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)

WORLD HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2219 Medieval European Culture (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, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

U.S. HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HST 2640 United States Diplomatic History (3 credits)
- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Nineteenth-Century America (3 credits)
- HST 3137 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1844-1877 (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
- POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
- POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

SOCIOLOGY COURSES
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

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

II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

The following is suggested for logical and effective scheduling but can be interpreted as flexible for meeting requirements and a student's particular needs. Students should meet with the Social Studies coordinator and advisor as early as possible in their planning.

Freshman - Sophomore

- Geography and History constitute the "matrix" of Social Studies and students should complete required core courses in these subjects first.
Sociology, B.A. major

Note: 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. At least 21 of the credits have to be taken at Bemidji State University.

Required Credits: 36
Required GPA: 2.50

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)
  or 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 3040 Global Issues (3 credits)
  or SOC 3270 Intersections of Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
- SOC 3230 Social Psychology (3 credits)
- SOC 3080 Work and Careers (3 credits)
- SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)
  or SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 2 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 3050 Environmental Sociology (3 credits)
- SOC 3090 Social and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine (3 credits)
- SOC 3300 Family and Society (3 credits)
- ECON 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)
  or ENVR 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)
  or ECON 3070 Labor Economics (3 credits)
- SOC 2925 People of the Environment: Sociology Perspective (3 credits)

Sociology minor

Note: No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.25 in this minor is required for graduation. At least 12 of the credits have to be taken at Bemidji State University.

Required Credits: 21
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 1104 Society and Social Issues (3 credits)
SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)
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.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS