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 semester credit hours)¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professor: Richard K. Scotch, Sheryl L. Skaggs
Associate Professors: Bobby C. Alexander, Sarah Maxwell

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

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

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from 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**
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses (see advisor)

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts core courses (see advisor)

**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 choose one course from 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 beyond Core Curriculum**
- **ECON 2301** Principles of Macroeconomics  
  or **ECON 2302** Principles of Microeconomics  
- **EPPS 2301** Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences  
- **EPPS 2302** Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences

or EPPS 2303  Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences3, 4
SOC 1301  Introduction to Sociology3, 4

Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours
SOC 3303  Classical Social Theory
SOC 3305  Applied Data Analysis
SOC 3381  Field Research Methods
SOC 4302  Class, Status, and Power
SOC 4306  Advanced Sociological Research
Choose one course from the following:
SOC 4385  Global Health and Society
SOC 4387  Religion in International Development
SOC 4388  Religions in Global Societies

Major Related Courses: 27 semester credit hours
18 semester credit hours of upper-division Sociology courses
9 semester credit hours Major and Related electives5

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.

Minor in Public Health: 18 semester credit hours

Required Courses: 9 semester credit hours
SOC 4369  Public Health and Society
SOC 4372  Health and Illness
SOC 4385  Global Health and Society

Electives: 9 semester credit hours
Any three (3) of the following courses will be accepted as electives for the minor. Other courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the program coordinator.
ECON 3330  Economics of Health
GEOG 3357  Spatial Dimensions of Health and Disease
GEOG 3372  Population and Development
**Minor in Sociology: 18 semester credit hours**

**Required Courses: 9 semester credit hours**

- SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 3303 Classical Social Theory
- SOC 4302 Class, Status, and Power

**Upper-Division Courses: 9 semester credit hours**

Any upper-division classes with a SOC prefix with the exception of SOC 4V97, SOC 4V98, and SOC 4V99.

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1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 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. A Major requirement that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

4. Prerequisite course to upper-division SOC courses.

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