

SOCIOLOGY

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHAIR

Elizabeth Long

PROFESSORS

Michael O. Emerson
Stephen L. Klineberg

PROFESSORS EMERITI

Chandler Davidson
Chad Gordon
William Martin

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Katharine Donato

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Bridget K. Gorman
Holly Heard

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Elaine Howard Ecklund
Anne E. Lincoln

DEGREE OFFERED: BA

This undergraduate major fosters an analytic approach to the study of human societies, whether as a preparation for graduate work in sociology and related fields, or as the foundation for a variety of occupations. It is also an important component of a liberal arts education and as such, can serve as effective preparation for professions such as law or medicine. The program provides students with considerable latitude in pursuing personal interests while ensuring familiarity with basic theoretical approaches and research methods.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BA IN SOCIOLOGY

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 14–15). Students majoring in sociology must complete at least 33 semester hours (11 courses) in sociology. Requirements for the major normally include the following.

SOCI 203 *Introduction to Sociology*

SOCI 398 *Social Statistics*

1 of the following:

SOCI 390 *Research Methods*

SOCI 421 *Craft of Sociology*

At least 1 theory course, such as:

SOCI 317 *Contemporary Sociological Theory*

SOCI 359 *Individual and Society*

SOCI 395 *Feminist Social Thought*

Any other sociology courses to reach a total of 11

Sociology majors must earn a C or better to receive credit for the following courses: statistics (SOCI 398), theory (SOCI 317, SOCI 395, or SOCI 359), and research methods (SOCI 390 or SOCI 421). This rule applies to Rice courses and transfer courses.

Sociology majors are *strongly* encouraged to complete the required statistics course in the Rice sociology department. To receive credit for a statistics course completed outside the department (another Rice department or another university), the student must: (1) receive prior approval from the undergraduate advisor to enroll in the course (waived for transfer students), and (2) pass the departmental statistics exam.

Sociology majors are not required to take a foreign language, but those planning graduate study should be competent in at least one such language. Some sociology courses listed in the Courses of Instruction section may not be offered every year, and courses among the regular offerings are occasionally added or dropped.

Students are responsible for making sure they satisfy all the requirements for their degree. One of the sociology faculty, preferably department advisor Professor Gorman, should sign each major's registration.

Honors Program—For general information, see Honors Programs (page 26). Students who have maintained an A- average in all sociology courses beyond the introductory level may apply to enter the honors program. They should submit their research proposals:

- a) by November 15 of the first semester of their junior year, in which case they will research and write their thesis during the second semester of their junior year and the first semester of their senior year
- b) by March 15 of the second semester of their junior year, in which case they will complete their thesis during the two semesters of their senior year.

Since departmental awards for seniors are usually determined around March 1, and the honors thesis is often taken into consideration in this determination, students who wish to be considered for these awards are advised to begin their thesis in the spring of their junior year. Research proposals must be carefully thought out and discussed with at least one professor before being submitted. Once submitted, they will be considered by the department faculty as a whole and, if acceptable, the student will be assigned a faculty adviser.

Students in the honors program register for two successive semesters in Directed Honors Research (SOC 492 and 493). The first of the 2 courses is typically devoted to a thorough review of the relevant literature, the formulation of hypotheses growing out of the literature review, and a proposal consisting of a research design that clearly describes how the data are to be collected and analyzed. To receive a grade for the first semester, the student must submit a paper to the primary thesis adviser by the last day of classes. This paper must contain the literature review, hypotheses, and research design, along with a bibliography. The research itself is usually carried out in the second semester (and sometimes in the summer following the junior year) and is analyzed, written up, and defended as a completed Honors Thesis during that semester.

All honors students should complete SOC 390 *Research Methods* or SOC 421 *The Craft of Sociology* before beginning the second semester of the program. If their project requires statistical analysis, students should also complete SOC 398 *Social Statistics* before beginning the second semester of their research.

See SOC in the Courses of Instruction section.