

# Sociology, B.A.

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## Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

## Nature of the Program

Sociology examines human society with an emphasis on social structure, processes of social interaction, and social change. Students learn the methods of social science as well as the specialized knowledge and insights of discipline while selecting from a range of substantive course topics. These include but are not limited to: Racial and ethnic relations, sex and gender, social class and poverty, families and relationships, social psychology and media, health and health care, and urban and rural sociology. Courses in the department also are intended to facilitate the application of sociological principles to a wide range of contemporary social problems.

The major prepares students to pursue a broad range of careers that require knowledge of social organization and social processes. It also prepares students for graduate studies in the social sciences in pursuit of academic or applied research careers or for professional training in law, public administration, social work, public health and other fields. For more information about this program, please visit the departmental website (<http://soca.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/>).

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

## Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

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## FACULTY

### PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

- Daniel Renfrew - Ph.D. (Binghamton University) Anthropology  
Environmental and political anthropology, Social movements, Latin American cultures

### PROFESSORS

- Sharon R. Bird - Ph.D. (Washington State University) Sociology  
Social Inequality (race/ethnicity/class/gender/LGBTQ+), Workplace equity, Research methods
- Henry H. Brownstein - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology  
Distinguished Research Professor. Drugs and society, Drug policy, Violence, Qualitative research methods
- Katie E. Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Washington) Sociology  
Theory, Organizations, Culture, Criminology, Religion, Social networks
- Walter S. DeKeseredy - Ph.D. (York University) Sociology  
Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences. Violence against women, Critical criminology, Masculinities and crime, Criminology theory
- R. Gregory Dunaway - Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati) Sociology  
Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- S. Melissa Latimer - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky) Sociology  
Gender/race/ethnicity, Inequality/labor markets/welfare systems
- James Nolan, III - Ph.D. (Temple University) Sociology  
Criminal justice, Group and social processes
- Rachel Stein - Ph.D. (University of Akron) Sociology  
Criminology, Victimization, Media and crime
- Karen Weiss - Ph.D. (SUNY-Stony Brook) Sociology  
Criminology, Victimization, Gender/sexuality/culture
- Rachael A. Woldoff - Ph.D. (Ohio State University) Sociology  
Community, Crime, Inequality/race/class
- Joshua Woods - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology  
Social psychology, Media, Complex organizations, Sociology of risk

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Corey Colyer - Ph.D. (Syracuse University) Sociology  
People processing systems, Agencies of social control
- Amy Hirshman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Anthropology  
Mesoamerican archaeology, Social complexity, Ceramics
- Jason Manning - Ph.D. (University of Virginia) Sociology  
Conflict and social control, Violence, Sociology of knowledge
- Christopher P. Scheitle - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Sociology  
Religion, Science in society, Crime, Organizations
- Jennifer Steele - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Rural Sociology  
Natural resource sociology, Rural and community development
- Jesse Wozniak - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology  
Policing, Criminology, Deviance, State power

## ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Brandie S. Pugh - Ph.D. (University of Delaware) Sociology  
Inequality, Corporate crime, Interpersonal violence, Philosophy of science
- Kirsten Younghee Song - Ph.D. (Rutgers University) Sociology  
Culture, Transnationalism, Young adulthood, Inequality

## TEACHING INSTRUCTORS

- Daniel Brewster - M.A. (West Virginia University) Communication Studies
- Douglas Sahady - M.A. (California University of Pennsylvania) Social Science
- Genesis Snyder - M.A. (Western Michigan University) Anthropology

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Ronald C. Althouse - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota) Sociology  
Theory, Work, Occupational safety and health
- Ann L. Paterson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Sociology
- Patricia C. Rice - M.A. (Ohio State University) Anthropology
- Joseph J. Simoni - Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame) Sociology
- William I. Torry - Ph.D. (Columbia University) Anthropology

## Admissions for 2025-2026

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly into the major. Students must have a placement into a Math course to receive a complete schedule for their first semester. Students without placement may not be competitive to remain in the major.
- Students coming from another major at WVU must have an overall GPA of at least 2.0, completion of SOC 101 with a C- or higher, and be eligible to take MATH 124.
- Students coming from another institution must have an overall GPA of at least 2.0, completion of SOC 101 with a C- or higher, and be eligible to take MATH 124

Major Code: 14C4

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 4\)](#)

## General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>General Education Foundations</b>		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	

F2A/F2B - Science & Technology	4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning	3-4
F4 - Society & Connections	3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past	3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity	3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity	3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

## Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Sociology

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext>) page.

- **Calculation of GPA in the major:** A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements, with a minimum grade of C- is required in ANTH 105, SOC 101, and SOC 191. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Experiential Learning:** Students are encouraged to pursue a Professional Field Experience (SOC 491) or Independent Study (SOC 495) in their junior or senior year, combining experiential work with previously acquired skills in a project appropriate to their career goals. SOC 490, SOC 491, and SOC 495 can be taken for variable credit and will count as general elective credits towards graduation, but they cannot be applied to major requirements.
- **Capstone Requirement:** The General Education Foundation requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Sociology majors must complete SOC 488.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** Sociology Bachelor of Arts students fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two **SpeakWrite Certified Courses**<sup>TM</sup>: SOC 488 and a 2<sup>nd</sup> course selected from ANTH 350, ANTH 352, ANTH 354, ANTH 450, ANTH 457, ANTH 458, CRIM 318, HIST 203, HIST 207, HIST 221, HIST 241, HIST 242, HIST 259, HIST 264, PSYC 241, SOC 323, SOC 360, WGST 150, WGST 225.

## Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	73
	ECAS B.A. Requirements	6
	Sociology Major Requirements	41
	Total Hours	120

## University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	<b>Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8</b>	<b>27</b>
	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	45
	Total Hours	73

## ECAS B.A. Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	<b>ECAS B.A. Requirements</b>	<b>6</b>
	Fine Arts Requirement	

## Global Studies and Diversity Requirement

Total Hours

6

**Sociology Major Requirements**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Orientation to the Major</b>		<b>1</b>
SOC 191 or SOC 361	First-Year Seminar (Minimum Grade of C-) Practicing Sociology and Anthropology	
<b>Common Core Requirements</b>		<b>13</b>
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology (Minimum Grade of C-)	
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (Minimum Grade of C-)	
SOC 301	Sociological Theory	
SOC 311	Social Research Methods	
<b>Statistics Requirement</b>		<b>3</b>
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference	
<b>Sociology Requirements</b>		<b>15</b>
Select five of the following (at least three must be 300 or 400-level):		
CRIM 302	Deviant Behavior	
CRIM 318	Hate Crime	
CRIM 415	Mass Media, Crime and Deviance	
SOC 207	Social Problems in Contemporary America	
SOC 221	Families and Society	
SOC 225	Inequality and the Media	
SOC 226	Sexuality and Society	
SOC 235	Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 304	Complex Organizations	
SOC 312	Death and Dying	
SOC 320	Social Psychology	
SOC 323	Sociology of Rural Life	
SOC 331	Sociology of Law	
SOC 333	Sociology of Work and Work Places	
SOC 337	Sociology of American Business	
SOC 360	Sociology of Gender	
SOC 405	Class, Status, and Power	
SOC 463	Economy and Society	
SOC 470	Cities and Urban Life	
<b>Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Electives:</b>		<b>6</b>
Two additional courses in sociology, anthropology, or criminology (at least one must be 300 or 400-level)		
<b>Capstone Experience</b>		<b>3</b>
SOC 488	The Capstone Experience	
Total Hours		41

**Suggested Plan of Study****First Year**

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOC 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
SOC 101 (GEF 4)		3 ANTH 105 (ECAS Global Studies and Diversity Requirement; GEF 7)	3
GEF 3		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 5		3 ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3

General Elective		1 General Elective	1
			16
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 8*		3 GEF 8*	3
200-level Sociology Course		3 200-level Sociology Course	3
Statistics Requirement		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
GEF 8*		3 SOC 311	3
SOC 301		3 Upper-level Sociology Course	3
Upper-level Sociology Course		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Upper-level Sociology Course		3 SOC 488 (Capstone)	3
Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Elective 1		3 Anthropology, Criminology, or Sociology Elective 2	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

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Students completing a minor, a second major or a dual degree already fulfill F 8.

## Degree Progress

Students are expected to meet the benchmarks set below.

- Complete SOC 101 and ANTH 105 with grades of C- or higher and be eligible to take MATH 124 by the end of the second semester in the program;
- Complete 200-level SOC coursework and STAT 211 by the end of the fourth semester in the program;
- Complete four 300-level courses (including SOC 301 and SOC 311) by the end of the sixth semester in the program.
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all SOC, ANTH, and CRIM courses counting toward major requirements.
- All majors must meet with their adviser every semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

## Major Learning Outcomes

### SOCIOLOGY

Students graduating with a BA in **Sociology** will have the ability to:

1. Describe sociology's core concepts and approaches to the study of social structures, social dynamics, and social issues, and how it is similar to and different from other social sciences.
2. Demonstrate the sociological imagination by describing how culture and social structure operate, how society shapes individuals and individuals shape society, and the intersectionality of race/ethnicity, gender, class, or other bases of inequality.
3. Identify and compare sociology's core theoretical and methodological approaches and discuss their role in building knowledge about society.
4. Apply ethical principles to the conduct of sociological research and the applications of its findings.

5. Critically analyze sociological questions and issues by retrieving and synthesizing appropriate information and evidence and identifying implications for research and practice/policy.
6. Demonstrate effective, clear and persuasive communication skills according to disciplinary conventions.