Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the NIU Undergraduate Catalog. Information is valid through August 2016.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Sociology students need to decide whether to pursue a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. Students who have strength in studying foreign languages usually pursue a B.A. degree, while those whose strengths are greater in math and computer science typically pursue a B.S. degree.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Students planning on completing a degree in sociology should take the equivalent of NIU’s SOCI 170 (Introduction to Sociology) at their community college. Students pursuing the B.A. degree should also consider taking the equivalent of NIU’s STAT 208 (Basic Statistics) while students pursuing the B.S. degree should consider taking the equivalent of NIU’s MATH 210 (Finite Mathematics) and MATH 211 (Calculus for Business and Social Science).

Students are also encouraged to take a couple of community college courses within the school’s sociology department that transfer into NIU as sociology major credit. This will allow you to determine early which areas within the discipline are the most interesting to you and the most relevant to your future career goals, while also aiding you in further sociology-course selection once you get to NIU.

Your community college advisor can advise you further on appropriate courses to take at your community college. Your advisor also has the NIU Articulation Tables, which identify comparable courses at NIU and your community college.

About the Department

Sociology is the study of the dynamics of social life, social change and the underlying causes and consequences of behavior. Students will study diverse subject areas that are prominent in the field, including social psychology, criminology, social inequality (race, class, gender), terrorism, social change, heath & medical sociology, urban sociology, social theory & research methods. An undergraduate degree in sociology provides students with real-world skills such as the ability to initiate ideas, develop evidence-based arguments, work cooperatively, and to share leadership and responsibility. Baccalaureate graduates in sociology find employment in a wide range of careers such as research, community development, criminal justice, health services, policy development, public relations and social services.

Faculty:
All permanent sociology faculty members have earned the PhD. Degree and many have national reputations in their fields of specialization, representing diverse topics within the field of sociology. These include criminology, economic inequality, gender & sexuality, work & family, health & aging, immigration & migration, qualitative & quantitative research methods, race & ethnicity, social organization, social psychology, social theory and urban sociology.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

The sociology major provides students with a variety of opportunities to become even more engaged in the field and in doing so you will develop new skills, experiences and credentials of distinction. Students can combine their classroom understanding of world issues with enriching experiences that are life changing and help shape student’s future career goals. Sociology students utilize Study Abroad, participate in artistry & research programs, pursue internships for major credit and present at regional & national conferences.

Student Organizations:

Sociology students have several student organizations available to join including:

- Sociology Student Club
- American Correctional Association, NIU chapter
- Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society

For More Information

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