

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Sociology

Students interested in understanding human behavior will benefit from the breadth and depth of scientific inquiry present in the sociology major. Sociology has both academic and personal relevance as students examine patterns of social relationships and social interactions, the role of social institutions in everyday life, and the causes and consequences of social change.

As a scientific discipline, sociology teaches students how to integrate theory and empirical data to investigate current social realities and act effectively on the central issues of our time. Sociology majors have the opportunity to engage with relevant social issues as they take classes on a variety of topics including gender and sexuality, racial discrimination, immigration, crime and deviance, health and medicine, popular culture, social movements, and the environment.

A major in sociology provides students with valuable critical thinking and problem-solving skills and fosters improved communication skills. Students with a degree in Sociology have a strong liberal arts base that helps them succeed in fields such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counseling. The investigative nature of foundational sociological skills also helps students flourish in careers in journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Code	Title	Hours
Sociology Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Elements of Sociology. Satisfied by one of the following:		3
SOC 104	Elements of Sociology	
SOC 105	Elements of Sociology, Honors	
SOC 304	Principles of Sociology	
Introduction to Social Research. Satisfied by:		
SOC 280	Introduction to Social Research	3
Elementary Statistics & Data Analysis. Satisfied by:		
SOC 380	Elementary Statistics and Data Analysis	3

Sociology Theory. Satisfied by:

SOC 480	Sociological Theory	3
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Sociology Required Electives

Majors must complete an additional 18 hours of sociology (SOC) courses beyond the core courses above. At least 12 hours of these must be at the junior/senior (300+) level. Up to 3 hours from SOC 490 or SOC 698, and up to 6 hours from SOC 499, can be applied to this requirement.

Upper-level sociology electives. Satisfied by 12 SOC hours at the Junior/Senior (300+) level

Additional sociology electives. Satisfied by 6 additional SOC hours at the upper or lower level

Capstone Course

All Sociology majors must fulfill the university capstone requirement. Any approved capstone course (CAP) can fulfill this requirement, including:

SOC 499	Honors Course
LA&S 494	Senior Seminar in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Total Hours **30**

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major. At least 15 credit hours at the 300+ level, including SOC 280, SOC 380, and SOC 480, must be taken at KU.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 18 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Graduation Plan

With careful planning and commitment to a full-time course load, you can graduate in 4 years. Download a sample 4-year plan (p. 1) for sociology.

Double Majors

Sociology majors may want to consider a second major in philosophy; history; women's studies; area studies; or one of the natural or social sciences; or a second degree in journalism or other professional disciplines.

A sample 4-year plan for a BA degree in Sociology can be found here: Sociology (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/sociology/ba-bgs/ba-sociology/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Sociology can be found here: Sociology (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/sociology/ba-bgs/bgs-in-sociology/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Use sociological concepts and theories to understand social phenomena and cultural diversity.
- Critically evaluate explanations of human behavior and social phenomena.
- Apply scientific principles and rigorously analyze social scientific data to answer questions about the social world.
- Use sociological knowledge to ethically inform policy debates and promote public understanding of the social world.

Departmental Honors

Working under the supervision of a faculty mentor, the undergraduate student must complete 6 hours of work in SOC 499 culminating in a superior thesis. The thesis must be certified by 3 members of the College faculty, at least 2 of whom must be from sociology, nominated by the candidate and approved by the departmental honors coordinator. The student also must achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.5 in sociology.