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 (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 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) 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 official certifier). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Degree Requirements

<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>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>3</td>
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Elective Requirements

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

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Sociology

33

Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

120

Footnotes and Additional Information

- Includes coursework completed as distribution credit, FWIS, LPAP, upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), 60 hours outside of the major (if applicable), and any additional academic program requirements. The “hours outside of the major” requirement may include all of the above university requirements.

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Sociology

Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (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: http://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.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program’s official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Transfer credit coursework from online-only courses cannot be used to count towards the major.

For additional information, please see the Sociology website: http://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 (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (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 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 (SOCI 492 and SOCI 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