

# Sociology



Sociology is a fascinating and diverse field of study, examining the dynamics of social life, social change and the underlying factors that drive and shape human behavior. Sociology explores the causes and consequences of phenomena such as poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, deviant behavior, religious belief, and social movements.

A sociology degree will provide you with a solid theoretical understanding of these phenomena that you are sure to encounter in your professional life and equip you with tools that will help you succeed in any career. Our graduates find employment in a wide range of careers from research, community development, criminal justice, health services, policy development, public relations and social services.

## Degree Opportunities

If you opt to major in sociology, you can choose from either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. We also offer two accelerated advanced degree programs - a B.A. or B.S./M.A. program and a B.A./J.D. or B.S./J.D. program (law).

Other options include a sociology minor (18 hours) and a criminology certificate (15 hours).

## Diverse Topics

Our faculty members' areas of expertise represent diverse topics within the field of sociology. These include criminology, economic inequality, gender and sexuality, work and family, health and aging, immigration and migration, qualitative and quantitative research methods, race and ethnicity, social organization, social psychology, social theory, and urban sociology.

## Student Experiences

- Award-winning faculty and instructors.
- Small class sizes.
- Personalized one-on-one advising.
- Departmental honors program.
- Research and independent study opportunities.
- Internship opportunities.
- Study abroad opportunities.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Department of Sociology**

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

# Degree Requirements

In addition to the university requirements for graduation, sociology majors must fulfill the requirements for a set of core courses, sociology electives of their choosing and either the B.A. (3-16 hours) or B.S. (11-15 hours).

## Contact Information

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[niu.edu/sociology](http://niu.edu/sociology)



## Major Requirements (38)

### Core Sociology courses (20 hours):

SOCI 170 Introduction to Sociology (3)  
SOCI 300 Foundations of Sociology (3)  
SOCI 301 Classical Sociological Theory (3)  
SOCI 302 Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)  
SOCI 377A Sociological Inquiry I (4)  
SOCI 377B Sociological Inquiry II (4)

### Sociology electives (18 hours):

18 hours of sociology electives, which MUST include at least 6 hours at the 400-level.

Students must earn a grade of C or better in both SOCI 170 and SOCI 300.

### B.A. requirements:

STAT 100 Basic Statistics (3) OR STAT 200 Elementary Statistics (4)

AND

The equivalent of two years of foreign or sign language at the college level (3-12).

### B.S. requirements:

Alternative I:

MATH 210 Finite Mathematics (3)  
MATH 211 Calculus for Business & Social Sciences (4)  
STAT 200 Elementary Statistics (4) AND  
CSCI 210 Programming for Social Sciences (4)

Alternative II:

MATH 229 Calculus I (4)  
MATH 230 Calculus II (4) AND  
STAT 300 Introduction to Probability & Statistics (3)

## Why Sociology?

- Gain an awareness of cultural and social aspects that shape an individual.
- Identify the phenomena that create conditions that influence groups of people and patterns of behavior.
- Learn how to critically think about human social life, understand how the social world works and how it might be changed for the better.
- Develop your analytical thinking and skills through diverse theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches.
- Wide range of career paths for graduates.



**Northern Illinois University**

*Your Future. Our Focus.*