

# Sociology Major Information Sheet

## Sociology Major Requirements (11 credits)

### Required Courses (5 credits)

- SO228 Development of Sociological Thought
- SO229 Research Design
- SO301/2 Quantitative *or* Qualitative Methods
- SO450 Senior Thesis/Capstone (2 credits)
  - Research or theory paper; or
  - Community-based research paper; or
  - Community action project and paper

### Electives (6 credits)

- No more than three 100-level electives may count toward the major
- At least one 300-level elective (prior to SO450)
- SO451 Senior Seminar cannot count as an elective
- Study abroad programs that include a sociological element may contribute 1 elective unit to the major

## Common Timeline for Progressing Through Major

- First Year: Two 100-level electives or one 100-level and one 200-level elective.
- Second Year: SO228 and SO229 (fall or spring); one or two electives at the 200-level
- Third Year: Approximately two electives at the 200 or 300-level; may consider taking SO301 or SO302
- Fourth Year: SO301 or SO302; one or two electives at the 200- or 300-level; SO450 Senior Thesis; SO451 Senior Seminar (optional)

## Competencies and Skill Sets

### Sociological Thinking

- Use sociological methods of thought, inquiry, and analysis to understand and address social issues.

### Research Skills

- Qualitative (Interviewing, ethnography, interactions research, observations, NVIVO)
- Quantitative (SPSS, Stata, ArcGIS, R, data analysis and visualization, statistical modeling)
- Community Based (applied research, collaboration in research needs, community engagement)
- Hypothesis testing, program evaluation
- Survey design, sampling techniques

### Community Engagement and Social Change

- Social and political activism — organizing; activist strategies
- Social/public policy — design, impact evaluation, and political strategizing
- Community Development

## Concentrations (not required for the major)

- Opportunity to specialize in a designated area to signal expertise to employers and graduate schools

### Research Methods and Data Analysis

- SO301 *and* SO302
- SO390: Community Based Research
- One additional research elective– Data Visualization, Community based praxis, Visual ethnography, etc.

### Health and Society

- At least three health electives within the major
- Community engagement requirement

## What is sociology?

Sociology seeks to understand the actions of individuals and groups by situating them within their social and institutional contexts. Sociologists work to discover and reveal the underlying regularities of social life—how patterns of inequality and behavior come to be and how they are reproduced or changed over time. We analyze both how social structures shape action and how, in turn, actions may reproduce or transform those structures. The scope of sociology is quite broad, ranging from the study of emotions, identities, or fleeting encounters to the analysis of global social structures and processes. The purpose of our curriculum is to familiarize students with the basic approach and insights of sociology, its major theoretical approaches, and the ways in which sociological habits of thought can enrich our self-understandings and enhance our capacity to bring about positive social change. Additionally, students develop competencies in research methodologies, community-based research, and modes of social change, such as activism and social policy.

## What can I do with a degree in sociology?

Sociology prepares students for a wide variety of careers and life-long learning. Our students have gone on to careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

### Post-graduate paths of recent graduates:

- Internships/ Fellowships such as the Public Interest Fellowship Program
- Graduate programs such as public policy, education, social work, public health, law, medicine
- Employers such as the United Nations, New Era Colorado, Planned Parenthood, U.S. Census Bureau, and the Southern Poverty Law Center

## Plan for Opportunities:

### Departmental Opportunities and Honors

- FYP Mentor
- Learning assistant
- Student-Faculty Research
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society)
- Sociology Student Advisory Board
- O'Connor Grants for social justice research
- W.E.B DuBois Prize for Excellence in Sociology

### Opportunities at CC and Beyond

- Public Interest Fellowship Program
- Community-Based Research (Collaborative)
- Summer Statistics Programs
- Summer Immigration Institute

**Questions?** Contact a sociology professor, the paraprofessional or the department administrator