COLORADO COLLEGE

Department of Sociology
Sociology Major Information Sheet AY2026-2027

What is Sociology?

Sociology seeks to understand the actions of individuals and groups 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 these patterns are reproduced or changed over time. Sociology's scope is broad, ranging from the study of emotions, identities, or encounters to the analysis of global social structures and processes.

Sociology Major Requirements
11 Credits

Required Courses/5 Credits

- SO228: Social Theory
- SO229: Research Design
- SO401 or SO402: Quantitative or Qualitative
- SO450: Senior Thesis/Capstone (2 Credits)
  - Research 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 towards major
- At least one, 300-level elective (must be taken prior to SO450)
- Study abroad programs that include a sociological element may contribute one elective credit
- SO451/Senior Seminar DOES NOT count as a credit toward the major.

Speak to your advisor if you have questions about electives.

Sociology Concentrations
A concentration is <u>NOT</u> required for the major.

Research Methods & Data Analysis (RMDA)

Courses in addition to Sociology major requirements

- SO401 <u>AND</u> 402: Quantitative and Qualitative (must take both)
- SO328: Community-based research
- SO450: Thesis must use at least one research method informed by coursework
- One additional methods course; consult advisor

Health & Society

Courses in addition to Sociology major requirements

- SO450: Thesis must focus on Health & Society topic
- Advisor approved community engagement project, or internship
- At least three courses from the following:
  - SO246: Sociology of Health/Medicine
  - SO250: Global Health
  - SO320: Mental Health Policy
  - SO292: Sociology of Body & Health
  - SO218: Data Visualization for Social Epidemiology

Contact Wade Roberts with questions about the RMDA or the Health & Society concentration.

Competencies and Skill Sets

CC's curriculum teaches students the basic insights of Sociology, with focus on the major theoretical approaches. Instruction emphasizes how sociological habits of thought promote self-understanding and social change. Students develop competencies in research methods, hypothesis testing & evaluation, community-based research, community engagement and social change including activism and social policy. Core competencies and skill sets include:

- **Sociological Thinking**: Use sociological methods of thought, inquiry, & analysis to understand/address social issues.
- **Research Skills**: Qualitative, quantitative, community-based, hypothesis testing, evaluation, survey design, sampling.
- **Community Engagement & Social Change:** Social & political action, social & public policy, community development.

Career Paths

Sociology prepares students for a range of careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. A small sample of sociological career paths include law, public health & medicine, research, urban planning, counseling, social work, policy analysis, education, human rights, journalism, and government.

Common Timeline for Progressing Through the Major

<u>Year One</u>	<u>Year Two</u>	<u>Year Three</u>	<u>Year Four</u>
Two 100-level electives *or* One 100-level & one 200-level elective	SO228 & SO229 One or two 200-level electives	Two or more 200/300-level electives May consider SO401/402	SO401 and/or SO402 SO450: Senior thesis One or more 200/300-level electives