So you’re thinking about majoring in sociology...

**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 in public spaces to the analysis of global social structures and processes and everything in between.

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 knowledge and habits of thought can enrich our self-understandings and enhance our capacity to bring about positive social change. Additionally, students develop proficiency in methods of gathering and evaluating empirical data to address questions of sociological concern.

**What can I do with a degree in sociology?**
Sociology prepares students for a wide variety of careers and lifelong learning. Our students have gone on to careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

**Paths and careers of recent graduates:**
- Public Interest Fellowship Program internships (e.g., Bell Policy; Omni Institute; Colorado Health Institute)
- Graduate programs in sociology, education, public health, international development; public administration and more
- Law school and medical school
- Watson Fellows
- Development and Human Rights Officer, UK Mission to the UN
- Assistant Provost for Campus and Community Partnerships, DU
- Denver Organizing Director, New Era Colorado
- Community Services Coordinator
- Midwife
- Program manager at Planned Parenthood
- Mission coordinator for Operation Smile
- Peace Corps

**Planning and Personal Development**
It is important that students think about their own personal and intellectual development and maturation. As students jump from one class to the next, they should be cognizant of the habits of thought and skills that they are learning, developing, and applying along the way. Similarly, they should be deliberate in their efforts to develop their verbal and writing skills and understand the significance of their presentation of self. Finally, there are a number of rich opportunities that are open to students, ranging from research opportunities to internships. Students should plan how best to prepare themselves for such competitive opportunities.

**Code of Social Responsibility**
We ask that sociology majors abide by a code of social responsibility. Majors should not actively participate in, nor passively condone through inaction, activities that denigrate, objectify, or marginalize any person or group. Be a positive force for progressive social change.

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**Sociology Major Requirements (11 credits)**

**Required Courses (6 credits) (recommended timeline)**
- SO228 Social Theory (2nd yr; no later than 3rd yr)
- SO229 Research Design (2nd yr; no later than 3rd yr)
- At least one 300-level theory intensive course (303, 314, 318, or 322)
- SO301/2 Quantitative or Qualitative Methods (3rd/4th yrs)
- SO450 Senior Thesis/Capstone (2 credits) (4th yr)
  - Research or theory paper
  - Community-based research paper
  - Community action project and paper

**Electives (5 credits)**
- We recommend taking at least three of the five electives at the 200- or 300-level
- Study abroad programs that include a sociological element may contribute 1 elective unit to the major

**Research Methodologies and Skills**

**Qualitative**
- Interviewing and focus groups
- Ethnography/participant observation
- Thick description
- Interactions and relationships in research
- Data analysis with NVivo
- Comparative/Historical
- Case study

**Quantitative**
- Survey design and sampling
- Data analysis with SPSS and Stata
- Spatial analysis with GIS
- Network analysis with UCINET
- Descriptive statistics and graphing
- Inferential statistics
- Hypothesis testing; program evaluation

*If you are seeking quantitative methods experience outside of the designated methods courses, note the following courses: S0312 Communities and Networks and S0233 Spatial Analysis of Social Issues.*

**Plan for Opportunities:**

**Departmental Opportunities and Honors**
- FYE Mentor
- Quantitative lab tutor/learning assistant
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society)
- Sociology Student Advisory Board
- O'Connor Grants for social justice research or travel
- Abbott Prize for top graduating seniors

**Opportunities at CC and Beyond**
- Public Interest Fellowship Program
- Community-Based Research (Collaborative)
- Global Development Summer Internship
- Faculty-student research
- Watson Fellowship
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Fulbright Fellowship
- Summer Statistics Programs
Where do you want to go? How are you going to get there?

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