

SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (CAPITAL)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	9-15
Requirements for the Major	67-73

7 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GWS courses; 4 credits in GQ courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	3
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology	3
SOC 400W	Senior Research Seminar	3
SOC 405	Sociological Theory	3
SOC 495	Internship	3-9

Additional Courses¹

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

A. Statistics

PSYCH 200	Elementary Statistics in Psychology	4
or STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	

B. Social Institutions

Select three of the following:		9
SOC 30	Sociology of the Family	
SOC 403	Advanced Social Psychology	
SOC 411	Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family	
	or HDFS 416 Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family	
SOC 416	Sociology of Education	
SOC 429	Social Stratification	
SOC 430	Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective	
SOC 446	Political Sociology	

SOC/WMNST 456	Gender, Occupations, and Professions	
C. Social Change and Global Perspectives		
Select three of the following:		9
SOC 15	Sociology of Cities	
SOC 109	Sociological Perspectives	
SOC 297	Special Topics	
SOC 424	Social Change	
SOC 425	Social Conflict	
SOC 432	Social Movements	
SOC 445	U.S. Immigration	
SOC 448		
SOC 454		
D. Diversity		
Select two of the following:		6
AFAM 212	African Americans in the New Jim Crow Era, 1968-present	
BESC/WMNST 464	Feminine/Masculine	
SOC/AFAM/WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism	
SOC/WMNST 110	Sociology of Gender	
SOC/AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
SOC 428	Homelessness in America	
SOC 435	Perspectives on Aging	
	or HDFS 434 Perspectives on Aging	
SOC/RLST 461	Sociology of Religion and Spirituality	
WMNST/CED 420		

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 21

¹ At least 9 of these credits must be at the 400-level.

Requirements for the Option

General Sociology Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits from each of sections B, C and D above 9

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits (at least 3 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with adviser from AAAS, AFAM, BESC, GEOG, SOC 6

Select 6 credits (at least 3 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with adviser from AMST, ANTH, ART, ARTH, COMM, CRIMJ, ENGL, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, THEA, WMNST 6

Community Organization and Social Services Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
BESC 370		3
SOC 5	Society's Problems: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from each of A, B, and C:		9
A. Organization and Leadership		
BESC 408		
MGMT 321	Leadership and Motivation	
MGMT 331	Management and Organization	
SOC 376	Introduction to Human Service Organizations	
B. Community Contexts		
SOC 15	Sociology of Cities	
SOC 103	Racism and Sexism	
SOC 406	Sociology of Deviance	
SOC 412	Crime, Social Control, and the Legal System	
C. Group Processes and Dynamics		
BESC 407		
PSYCH 449	Basic Counseling Skills	
SOC 3	Introductory Social Psychology	
SOC 403	Advanced Social Psychology	
SOC 404	Social Influence and Small Groups	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Choose 6 credits (at least 3 credits at the 400-level) in consultation with adviser from AFAM, AMST, ANTH, ART, ARTH, BESC, COMM, CRIMJ, ENGL, GEOG, HDFS, HIST, IHUM, MGMT, MUSIC, PLSC, PSYCH, PUBPL, SOC, THEA, WMNST		6

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements**First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.