Sociology

Sociology is the study of social relations within groups, institutions, organizations, communities, and entire societies. “Why do people in groups interact with each other as they do? How do changes in health care services or the health care industry affect the quality of people’s lives? How do communities organize to fight poverty and crime? What are the most important social changes in this country over the last 30 years? How does global development affect our own society?”

These are just a few of the questions that interest sociologists. And to answer them, we use a variety of theories and research techniques that help us evaluate social problems, and come up with solutions that change our world.

Why Sociology at the University of Memphis?

1. We offer a broad range of undergraduate courses that will teach you the theories and the methodological techniques needed to understand and interpret events occurring around you.

2. We offer an atmosphere of support and respect for a wonderful array of sociological research. You can learn about such diverse issues as: immigration and racial transformation in the South; the social identity of entertainers; health care delivery in East Africa; hunger and war in the developing world; information technology and global development; economic development and education; the effects of the gambling industry; globalization and Memphis; social change and Southern women; sport and South African society; health and society; the intersection of race and gender in society; religion and society.

3. We offer a unique setting for sociological work: the city of Memphis itself. And the University has many outstanding departments, programs, libraries, museums, performances, and archives that enrich our teaching, scholarship, and learning. A number of our faculty conduct interdisciplinary research and several are affiliated with the nationally-known Center for Research on Women (CROW) and the Benjamin Hooks Institute for Social Change.

What other opportunities can you enjoy as a Sociology major?

- Honors program in Sociology, including individualized honors thesis research
- Integration of information technology into coursework and special projects
- Opportunity to participate in the undergraduate Sociology club
- Working with top faculty known nationally and internationally for their research
### Freshman Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE MATH</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 1010 - GE Social/Behav. Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Foreign Lang. 2010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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**Semester Totals** 15-16 hrs. 15 hrs.

### Sophomore Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2201 or 2202</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Nat. Science w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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**Semester Totals** 16 hrs. 16 hrs.

### Junior Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 3311</td>
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<tr>
<td>UD SOCI</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2381</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Semester Totals** 15 hrs. 15 hrs.

### Senior Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 3322</td>
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<tr>
<td>UD SOCI</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals** 15 hrs. 13 hrs.

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**GE** = General Education Requirements  
**BA** = Bachelor of Arts college requirements  
**UD** = Upper division

Foreign Language Requirement – See the Undergraduate Catalog: http://catalog.memphis.edu

Degree hours = 120  
42 Upper Division hours required for graduation  
No more than 2 hours of physical education courses may be counted toward a degree.  
Residence – 30 of the last 60 hours must be taken at University of Memphis; at least 60 hours must be at a four-year institution; transfer students must earn at least 6 hours of a major at UM and at least 3 hours of a minor at UM.
**SOCIETY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**SOCI 1010. Introductory Sociology.** Introduction to concepts, methods and theoretical perspectives in sociology. Basic principles of sociological reasoning introduced through lectures, reading assignments, and micro-computer instruction.

**SOCI 2100. Sociology of Globalization.** Social change in an increasingly interdependent world; introduction to development theory and how relations among countries condition changes within them.

**SOCI 3112. Contemporary Social Problems.** Sociological approaches to understanding contemporary social problems.

**SOCI 3311. Social Statistics.** Application of basic statistical concepts and techniques to social analysis.

**SOCI 3322. Methods of Social Research.** Overview of process of social research; selection and formulation of problem, design of research, methods of investigation, analysis and interpretation of data, and report preparation.

**SOCI 3401. Social Inequality.** Unequal distribution of power, property, and prestige and social relations of dominance and subordination in the American class system.

**SOCI 3420. Sociology of the South.** Political economy and major institutions in the South and implications for different races and classes; the South since World War II, including the Civil Rights movement.

**SOCI 3422. Racial and Ethnic Minorities: A Socio-Historical Approach.** Racial and ethnic minorities in United States, how inequality is institutionalized in such areas as employment, education, political participation, and social relations.

**SOCI 3432. Sociology of Gender.** Traditional conceptions of masculinity and femininity and modifications of these resulting from economic, demographic and cultural changes; socialization for masculine and feminine roles and variations in these roles throughout life cycle; class, race, occupational and other institutional differences in sex roles.

**SOCI 3501. Sociology of Deviant Behavior.** Problems in applying definitions of deviance in everyday life; theories about causes and consequences of deviance critically reviewed.

**SOCI 3541. Criminology.** Nature and significance of criminality; etiology of illegal behavior; trends in social reactions to crime and criminals; evolution of biological, psychological, and sociological theories of criminal behavior.

**SOCI 3701. Individual and Society.** Basic theory and research dealing with study of human behavior in social situations; emphasis on communication processes, socialization, social roles, social self, and interaction in group contexts.

**SOCI 3820. Sociology of Education.** Sociological analysis of education and its functions, school and community relationships; problems of social change and educational adjustments.

**SOCI 3831. Marriage and the Family.** American family patterns, including mate selection, man-woman relationships, marital satisfaction, parent-child communication, divorce, alternative lifestyles and other contemporary issues.

**SOCI 3860. Sociology of Religion.** Role of religion in modern society.

**SOCI 3940. Social Change.** A critical assessment of explanations and patterns of social change from a global perspective.


**SOCI 4211. Contemporary Sociological Theory.** Trends and developments in sociological theory from the mid-20th century to today.

**SOCI 4312. Intermediate Social Statistics.** Multivariate analysis of social data.

**SOCI 4413. Global Information Technology and Sociology of Work.** Effects of the global digital divide.

**SOCI 4420. Racial Inequality.** Relations of dominance and subordination in the United States.

**SOCI 4425. Environmental Sociology.** Role of social institutions in shaping environmental discourse and action.

**SOCI 4442. Sociology of Poverty.** Sources of inequality and how experiences of poverty are shaped by race, gender and age.

**SOCI 4460. Black and White Women in the South.** How history of South and political-economic structure has shaped black and white women's work, family, community activities, and relationships.

**SOCI 4541. Sociology of Aging.** Ageism in sociocultural contexts; current beliefs, values, and norms regarding aging; structural location of aging in society.

**SOCI 4631. Cities in Change.** Historical transformation of urban communities and urban life.

**SOCI 4641. Sociology of the Global Environment.** Examination of interactions between physical environment in which we live and human societies which we have created.

**SOCI 4842. Sociology of Occupations and Professions.** Sociological analysis of division of labor, occupational groupings, career patterns, and professional associations in modern American society; meaning of work.

**SOCI 4851. Medical Sociology.** Explanation of the relationships among society, population processes and health; examination of the ways in which health is as much social as biological.

**SOCI 4852. Sociology of Mental Illness.** Definition, taxonomy, models; epidemiology, demographics of class, age, sex, race, residence, marital status; media images, public policy, delivery systems, examines personal experiences and social stigma.

**SOCI 4912. Directed Individual Study.** Individually directed advanced reading and/or research in special areas of interest.

**SOCI 4996. Public Sociology Seminar.** Engagement of multiple publics in multiple ways to address critical community and civil society issues.

**SOCI 4997. Internship in Sociology.** Supervised practical experience in applying sociological principles in a setting appropriate to the discipline of sociology.

**SOCI 4998. Honors Thesis.** Original research conducted under the direction of a faculty mentor.

**SOCI 4999. Senior Thesis Seminar.** Analysis of process and practice of sociological inquiry.

Please consult the Undergraduate Catalog at http://catalog.memphis.edu for complete descriptions.
A. University General Education Program (41 hours)
See the Undergraduate Catalog for the University General Education Program requirements.

B. College and Degree (B.A.) Requirements (6-9 hours)
The College and Bachelor of Arts requirements are in addition to the University General Education Program requirements and are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

C. The Major (30 hours)
Completion of 30 semester hours in sociology, SOCI 1010, 3311, 3322, 4210 or 4211, 4999 (or SOCI 4998 for Honors students), and 15 additional upper-division hours in SOCI.

D. Electives: Electives may be chosen to bring the total number of hours to 120.

Honors Program
The Honors Program in Sociology requires 18 hours of honors work, at least 12 hours of which must be upper-division sociology courses. To complete the Honors Program, a student must have a minimum overall final grade point average of 3.00 in Sociology, and a 3.25 average in honors course work. Those students who complete the program and the regular college requirements will be recognized at the commencement ceremony by having their degree conferred “With Honors in Sociology.” Moreover, the student’s diploma and the record at the University of Memphis will reflect this distinction. Please see the department's Honors Advisor for more details on the program.

Sociology Minor: SOCI 1010 and 15 upper-division hours in SOCI.

Accelerated B.A./M.A. Program in Sociology
This program allows outstanding undergraduates to begin the coursework for the Master of Arts in Sociology during their senior year. Students are encouraged to begin planning to enter the Accelerated B.A./M.A. program early in their undergraduate career, in consultation with their advisor in the Department of Sociology.

What can I do with a B.A. in Sociology?
A Bachelor of Arts in Sociology is excellent preparation for future graduate work in sociology in order to become a professor, researcher or applied sociologist. The undergraduate degree also provides strong liberal arts preparation for entry level positions throughout the business, social service, and government worlds. Employers look for people with the skills that an undergraduate education in sociology provides. Sociology offers valuable preparation for careers in journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration - fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse groups. Students choose sociology because they see it as a broad liberal arts base for professions such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counseling. Sociology provides a rich fund of knowledge that directly pertains to each of these fields. Given the breadth, adaptability and utility of sociology, employment opportunities abound for B.A. graduates. You can secure entry level positions in many of the areas previously mentioned in defining the scope of sociology.

For more information, please contact:
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http://www.memphis.edu/sociology
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901-678-2611
Chair: Dr. Gretchen Peterson
gpterson@memphis.edu

Undergraduate Advisor: Ms. Kendra Murphy
901-678-4555; khmrphy1@memphis.edu
www.memphis.edu/sociology/undergraduate/index.php

Sociology Honors Program:
http://www.memphis.edu/sociology/undergraduate/honors_program.php

The University of Memphis
http://www.memphis.edu

The College of Arts and Sciences
http://www.memphis.edu/cas

UM Career Services: http://www.memphis.edu/careerservices

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.