Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Sociology

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Sociology, students will be able to:

1. Understand the functions of theory and its use in the social sciences. Students will be familiar with key social theorists in the field. Students will understand key theoretical concepts and be comfortable using them beyond the classroom.

2. Gain richer understanding of the social world, including class, race, gender, ethnicity, education, family, occupation, deviancy, health, and global citizenship as well as how the human social world impacts its environment.

3. Apply sociological knowledge and training to understand theory and policy oriented around issues of human well-being in the US and globally, including how to understand the relationship between inequality and factors like race, class, gender, and education.

4. Apply methodological, theoretical, and research skills to carry out empirical research projects.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Sociology must complete:

- A minimum of 11 courses (33-34 credit hours, depending on course selection) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 10 courses (30-31 credit hours, depending on course selection) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major’s Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degeworks/officialcertifier/).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 101</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCI 231</td>
<td>SOCIAL PROBLEMS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 380</td>
<td>SOCIAL THEORY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 381</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 382</td>
<td>SOCIAL STATISTICS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOSC 302</td>
<td>QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; SOCI 102</td>
<td>and QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES: SOCIOLOGY LAB</td>
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</table>

Elective Requirements

Select 7 elective courses from departmental (SOCI) course offerings at the 300-level or above

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Sociology: 33-34

Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements: 55-56

University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/)

Total Credit Hours: 120

Footnotes and Additional Information

* Note: University Graduation Requirements include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying major requirements may additionally meet distribution requirements. Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

1 Only one of these courses (SOCI 101 or SOCI 231) may fulfill major requirements. Neither course may be used to fulfill Elective Requirements.

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Sociology should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 5 courses (15 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
Application Process

Eligibility

generously supported by the Chandler and Ian Davidson Scholars Fund

independent research project. Small grants for honors thesis research are
competence in sociology by successfully completing a sustained
also offers the opportunity for formal recognition, through Departmental
program of directed independent research and writing. The program
depth their understanding of the discipline through a 2-to-3 semester
sociology majors with the opportunity to sharpen their research skills and
The Sociology Department Honors Program is designed to provide

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Sociology website: https://sociology.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an
undergraduate’s academic history at Rice. For information on university
honors, please see Latin Honors (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative
Work (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards
or designations.

Departmental Honors Program

The Sociology Department Honors Program is designed to provide
sociology majors with the opportunity to sharpen their research skills and
deepen their understanding of the discipline through a 2-to-3 semester
program of directed independent research and writing. The program
also offers the opportunity for formal recognition, through Departmental
Honors, of those undergraduates who have demonstrated unusual
competence in sociology by successfully completing a sustained
independent research project. Small grants for honors thesis research are
generously supported by the Chandler and Ian Davidson Scholars Fund
as well as the Walter Hall Scholars program.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Departmental Honors Program, students must have:

• Taken at least 4 sociology courses beyond SOCI 101 Introduction
to Sociology, including SOCI 381 Research Methods. If their project
requires statistical analysis, students should also complete SOCI 382
Social Statistics (or SOSC 302 Quantitative Analysis for the Social
Sciences) before beginning their research.

• An A- (3.67) GPA in all sociology courses taken.

Application Process

1. During the fall and early spring semester of their junior year, students
are invited to consult with tenured and tenure-track members of the
faculty about a potential thesis topic. All students must have at least
1 tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the sociology department
as their thesis chair. The student must submit a written description
of their proposed research project to the chosen faculty member for
approval of their topic and review of their proposal, as well as secure
agreement of the chosen faculty member(s) to serve as their thesis
committee chair.

2. Once a thesis supervisor has been identified, the student must
submit a written description of their proposed research project to
the departmental undergraduate advisor. The proposal should be 2-3
pages in length, double-spaced, and is due by April 1st of their junior
year. It should include a signed statement from the chosen faculty
member agreeing to serve as their chair advisor.

3. The sociology faculty will vote on the merits of the proposed thesis
project at their monthly faculty meeting in mid-April. If approved, the
student may begin work on their thesis immediately, or at a start time
agreed upon with their thesis supervisor (including summer semester,
if desired).

Program

Students in the Honors Program register for 2 successive semesters in
Directed Honors Research (SOCl 492 and SOCl 493). An honors thesis
typically involves much discussion over both semesters between the
student and their tenure or tenure-track advisor. Students should meet
early in the process to agree on ground rules for the project, to choose
the other members of the thesis committee (made up of one additional
faculty member, who serves as a reader and ad-hoc advisor), and to
set up a schedule for discussions and submission of written work. It
is the department’s experience that students who work alone without
much consultation with faculty are less likely to succeed in their project
than students who maintain close contact with their advisor and the
department. Students are also encouraged to include other members of
the committee in discussion of the thesis, especially as the project nears
completion, so that their feedback can be incorporated before the final
draft of the project is submitted.

Students normally begin by conducting a thorough review of the relevant
literature, formulating hypotheses that grow out of the literature review,
and proposing a research design that clearly describes how the data
for the project are to be collected and analyzed. The research itself is
usually carried out in the fall semester of the senior year (and sometimes
in the summer following the junior year), and is analyzed, written up, and
defended as a completed Honor’s Thesis during the spring semester of
the senior year. (Students are encouraged to examine several previously
written theses, which are available in the sociology department.)

In addition to the student’s primary advisor, the thesis is read and
evaluated by the faculty members, sometimes from other departments,
who make up the student’s thesis committee.

Program Timeline

• A first draft of the final thesis must be turned in to the committee
members no later than February 1st of the student’s senior year.

• After receiving feedback on the project, the student will have until the
last Monday in March to submit a final draft of the senior thesis to
their committee.

• A short presentation (10-15 minutes) of the final thesis project must
be given to the full sociology faculty by mid-April. Faculty will vote
on whether to grant Departmental Honors to the student at the
conclusion of their presentation.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Sociology website: https://sociology.rice.edu/.