



Student Advising Guidelines for the Department of Sociology

The purpose of this brochure is to provide some general information for students pursuing a major or minor in sociology at UAHuntsville. For further information, please contact any of the faculty in the department. We want to provide assistance to you and answer any questions you may have.

Advising Information

The College of Liberal Arts provides early academic advising for its students through the office of the Academic Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. All freshmen and most sophomores with an expressed interest in sociology are advised by the Academic Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts, Frank Bell, who is located in Room 220 in Morton Hall (bellf@uah.edu or 256-824-2867). Here students are assisted in fulfilling the General Education Requirements.

When students decide to major in sociology, they will then initiate a Program of Study with Frank Bell, whereupon they are advised by faculty within the Department of Sociology. All students are strongly encouraged to seek advising assistance at the beginning of their academic careers and to continue working with their advisors throughout their academic experience. Please contact the Department of Sociology at 256-824-6190 with any questions about the program, or discuss your questions with any sociology faculty member.

Sociology Major

The College of Liberal Arts awards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. The degree program includes: (1) general education requirements, (2) major courses, (3) a minor or supporting cognate studies.

In addition to the General Education Requirements (GER) for the B.A., students who major in sociology must complete **34 hours** of sociology courses including:

Required Courses (13 hrs):

- SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 300 Research Methods
- SOC 333 Statistics for the Social Sciences (4 hrs)
- SOC 465 Sociological Theory
- Transfer students only: SOC 106 Marriage and Family

Electives (21 hrs):

- 9 hours in Sociology courses at any level (6 hrs for transfer students)
- 12 hours in Sociology courses at level 300 or above

Suggested courses for students thinking about attending law school, or to work in a public policy setting, include: SOC 102 (Social Problems), SOC 106 (Marriage and Family), SOC 310 (Sociology of Childhood), SOC 319 (Deviance and Social Control), SOC 325 (Sociology of Education), SOC 330 (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity), SOC 350 (Class, Status, and Power), and SOC 435 (Social Movements). In addition, because of the research aspect of much legal work, our required courses in Research Methods (SOC 300), Statistics for the Social Sciences (SOC 333), and Sociological Theory (SOC 465), can be very helpful preparatory courses.

Suggested courses for students planning careers in social services include: SOC 106 (Marriage and Family), SOC 306 (Sociology of Gender), SOC 310 (Sociology of Childhood), SOC 319 (Deviance and Social Control), SOC 325 (Sociology of Education), SOC 330 (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity), SOC 350 (Class, Status, and Power), SOC 375 (Social Psychology), SOC 435 (Social Movements), and SOC 102 (Social Problems).

For those requiring a general curriculum in sociology and/or those planning to attend graduate school in the field, a combination of both micro and macro courses is advised.

Sociology Minor

A student developing a minor in sociology with a major in another discipline must complete 21 hours of sociology courses, including SOC 100. A minimum of 12 hours should be in courses numbered 300 or above. Sociology courses may also be used in conjunction with courses from other disciplines to form a cognate area of study. Such a program should be developed with the advice of the sociology faculty and approved by the chair of the student's major department.

Sociology for a Second Area of Study

Students majoring in elementary education may select sociology as their second area of study. (See the major requirements in the Department of Education's section of the UAHuntsville undergraduate catalog). To meet university requirements, students must complete a minimum of 18 hours in sociology, 12 of which must be above the 300-level in sociology. Courses should be chosen with the help of the education advisor and approval of the chair of the Department of Sociology. The recommended program is:

1. SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
2. SOC 106 Marriage and Family
3. SOC 325 Sociology of Education
4. 3 additional courses in sociology at the level of 300 or above

(The following courses are especially useful for teachers:
SOC 306, SOC 310, SOC 319, SOC 330, SOC 350, SOC 375)

Student Club and Honorary Society

Student Sociological Association (SSA)

The Student Sociological Association is a democratic, student-run organization whose purpose is to promote the study of sociology and to sponsor social and intellectual activities that will serve to enrich its members' study of sociology, aid students of sociology in their preparation for careers after graduation, and contribute toward the improvement of our community as well as the human condition. SSA is always open to suggestions for new activities and encourages people who are enthusiastic about making a difference in our community to join. For information contact the SSA faculty advisor in the Department of Sociology at 256-824-6190.

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)

Epsilon of Alabama was chartered in 1976 as UAHuntsville's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the National Sociology Honorary Society. Membership requirements for AKD include the following: express a demonstrated interest in sociology or be a major or minor in sociology; be in the top 35% of your class; have a GPA of at least 3.0 over all of your UAHuntsville sociology courses; have completed at least four sociology courses at UAHuntsville. There is a one-time fee for lifetime membership, which includes a one-year subscription to the journal *Sociological Inquiry*. For information contact the AKD faculty advisor in the Department of Sociology at 256-824-6190.

Sociology Courses

100 Introduction to Sociology (3 hrs)

Perspective methods, concepts, and general findings of the sociologist. Historical and conceptual development of sociology.

200 Introduction to Anthropology (3 hrs)

Origin and development of human ways of life with emphasis on cross-cultural variations in human behavior, belief systems, social institutions, and cultural change.

Note on prerequisites: The sociology courses listed below are open only to students who have completed SOC 100. With the exception of SOC 333 and SOC 435, there are no other prerequisites (but see recommendations preceding 400-level courses below).

102 Analysis of Social Problems (3 hrs)

Sociological interpretation of contemporary social problems as they relate to significant trends in complex societies.

106 Marriage and Family (3 hrs)

The family as a social institution, its structure and function in contemporary societies, dating, marital interaction, life cycle, and socialization process.

300 Research Methods (3 hrs)

Broad and balanced background in various types of social research methods. Fundamental logic and specific techniques in conducting research. Lab Fee: \$40.

306 Sociology of Gender (3 hrs)

An examination of the different perspectives used in the sociological analysis of gender and of the current research addressing gender stratification. The analysis includes the institutional consequences of gender construction in the United States and cross-culturally, as well as the effects on women and men as members of society.

310 Sociology of Childhood (3 hrs)

Environmental influences on socialization of infants and children. Various family roles, school, peer group, and culture as they affect the growing child.

315 Cultural Change (3 hrs)

Critical exploration of the processes of modernization and globalization and their impact on cultures, economies, and environments of developing societies. Topics include history and theories of development and case studies that examine the linkages among gender, class, culture, and development.

319 Deviance and Social Control (3 hrs)

Examines several approaches to studying deviant behavior and its social control, with emphasis on the social construction of deviance and societal reactions to it. The focus is generally on deviation and control in the U.S.

325 Sociology of Education (3 hrs)

Education as a social institution; its structure, function, and role in contemporary life. (Same as ED 325).

330 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3 hrs)

Among other issues, examines the historical relationship between race, ethnicity, and economic class/opportunity; and the social construction of ethnicity and race. The emphasis is on race and ethnicity in the U.S. with some discussion of international issues.

333 Statistics for the Social Sciences (4 hrs)

This course is an introduction to social statistics with an emphasis on quantitative analysis of survey and census data. Topics covered include descriptive statistics, random sampling, estimation and hypothesis testing with an emphasis on t-tests, chi-square, correlation and regression. This course will provide students with a working familiarity of SPSS, analysis of social science datasets, ability to read and comprehend published statistics, and write-up statistical results. (An additional lab fee is assessed for this course). Prerequisite: 3 hours college math.

340 Special Topics (1-3 hrs)

Nontraditional topics of current sociological interest. Title of course and number of credit hours when offered, will appear in course schedule along with prerequisites necessary for admission to course. May be taken more than once for credit as long as subtitles differ. In recent years we have been able to offer special topics courses on sport and medical sociology.

350 Class, Status, and Power (3 hrs)

Theoretical questions and frameworks for understanding social stratification. Comparison of different types of stratification systems across time and in different societies.

375 Social Psychology (3 hrs)

Fundamental principles of group processes, social influence, and group structure. Development of group solidarity, cohesion, intergroup conflict and cooperation, communication, leadership, opinion, propaganda, and suggestion. Prerequisite: SOC 100 or PY 101,102. (Same as PY 375).

390 Readings and Individual Research (3 hrs)

Supervised readings or in-depth research or both in area of specialized interest to student or instructor. Permission of instructor. May be taken twice for credit with advisor's approval.

The department strongly recommends that the following 400-level courses be reserved for those who have taken several sociology courses and have junior or senior standing, or have permission of the instructor. Some courses may have other prerequisites.

430 Mass Media in America: Theory and Criticism (3 hrs)

Mass communication theory, history of American mass media, and criticism of contemporary forms and functions of mass media of communication in the United States. (Same as CM 430).

435 Sociology of Social Movements (3 hrs)

This course explores various organized movements for social change. Questions addressed include the origins and causes of such movements, the cultural, social and political contexts that impact movements, how movements mobilize people to become active, and strategies and tactics. Other topics include organizational factors and resource mobilization, social networks, collective identity and community building, social movement framing (i.e. persuasive rhetoric and argumentation), ideology, the decline of movements, and what “success” means for a social movement. Prerequisites: SOC 300 and SOC 333.

440 Sociology of Religion (3 hrs)

Among other issues, examines sociological theories of religion, religious organization, religion and social change, and new religious movements, with emphasis on religion in the U.S.

465 Sociological Theory (3 hrs)

Development of discipline of sociology in terms of major trends of sociological theory, past and present, and major theoretical problem areas. Nature of sociological theory in relation to other disciplines.

Sociology Faculty

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