Sociology

Broadly speaking, sociologists study social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology majors acquire a broad knowledge of the social structural world (i.e., social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces of social change and resistance, and how social structures work). They also develop a range of research skills, including analyzing and interpreting information, collecting and organizing detailed research notes into a logical presentation, communicating findings both orally and in writing, and using a computer for data processing and analysis.

Employers look for people with the skills and knowledge that the undergraduate sociology degree provides. Some career options for students to consider are in the areas of human services, criminal justice, education, government, social science research, environment, and business.

Programs

- Social Studies, B.A. (Sociology-Anthropology Emphasis) major
- Sociology, B.A. major
- Sociology minor

Career Directions

- Business
  - Human Resources -- Recruiting, Training, and Development
  - Management
  - Marketing
  - Office Administration
  - Public Relations
  - Sales
- Criminal Justice
  - Corrections
  - Rehabilitation
  - Judiciary
  - Law Enforcement
- Education
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Environment
  - Advocacy Groups and Organizations
  - Consulting Firms
  - Environmental Periodicals
  - Health Agencies
  - Waste Management
- Government
  - City Planning
  - Demography
  - Law Enforcement
  - Policy Analysis
  - Program Development Human Services
  - Public Administration
  - Research
  - Social Statistics
- Human Services
  - Administration
  - Advocacy
  - Case Management
  - Counseling
  - Mental Health Services
  - Programming
- Social Science Research
  - Data Analysis
  - Demography
  - Information Sourcing
  - Market Research
  - Research
- Also: Graduate Study

Preparation

Recommended High School Courses
- Psychology
- Social Research
- Sociology
**Social Studies, B.A. major**

**Sociology-Anthropology Emphasis**

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider completion a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

Required Credits: 48
Required GPA: 2.50

**I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM**

**CAPSTONE COURSE**

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:**

- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

**ECONOMICS COURSES**

**SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

- ECON 2000 Markets and Resource Allocation (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)

**GEOGRAPHY COURSES**

**SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES**

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

**GEOGRAPHY COURSES**

**SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

- GEOG 3410 Geography of North America (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)

**UPPER DIVISION WORLD HISTORY**

**SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES**

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1914-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

**POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES**

**SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES**

- HST 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- HST 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)

**II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS**

**SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Sociology, B.A. major**

Required Credits: 36
Required GPA: 2.25

**I REQUIRED COURSES**

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

- SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)
- SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)
- SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)
- SOC 3001 Social Statistics (3 credits)
- SOC 3003 Research Methods (3 credits)
- SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)
SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)
SOC 1104 examines concepts and theories that describe and explain social life. Focuses on aspects of culture, social class, race, relations, and gender relations as they are determined by society, and on how humans create and recreate groups, structures, and institutions. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
SOC 2200 is a social history of social movements and change. Focuses on understanding and analyzing these dynamics as generational changes and as the emergence of broader social forces driving the major movements of the past fifty years. The shift from modernity to postmodernity sets the overall theoretical framework, with an emphasis on the dynamics of race, class, gender, environment, and culture. Liberal Education Goal Area 8.

SOC 2230 Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)
SOC 2230 Study of dominant-subordinate relations with emphasis on racial and ethnic inequalities. Examination of privilege, prejudice and discrimination. Liberal Education Goal Areas 7 & 9.

SOC 2240 Men, Women, and Society: A Sociological Interpretation (3 credits)
SOC 2240 Study of the construction of gender in society and the differential consequences of particular social arrangements on the lives of men and women. Examines gender, male and female sexuality, intimate relationships, gendered patterns of work and education, the gender of violence, and sociological theories of femininity and masculinity. Emphasizes changes in gendered social patterns in U.S. society in the 21st century and compares those changes to shifting patterns in other societies. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

SOC 2925 People and the Environment: Sociology Perspective (3 credits)
SOC 2925 This course is a section of the interdisciplinary environmental issues course, People and the Environment. The focus of this course is to understand that environmental problems are both problems for society and problems of society. Students explore how sociology and its unique viewpoint add much to understanding the environment/society nexus. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

SOC 3001 Social Statistics (3 credits)
SOC 3001 Covers a conceptual understanding of basic descriptive and inferential statistics. Choice of statistic and interpretation of SPSS results is discussed. Prerequisite: Completion of Liberal Education mathematics requirement (Goal Area 4) or consent of instructor.

SOC 3003 Research Methods (3 credits)
SOC 3003 Examines the basic methods used to study diverse social processes and to improve our understanding of social issues. Topics include the relationship of theory to research, research ethics, evaluation of qualitative and quantitative research designs and patterns of analysis, and associated concerns. Prerequisite: SOC 1104.

SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)
SOC 3010 An overview of selected sociological theories and theorists considered against the background of the classical period of sociological theorizing in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Emphasis on comparative understanding of the major models of society - order, pluralism, conflict, etc. - that have dominated sociological thinking in the modern period. Prerequisites: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.
SOC 3040 Global Issues (3 credits)
Study of global and local forces that affect groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. Involves an exploration of the rise of contemporary social issues, with a particular focus on developments associated with ethnic, religious, and regional affiliations and shifting social, economic, and political alliances. Students will have a chance to explore the development of global patterns of stratification and its effects on particular groups and societies.

SOC 3050 Environmental Sociology (3 credits)
Examines the relationship between society and the environment. Emphasis on political and economic institutions and the consumer lifestyle and values. Considers how the treadmill of production affects ecosystems and discusses possible solutions to environmental problems. Prerequisites: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.

SOC 3080 Work and Careers (3 credits)
Students identify career avenues complementary to their chosen major and develop materials necessary for conducting a job search. In addition, students will learn what sociology has to say about work, occupations, and the organizations within which that work takes place. Prerequisites: Second semester sophomore or junior standing is ideal.

SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)
Examines social and ethical issues related to the practice of medicine. Students develop an understanding of the sociological causes of illness, the medicalization of society, and the values and assumptions of those who define and deliver medical care in society. Today people point to the fact that we are experiencing a crisis in health care in the U.S. Costs have skyrocketed, access to primary care is inequitable, infant mortality rates remain high, public accountability problems persist, and we continue to emphasize medical care over and above health care. Sociological interpretations raise questions about these issues, and point to the ways in which society continues to produce disease and illness. As these topics are explored through the sociological lens, the complex ethical dilemmas associated with medical understandings and possible alternatives that emphasize health are identified. Liberal Education Goal Area 9.

SOC 3230 Social Psychology (3 credits)
An overview of theory and research in social psychology from a sociological viewpoint. Emphasizes the impact of social location on thought, behavior, and emotion. Explores patterns of interpersonal relationships and small group processes, and why humans establish certain "taken-for-granted" meaning systems and ways of being. Prerequisite: SOC 1104 or consent of instructor.

SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
Exploration of the sexual norms associated with being male and female in Western and non-Western societies. Examines how particular forms of sexuality are privileged and the social and political implications of these hierarchies. Also examined is how the nature of race, sexuality, and gender creates hybrid identities, communities, and cultures that resist and reinforce ethnic and national boundaries.

SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)
After a brief introduction to basic sociological concepts, frameworks, methods, and relevant historical materials, students examine several documents that address particular contemporary family issues. Students also learn how to evaluate the materials discussed. Liberal Education Goal Area 5.

SOC 4800 Capstone in Sociology (3 credits)
Students decide on a research question and carry out an independent project.

All-University Courses
The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.