An Invitation to Sociology

Why should you major in sociology?
We train our students to be leaders in the complex and dynamic environment of the contemporary work world.

Our majors develop the knowledge and analytical skills necessary for successful careers and informed citizenship.

We offer our students a challenging curriculum in the context of
- Effective advising
- Faculty instructional support
- A research orientation
- A major where you can make a difference in the world
- Opportunities to apply sociological imagination to the real world

The sociological imagination is the ability to see how the private troubles each of us faces are the public issues of contemporary society.

Being a Sociology Major

Sociology majors are uniquely prepared

Our courses are interesting and relevant. Each semester we offer excellent classes on engaging topics: Social Problems, Criminology, Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Family, Health & Illness, Migration, Urban Life, Mental Illness, Environment & Society and many more.

We let you tailor your focus. Special topics courses covering cutting edge social issues like Global Terrorism, Sexualities, Popular Culture, Race in America, Gangs and others.

Small classes where you can stand out. Faculty who know their students by name; Most classes have no more than 40 students.

Award-winning faculty and instructors. Engaging, accessible, & committed to students.

Internship opportunities that give students real-life experience. Opportunities in private industry, social services, non-profits and the criminal justice system among others.

Great advising. Student advisors who are dedicated and accessible.

Undergraduate research opportunities. Students and faculty work together on original research projects.

Marketability. Employers seek the skills our students acquire, such as critical thinking and cultural awareness.

The Bottom Line:
A Sociology major prepares you for informed citizenship, to understand social problems, and to make a difference in the world.

A Sociology Bachelor’s Degree

Our students work in interesting and important careers

Private industry
- AC Nielsen market research; Private security firms;
- Business management and others

Public service
- Community college instructors, Counseling and other social services

Non-profits
- Housing; Public health; Aging; Family services; Job training assistance agencies, Research and analysis and others

Governmental agencies
- Law enforcement, Probation, Parole agencies, FBI, County drug court offices and others

Our grads go on to excellent graduate schools

Master’s & PhD programs
- NIU, Arizona State, UIC, Johns Hopkins, Kansas, Maryland, NC State, Penn State, Purdue, SUNY-Albany, Missouri

Law School
- NIU, Cal School of Law

Other professional school opportunities
- Master’s of Social Work, Counseling, Public Health, Business and Marketing

The Bottom Line:
Great classes, marketable skills, and excellent teachers add up to a fantastic major.

The Bottom Line:
You are prepared to pursue and achieve your goals with a Sociology degree.
Student-Centered

“What I liked best about being a Sociology student was that it helped me to view things from different perspectives and to appreciate and understand diversity”

“Sociology helped me to become an open-minded and critical thinker, useful in everyday life and any occupation”

“For the first time in my life I discovered a subject I was truly passionate about”

“Sociology provided opportunities to get involved in campus activities, organizations and volunteering”

Global Focus

- Study Abroad Opportunities
  (Sierra Leone, England, Mexico, Nicaragua and more)
- Travel with the Professor
- Headquarters of African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review
- Undergraduate research opportunities on international projects

Local Relevance

- Thriving internship opportunities
- Active in local community organizations
- Engaged with local government agencies
- Focused on social problems, such as poverty, hunger, health & child-care, community-building, democratization, terrorism, and crime, law & justice

2 Degree Options Offered

Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Bachelor of Science (BS)

BA/BS both require 37 credit hours

19 credit hours of core courses
SOCI 170: Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 300: Foundations of Sociology
SOCI 301, SOCI 302: Theory Sequence
SOCI 377A, SOCI 377B:
  Research Methodology Sequence

18 credit hours of elective courses, including 6 hours at the 400-level
Choose from several courses in the following areas:
Crime and Justice; Social Inequality; Social Psychology;
Social Institutions; Health and Medicine

Minor in Sociology

18-19 credit hours required

12-13 hours of core courses:
SOCI 170: Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 300: Foundations of Sociology
Choose 1 from SOCI 301 OR SOCI 302
Choose 1 from SOCI 377A OR SOCI 377B

6 hours of elective credit hours

The department’s full-time academic advisor is available for undergraduate academic counseling. Take advantage of this resource to stay on track.