School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Sociology (BA)

Sociology offers a scientific approach to examining social groups, human interactions, and social change. Sociologists are interested in a wide range of topics and issues related to social life. Some examples of sociological questions include: Why do some groups have more resources and power than others in society and what explains these inequalities? What factors influence marriage and divorce rates? How do families, schools, churches, and corporations affect social control? What are the functions of welfare programs? How do cities grow and transform to reflect changing technologies and population trends? How does law interact with society and social institutions? What are the causes and consequences of crime and deviant behavior?

The mission of the BA in Sociology is to provide undergraduate students (both majors and non-majors) with broad knowledge of the theoretical concepts, empirical research findings, and methodological approaches of the discipline of sociology, with an emphasis on theory and research related to social inequality. As part of this program, sociology majors should gain mastery of these concepts, findings, and approaches central to sociology, as well as develop basic skills in empirical analysis and professional communication.

At UT Dallas, sociology majors are encouraged to go beyond scholarly study to explore ways that sociology can be utilized in corporations, government agencies, or voluntary organizations. Sociology graduates of the university have pursued careers or graduate study in a variety of areas including policy research, social services, business, law, education, law enforcement, and other social sciences.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Degree Requirements (120 hours)¹

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

One of the following:

MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
MATH 1314 College Algebra

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses (see advisor)

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
- HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
- LIT 2331 Masterpieces of World Literature
- PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 2316 History of Philosophy I
- PHIL 2317 History of Philosophy II

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
- ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts

American History: 6 semester credit hours
- HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
- HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
- GOVT 2305 American National Government
- GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
- SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
- EPPS 2301 Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences
And one of the following:
- EPPS 2302 Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences
- EPPS 2303 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences

II. Major Requirements: 48 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 3 semester credit hours
ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
or ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics

Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours

SOC 2320 Contemporary Social Issues
SOC 3303 Classical Social Theory
SOC 3325 Race, Ethnicity, and Community
or SOC 4369 Public Health and Society
SOC 3306 Advanced Research and Writing for the Policy Sciences
or SOC 3381 Field Research Methods
SOC 4302 Class, Status, and Power

One of the following:
SOC 3333 Religion in Society
SOC 3336 Culture Regions
SOC 4387 Religion in International Development

Major Related Courses (27 hours)

18 hours of upper-division Sociology courses
9 hours Major and Related electives

III. Elective Requirements: 30 semester credit hours

This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

1. Incoming freshmen must complete and pass UNIV 1010 Freshman Seminar and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. Most students take upper-division SOC courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.