Sociology of Health and Illness
Sociology 441:	Sociology of Mental Illness
Sociology 442:	Homicide in America
Sociology 443:	Crime and Society
Sociology 444:	Juvenile Delinquency
Sociology 445:	Sociology of Deviance
Sociology 446:	Sociology of Criminal Organizations
Sociology 447:	Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: A Sociological Perspective
Sociology 450:	Social Change
Sociology 456:	Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes
Sociology 457:	Protests, Reforms, and Revolutions

Sociology 480:	Field Internship (with approval of undergraduate advisor and field internship coordinator)
Sociology 490:	Senior Honors Thesis (with approval of undergraduate advisor)
Sociology 496:	Experimental Topics
Sociology 522:	The Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
Sociology 531:	Working and Society
Sociology 539:	Sociology of Education
Sociology 543:	Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment
Sociology 554:	United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Globalization
Sociology 555:	Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society
Sociology 596	Current Topics in Sociology

(Note: Special Study Courses 499 and 597 may be taken in place of certain courses to fulfill requirements. A maximum of six units may be replaced. This must be done with the consent of an instructor and the department chair.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS (UNIVERSITY MANDATED)

Foreign Language Requirement

Competency (successfully completing three consecutive courses of college study) is required in one foreign language. The Department accepts American Sign Language (ASL) to satisfy the foreign language requirement. Refer to the section of the General Catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Upper Division Writing Requirement

Passing the University Writing Proficiency Examination with a passing score of 10 or above OR completing an approved upper division writing course (W) course within the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. Equivalent courses within CAL include a designated section of Rhetoric and Writing Studies (RWS) 305W or CCS 396W, English 306W, English 508W, English 581W, English 548W, History 430W, Linguistics 305W, Linguistics 396W, Religious Studies 396W, RWS 500W, and RWS 503W.

Minor:

A minor is NOT required with this major. If you do wish to choose a minor in another discipline, consult the General Catalog for the specific requirements for that minor. If you need guidance after reading the catalog, you may see the Advisor in the minor department or the Sociology Department Advisor. Minors are declared in the minor department. **If you wish to minor in Business Administration, go to the College of Business Advising Office.**

MINORING IN SOCIOLOGY (18 Units)

NOTE: Courses in the minor MAY NOT be counted toward your major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of 6 upper division units MUST be completed at San Diego State University.

A minor in Sociology is a useful accompaniment to many majors on campus because we all live in a socially organized society and engage in daily social interaction. The minor consists of 18 units of Sociology coursework. The specific course and unit requirements for the minor follow.

Lower Division Minor Courses (6 units):

And or	Sociology 101:	Introduction to Sociology – 3 units
	Sociology 102:	Introduction to Social Problems (formerly Soc. 150) – 3 units
	Sociology 201:	Elementary Social Statistics – 3 units

or Sociology 301: Social Research Methods (formerly Soc. 250) – 3 units
(Prerequisite is Soc. 201 or its equivalent)

(Note: Statistics 119 or 250 or Biology 215 will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201)

Core Course (3 units)

Select 1 course from the following:

	Sociology 401:	Classical Social Theory
or	Sociology 403:	Contemporary Sociological Theory
or	Sociology 406:	Intermediate Social Statistics
or	Sociology 407:	Survey and Experimental Research Methods
or	Sociology 408:	Qualitative Research Methods
or	Sociology 410:	Social Psychology: Mind, Self, and Society
or	Sociology 412:	Social Construction of Reality
or	Sociology 430:	Social Organization
or	Sociology 433:	Wealth, Status, and Power

Upper-Division Sociology Electives (9 units):

Select 3 of the following upper-division Sociology elective courses:

Sociology 310:	Love, Jealousy, and Envy: The Sociology of Emotions
Sociology 320:	Sex and Gender in Contemporary Society
Sociology 335:	Mass Communication and Popular Culture
Sociology 338:	Sociology of Religion
Sociology 350:	Population and Contemporary Issues
Sociology 352:	Contemporary Social Problems
Sociology 355:	Minority Group Relations
Sociology 420:	Sexuality in Modern Society
Sociology 421:	American Families
Sociology 436:	Sociology of Health and Illness
Sociology 441:	Sociology of Mental Illness
Sociology 442:	Homicide in America
Sociology 443:	Crime and Society
Sociology 444:	Juvenile Delinquency
Sociology 445:	Sociology of Deviance
Sociology 446:	Sociology of Criminal Organizations
Sociology 447:	Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: A Sociological Perspective
Sociology 450:	Social Change
Sociology 456:	Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes
Sociology 457:	Protests, Reforms, and Revolutions
Sociology 496:	Experimental Topics
Sociology 522:	The Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
Sociology 539:	Sociology of Education
Sociology 543:	Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment
Sociology 554:	United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Globalization
Sociology 555:	Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society
Sociology 596:	Current Topics in Sociology

Field Internship (SOC. 480)

Our field internship program has been established with the intent of (1) affording students the opportunity to gain training in business, commercial, and social service agencies that may lead — either directly or indirectly — to post-graduation employment and (2) affording students the opportunity to integrate sociological theory with

practical experience acquired as participants in the social institutions with which they might be involved in the future.

Student interns receive three units of academic credit for participation in the program and will work under the academic supervision of departmental faculty personnel. A few students may be eligible to receive up to six units of credit. Staff personnel at the participating agencies assume practical on-the-job supervision and training. Student interns are, of course, expected to conform to the strictures and regulations of the agencies at which they are placed.

Students who are interested in taking the Field Internship (SOC. 480) must contact Dr. Norma Ojeda for approval to enroll in the course.

CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY

Individuals with a BA in sociology have numerous career options. Some go on to do graduate work in sociology, while others apply to other graduate programs such as law and medicine. Employment opportunities for individuals with a BA in sociology are quite varied, as they are for other Liberal Arts graduates. There is an American Sociological Association Booklet (Careers in Sociology) available in the Department office, which discusses possible career areas.

The skills gained in sociology can be transferred to diverse job settings. Such "crossover skills" include a knowledge of the workings of society, the ability to analyze social problems and to communicate these analyses to others, and interpersonal relations. In addition, sociology major provides training in written and verbal communication, research methods, and analytical techniques. Students may select courses providing them with a number of technical skills that can be translated into a broad range of career competencies (training in computers, various research methods, and statistics).

Based on reports of what graduates majoring in sociology have told us, we find that they are pursuing a wide range of occupations and careers in areas including research, education, business, community, corrections, health, and social service.

"What can I do with a major in Sociology?" . . . A glance at the preceding information suggests this to be limited only by your imagination, initiative, and ability to convince an employer of your versatility and potential.

The General Catalog is no longer available by mail order.

It may be accessed on-line at <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/>

or

purchased in person at the Campus store.

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

Faculty contact information (and their areas of expertise) is available on the department website. If you are unable to reach a professor through his or her direct phones listed, please call (619) 594-4826, the office staff will take your message and place it in the professor's mailbox.