

# ***UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION***

**For  
SOCIOLOGY MAJORS  
And  
SOCIOLOGY MINORS**

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College of Arts and Letters  
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# Undergraduate Information For Sociology Majors and Minors

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed to help you put together a program of study in Sociology that will be most meaningful for you, and to help you understand the career choices available in the field of Sociology. It is not intended to be a substitute for advising from faculty members, but is meant to serve as an adjunct to the advising process. Dr. Ruth Liu serves as the department's Undergraduate Advisor. You should meet with Dr. Liu to make sure your plan is "on track." All College of Arts and Letters majors are **required** to consult with their departmental advisor within the first two semesters after declaration or change of one's major or minor. Our goal with this handbook is to outline as clearly as possible the options that are available to you as a student majoring or minoring in Sociology at San Diego State University.

## WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of human relationships. Sociologists focus on how people interact with each other to build, maintain, and change human society. We systematically observe social interaction and ask how such relationships arise, why they persist or dissolve, how they change, and what the consequences are for the people involved, as well as for other individuals and groups.

Every kind of human activity is of interest to sociologists – the normal and the abnormal, the everyday as well as the exciting. Sociologists study the homeless and business executives; delinquents and doctors; politicians and protesters; students and surfers. Sociology seeks to understand the interaction of individuals with institutions and social organizations in which we are inextricably involved, and the norms, values, beliefs, and traditions (the culture), that make social life possible and meaningful.

Sociology, by the way, is *neither* socialism *nor* social work (two common misconceptions), even though sociologists study both areas.

Sociology is a liberal arts field. It informs us of the vast array of human structure and interactions from a lover's quarrel to the world as a system. It helps its practitioners understand that, contrary to the American bias toward individualism, not everything in life is totally within one's control. Understanding social, historical, and cultural forces is freeing, for it points us toward a way to act and change the forces we find dehumanizing. Many classes in Sociology illuminate social life – the family, schools, hospitals, government, churches – as well as the operations of power, negotiation, growth, change, and so on.

These insights, when combined with sociological techniques and research methods, make Sociology also a technical specialty, although not all employers have yet realized this. Well-prepared sociology students leave school with a vast array of practical skills, including:

Locating information	Simple statistical analysis
Writing clearly	Organizing ideas
Good oral presentation	Troubleshooting difficulties
Sensitive social observation	Listening to others
Diagnosing problems in groups	Being aware of cultural differences
Data collection	Ability to work on a team
Promoting changes	Creating new understandings
Organizing people	Survey design

Regardless of the occupation or profession you desire, the study of Sociology helps to produce a well-rounded education and a well-rounded person. Indeed, one of the characteristics of a well-educated person is the perception and appreciation of things that others often take for granted. Thus, the individual with a sociological perspective is

in a position to better understand self and others, and to be more flexible in creating and adjusting to new and different situations.

## WHERE IS THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY?

The Sociology Department at San Diego State University is located in Nasatir Hall on the west side of the campus. The departmental office (NH 203, telephone (619) 594-5449, FAX (619) 594-1325), the chairman's office, and faculty offices are found in that building. Department resources include the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), which houses various computers. Staff members of the SSRI are available to aid in research activities. In addition to the SSRI, the Sociology Department has a small computer laboratory (shared with Political Science and Philosophy). This lab is used for classes and is available during non-class times for Sociology majors/minors who want to expand their computer, research, and statistical skills.

## IMPACTION

The Sociology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the Sociology major, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete with a grade "C" or higher: Sociology 101, 102, 200A, 201 and 250. NOTE: Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215, will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201. These courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit -- all prerequisite courses (or their equivalents) must be taken for a letter grade.
2. Have successfully completed a minimum of 30 semester units.
3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher.
4. Fulfill the premajor requirements described in the catalog in effect at the time they declare the premajor at SDSU (assuming continual enrollment).

## ADVISING FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS AND MINORS

Advising consists of assistance with graduation requirements, including general education requirements, and requirements in the major and minor. The faculty advisor will also assist students in choosing courses that best fit their career goal. The Undergraduate Advisor is Dr. Ruth X. Liu.

## MAJORING IN SOCIOLOGY (27 Upper Division Units)

**NOTE: Students majoring in Sociology MAY NOT take a Sociology course for both the major and to fulfill the Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education requirement in the Explorations area.**

Majoring in Sociology requires that you take and satisfactorily complete 15 units of lower division "preparation for the major" courses and a minimum of 27 upper division units of Sociology with a 2.0 GPA BOTH in Sociology AND Overall. This is a University standard and cannot be appealed. A minor is NOT REQUIRED with this major. Majors must complete the core requirements and the requirement of upper-division sociology electives. Majors, and those planning to be majors, need to meet with the Department's Undergraduate Advisor as soon as possible for program planning and to make sure they are following the correct procedures. The requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology follow:

**Preparation for the Major (13 units):**

Sociology 101:	Introduction to Sociology – 3 units
Sociology 102:	Introduction to Social Problems (formerly Soc. 150) – 3 units
Sociology 200A:	Introduction to SPSS – 1 unit
Sociology 201:	Elementary Social Statistics – 3 units
Sociology 250:	Introduction to Social Research (formerly Soc. 301) – 3 units

**Note:** Statistics 119 or 250, or Biology 215, will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201 only if the student takes the course for a letter grade and earns a grade of “C” or higher.

**Core Courses (15 units) -- required of all majors – suggest taking these BEFORE taking upper-division sociology electives:**

**Theory (6 units):**

	Sociology 401:	Social Theory
<b>and</b>	Sociology 403:	Contemporary Sociological Theory

**Methods (3 units):**

	Sociology 406:	Intermediate Social Statistics
<b>or</b>	Sociology 407:	Survey and Experimental Research Methods
<b>or</b>	Sociology 408:	Qualitative Research Methods

**Soc. Psychology (3 units):**

	Sociology 410:	Social Psychology: Mind, Self, and Society
<b>or</b>	Sociology 412:	Social Construction of Reality

**Organization (3 units):**

	Sociology 430:	Social Organization
<b>or</b>	Sociology 433:	Wealth, Status, and Power

**Sociology Electives (12 units):**

Sociology 310:	Love, Jealousy, and Envy: The Sociology of Emotions
Sociology 320:	Sex and Gender Roles in American Society
Sociology 335:	Mass Communication and Popular Culture
Sociology 338:	Sociology of Religion
Sociology 350:	Population and Contemporary Issues
Sociology 352:	Contemporary Social Problems
Sociology 355:	Minority Group Relations
Sociology 420:	Sexuality in Modern Society
Sociology 421:	The American Family and Its Alternatives
Sociology 433:	Wealth, Status, and Power
Sociology 436:	Sociology of Health and Illness
Sociology 441:	Sociology of Mental Illness
Sociology 442:	Homicide in America
Sociology 443:	Crime and Society
Sociology 444:	Juvenile Delinquency
Sociology 445:	Sociology of Deviance
Sociology 446:	Sociology of Criminal Organizations
Sociology 450:	Social Change
Sociology 456:	Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes
Sociology 457:	Protests, Reforms, and Revolutions
Sociology 480:	Field Internship (with approval of undergraduate advisor and field internship coordinator)
Sociology 481:	Community Poverty Workshop
Sociology 490:	Senior Honors Thesis (with approval of undergraduate advisor)
Sociology 496:	Experimental Topics
Sociology 522:	The American Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
Sociology 531:	Working and Society
Sociology 537:	Political Sociology
Sociology 539:	Sociology of Education
Sociology 543:	Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment
Sociology 554:	United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Social Change
Sociology 555:	Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society

**(Note: Special Study Courses 499 and 597 may be taken in place of certain courses to fulfill requirements. A maximum of six units may be replaced. This must be done with the consent of an instructor and the department chair – an Adjustment of Academic Requirements Form will need to be filled out by the student and signed by the Undergraduate Advisor)**

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS (UNIVERSITY MANDATED)****Foreign Language Requirement**

Competency (successfully completing three consecutive courses of college study) is required in one foreign language. The Department accepts American Sign Language (ASL) to satisfy the foreign language requirement. Refer to the section of the General Catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

**Upper Division Writing Requirement**

Passing the University Writing Proficiency Examination with a passing score of 10 or above OR completing an approved upper division writing course (W) course within the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. Equivalent courses within CAL include a designated section of Rhetoric and Writing Studies (RWS) 305W or CCS 396W, English 306W, English 508W, English 581W, English 548W, History 430W, Linguistics 305W, Linguistics 396W, Religious Studies 396W, RWS 500W, and RWS 503W.

**Minor:**

*A minor is NOT required with this major.* If you do wish to choose a minor in another discipline, consult the General Catalog for the specific requirements for that minor. If you need guidance after reading the catalog, you may see the Advisor in the minor department or the Sociology Department Advisor. Minors are declared in the minor department. **If you wish to minor in Business Administration, go to the College of Business Advising Office in BA 449.**

## **MINORING IN SOCIOLOGY (18 Units)**

**NOTE: Courses in the minor MAY NOT be counted toward your major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of 6 upper division units MUST be completed at San Diego State University.**

A minor in Sociology is a useful accompaniment to many majors on campus because we all live in a socially organized society and engage in daily social interaction. The minor consists of 18 units of Sociology coursework. The specific course and unit requirements for the minor follow.

### **Lower Division Minor Courses (6 units):**

<b>And</b>	Sociology 101:	Introduction to Sociology – 3 units
	Sociology 102:	Introduction to Social Problems (formerly Soc. 150) – 3 units
<b>or</b>	Sociology 201:	Elementary Social Statistics – 3 units
<b>or</b>	Sociology 250:	Introduction to Social Research (formerly Soc. 301) – 3 units (Prerequisite is Soc. 201 or its equivalent)

**(Note: Economics 201, Political Science 201, Statistics 119 or 250 will be accepted in lieu of Sociology 201)**

### **Core Course (3 units)**

Select 1 course from the following:

	Sociology 401:	Social Theory
<b>or</b>	Sociology 403:	Contemporary Sociological Theory
<b>or</b>	Sociology 406:	Intermediate Social Statistics
<b>or</b>	Sociology 407:	Survey and Experimental Research Methods
<b>or</b>	Sociology 408:	Qualitative Research Methods
<b>or</b>	Sociology 410:	Social Psychology: Mind, Self, and Society
<b>or</b>	Sociology 430:	Social Organization
<b>or</b>	Sociology 433:	Wealth, Status, and Power

### **Upper-Division Sociology Electives (9 units):**

Select 3 of the following upper-division Sociology elective courses:

Sociology 310:	Love, Jealousy, and Envy: The Sociology of Emotions
Sociology 320:	Sex and Gender Roles in American Society
Sociology 335:	Mass Communication and Popular Culture
Sociology 338:	Sociology of Religion
Sociology 350:	Population and Contemporary Issues
Sociology 352:	Contemporary Social Problems
Sociology 355:	Minority Group Relations
Sociology 420:	Sexuality in Modern Society
Sociology 421:	The American Family and Its Alternatives
Sociology 436:	Sociology of Health and Illness
Sociology 441:	Sociology of Mental Illness
Sociology 442:	Homicide in America
Sociology 443:	Crime and Society
Sociology 444:	Juvenile Delinquency
Sociology 445:	Sociology of Deviance
Sociology 446:	Sociology of Criminal Organizations
Sociology 450:	Social Change
Sociology 456:	Collective Behavior: Crowds, Cults, and Crazes

Sociology 457:	Protests, Reforms, and Revolutions
Sociology 481:	Community Poverty Workshop
Sociology 496:	Experimental Topics
Sociology 522:	The American Family in Comparative and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
Sociology 531:	Working and Society
Sociology 537:	Political Sociology
Sociology 539:	Sociology of Education
Sociology 543:	Police, Courts, and Corrections: The Sociology of Crime and Punishment
Sociology 554:	United States-Mexico Transborder Populations and Social Change
Sociology 555:	Immigrants and Refugees in Contemporary American Society

### **Field Internship (SOC. 480)**

Our field internship program has been established with the intent of (1) affording students the opportunity to gain training in business, commercial, and social service agencies that may lead — either directly or indirectly — to post-graduation employment and (2) affording students the opportunity to integrate sociological theory with practical experience acquired as participants in the social institutions with which they might be involved in the future.

Student interns receive three units of academic credit for participation in the program and will work under the academic supervision of departmental faculty personnel. A few students may be eligible to receive up to six units of credit. Staff personnel at the participating agencies assume practical on-the-job supervision and training. Student interns are, of course, expected to conform to the strictures and regulations of the agencies at which they are placed.

Students electing to take the Field Internship (SOC. 480) provide themselves the opportunity to acquire valuable practical experience in a variety of institutional and organizational settings and to make contacts for potential careers. A few examples of student placement are childcare agencies; family planning agencies; local, state, and federal government agencies; and private businesses. This, in connection with knowledge from specific courses, can be utilized in maximizing career opportunities.

### **CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY**

Individuals with a BA in Sociology have numerous career options. Some go on to do graduate work in Sociology, while others apply to other graduate programs such as law and medicine. Employment opportunities for individuals with a BA in Sociology are quite varied, as they are for other Liberal Arts graduates. There is an American Sociological Association Booklet (Careers in Sociology) available in the Department office, which discusses possible career areas.

The skills gained in Sociology can be transferred to diverse job settings. Such "crossover skills" include a knowledge of the workings of society, the ability to analyze social problems and to communicate these analyses to others, and interpersonal relations. In addition, a Sociology major provides training in written and verbal communication, research methods, and analytical techniques. Students may select courses providing them with a number of technical skills that can be translated into a broad range of career competencies (training in computers, various research methods, and statistics).

Based on reports of what graduates majoring in Sociology have told us, we find that they are pursuing a wide range of occupations and careers in areas including research, education, business, community, corrections, health, and social service.

*"What can I do with a major in Sociology?"* . . . A glance at the preceding information suggests this to be limited only by your imagination, initiative, and ability to convince an employer of your versatility and potential.

**The General Catalog is no longer available by mail order.**

**It may be accessed on-line at <http://coursecat.sdsu.edu/catalog/>**

**or**

**purchased in person at the Campus store.**

**CURRENT FULL-TIME SOCIOLOGY FACULTY AND  
THEIR SPECIAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE  
(Area Code is 619)**

<b>BUCK, Robert E.</b> , Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Texas) Societal Development, Social Stratification, Political Economy (Teaches Spring semesters)	594-5520 NH 217
<b>CHOI, Jung M.</b> , Associate Professor (Ph.D., York University – Toronto) Race/Ethnic/Minority Relations, Social Organization, Political Sociology	594-1319 NH 233
<b>ESBENSHADE, Jill</b> , Associate Professor/Graduate Advisor (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) Minority Group Relations, Research Methods, Immigration, World Systems	594-5519 NH 208
<b>FINCH, Brian K.</b> , Professor (Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin) Quantitative Methods, Statistics, Demography, Health	594-6502 NH 213
<b>GREENE, Kyra R.</b> , Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Stanford University) Social Inequality, Political Sociology/Social Movements, Disability Studies, Race/Ethnic Relations, Sociology of Law	594-5534 NH 204
<b>JOHNSTON, Hank</b> , Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of California San Diego) Social Theory, Social Movements and Collective Action, Ethnicity, Social Psychology	594-1323 NH 218
<b>LIU, Ruth X.</b> , Professor/Undergraduate Advisor (Ph.D. Texas A&M University) Crime and Deviance, At-Risk Youth, Research Methods Gender, Social Psychology	594-6995 NH 210
<b>McCALL, Michael M.</b> , Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis) Social Theory, Social Issues, Gender Roles, Family	594-5457 NH 206
<b>MARCELLI, Enrico A.</b> , Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Southern California) Urban Sociology, Social Epidemiology, International Migration, Econometrics and Multi-Level Statistical Methods	594-5459 NH 219

<b>OJEDA, Norma</b> , Professor (Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin) Family, Border Issues Also teaches in Chicana/Chicano Studies	594-1320 NH 211
<b>PERSHING, Jana L.</b> , Professor (Ph.D., University of Washington) Sociology of Deviance, Social Control, Military Sociology, Sociology of Sex and Gender Differentiation, Research Methods	594-4844 NH 207
<b>ROBERTS, Michael J.</b> , Assistant Professor (Ph.D., City College of New York, University Center and Graduate School) Social Theory, Popular Culture, Work, Class, Social Movements	594-4245 NH 215
<b>SARGENT, Paul W.</b> , Associate Professor/Field Internship Coordinator (Ph.D., University of Southern California) Sex and Gender, Research Methods, Sociology of Education, Feminist Theory	594-2783 NH 235
<b>ZHANG, Sheldon</b> , Professor/Chairperson (Ph.D., University of Southern California) Criminology, Corrections, Transnational Organized Crime, Program Evaluation, Methodology, Marriage and the Family	594-5448 NH 222

**CURRENT FULL-TIME LECTURER**

<b>CLANTON, Gordon</b> , Lecturer (Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union and University of California, Berkeley) Minority Relations; Love, Jealousy, and Envy; Religion, Social Organization	594-1321 NH 221
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**If you are unable to reach a professor  
by using his or her direct office telephone number,  
please call (619) 594-5449;  
the office staff will take your message and  
place it in the professor's mailbox.**