

SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (LIBERAL ARTS)

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: University Park

Degree Requirements

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

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	22-25
Requirements for the Major	59

6-9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of GQ courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, 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. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	3
SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology ¹	3
SOC 400W	Senior Research Seminar ¹	3
SOC 405	Sociological Theory ¹	3
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	4
STAT 184	Introduction to R	2
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics ¹	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
MATH 110	Techniques of Calculus I	4
or MATH 140	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
CMPSC 101	Introduction to Programming (Students should take 101 version based in Python, not C++)	
CMPSC 121	Introduction to Programming Techniques	
CMPSC 131	Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals	
Select 15 credits in sociology, 9 credits must be at the 400 level		15

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

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

Select one of the following five possible pathways: 15

1. Data Analysis

Select 15 credits from the following:

CMPSC 203	Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases
DS 220	Data Management for Data Sciences
DS 310	Machine Learning for Data Analytics
DS 330	Visual Analytics for Data Sciences
DS 402	Emerging Trends in the Data Sciences
DS 410	Programming Models for Big Data
DS 420	Network Analytics
MATH 220	Matrices
MATH 441	Matrix Algebra
STAT 380	Data Science Through Statistical Reasoning and Computation
STAT 460	Intermediate Applied Statistics
STAT 461	Analysis of Variance
STAT 462	Applied Regression Analysis
STAT 463	Applied Time Series Analysis
STAT 464	Applied Nonparametric Statistics
STAT 466	Survey Sampling

2. Geographic Information Systems

GEOG 260	Geographic Information in a Changing World: Introduction to GIScience
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Select 12 credits from the following:

GEOG 363	Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis
GEOG 365	Intermediate GIS Programming
GEOG 463	Geospatial Information Management
GEOG 464	Advanced Spatial Analysis
GEOG 465	Advanced Geographic Information Systems Modeling
GEOG 483	Problem-Solving with GIS
GEOG 484	GIS Database Development
GEOG 485	GIS Programming and Software Development
GEOG 489	Advanced Python Programming for GIS

3. Social Demography

SOC 23	Population and Policy Issues
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Select 12 credits from the following:

GEOG 126	Economic Geography
GEOG 220	Perspectives on Human Geography
GEOG 421	Population Geography
GEOG 422W	
GEOG 425	Geography of Race, Class, and Poverty in America
SOC 408	Urban Ecology
SOC 411	Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the American Family
SOC 422	World Population Diversity
SOC 423	Social Demography
SOC 452	
SOC 459	Communities and Crime

4. Political Analysis

PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers
PLSC 309	Quantitative Political Analysis
Select 9 credits from the following:	
PLSC 404	Analyzing Public Policy in the American States
PLSC 410	Strategy and Politics
PLSC 429	Analysis of Electoral Politics
PLSC 447	Analysis of Public Opinion and Political Attitudes
PLSC 476	Empirical Legal Studies
SOC 180N	State, Society, and Public Policy
SOC 419	Race and Public Policy
SOC 432	Social Movements
SOC 446	Political Sociology
<i>5. Health and Society</i>	
SOC 451	Health, Disease & Society
Select 12 credits from the following:	
SOC 35	Sociology of Aging
SOC 150N	Healthy People, Healthy Society
SOC 162N	Communicating Care
SOC 309	Sociology of Health
SOC 428	Homelessness in America
SOC 435	Perspectives on Aging
SOC 450	Justice and the Environment
SOC 466	Solving Community Problems

¹ Sequencing: SOC 207 and STAT 200 prior to SOC 470; SOC 470 and SOC 405 prior to SOC 400W.

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.