THE MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

General Requirements

The B.S. degree requires 45 semester hours. 30 s.h. in Sociology and 15 s.h. in math, statistics, and philosophy will prepare students for graduate school or careers in social science research.

A GPA of 2.0 in sociology courses is required of majors (you must meet this both with and without transfer credit). Transfer students must take at least 12 semester hours in sociology at The University of Iowa. In addition to completing the required courses listed below, the sociology major requires the completion of a Portfolio containing representative samples of the student’s work and progress in the major (described on page 2 of this handout).

Course Sequence Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree

A. Required Basic Courses, 12-13 s.h.

_____ SOC:1010 Introduction to Sociology Principles (GE: Social Science), 3-4 s.h.
_____ SOC:2130 Sociological Theory (Prerequisite: SOC:1010 or consent of instructor), 3 s.h.
_____ SOC:2170 Research Methods (Prerequisites: SOC:1010 and completion of SOC:2160 or statistics substitute), 3 s.h.
_____ SOC:4910 The Capstone Course in Sociology, 3 s.h.
_____ SOC:4409 Graduation Portfolio, 0 s.h. (taken in the last semester)

B. Math, Statistics, and Philosophy coursework, 15 s.h.:

_____ MATH:1850 Calculus I, 4 s.h. (may substitute MATH:1550)
_____ MATH:1860 Calculus II, 4 s.h. (may substitute MATH:1560)
_____ STAT:3120 Probability and Statistics, 4 s.h. (prerequisite MATH:1860 or MATH:1560)

One of the following two courses:

_____ PHIL:2603 Introduction to Symbolic Logic, 3 s.h.
_____ PHIL:3604 Introduction to Philosophy of Science, 3 s.h.

C. Six Elective Courses Divided into Two Categories, 18 s.h.

1) Four sociology electives taken in any session (excluding SOC: 1000, SOC:4930 and SOC:4990). Three electives can be any course level, 1 must be numbered 3000-4899.

_____ SOC:_________ (any level)
_____ SOC:_________ (any level)
_____ SOC:_________ (any level)
2) Two sociology electives, must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130, SOC:2160 or stats course, SOC:2170.  
****These courses must be numbered 3000-4899 (excluding SOC:1000, SOC:4930 or SOC:4990)

Portfolio Requirement for Completion of the Major in Sociology

Prior to graduation, students are required to submit a Sociology Major Portfolio. The portfolio provides a record of the student's development in the department. It also is an attractive set of materials that can serve as evidence of interests and work for prospective employers and graduate schools.

The portfolio should include at least five documents:

1. a paper from the first two years of sociology classes, such as a book review or statement comparing competing theories

2. a research proposal or paper that reports the findings of original research (i.e., Research Methods Paper)

3. a reflective statement addressing how you've developed as a person

4. a personal statement with information about what your goals and where you see yourself headed

5. a resume

Together, the materials should display development toward technical correctness in citing others' work, accurate use of sociological concepts, technical proficiency in using research methods, and the ability to explain implications of research findings. Students must enroll in SOC:4909 Graduation Portfolio, a zero credit-hour course, in their final semester before graduation to register Portfolio completion.