

SOCIOLOGY

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Melanie Heath

Kristen Schilt

Jason E. Shelton

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 also is an important component of a liberal arts education and, as such, can serve as effective preparation for professions like 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 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 not required to take a foreign language, but those planning graduate study should be competent in at least 1 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 the department advisor 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 1st semester of their junior year, in which case they will research and write their thesis during the 2nd semester of their junior year and the 1st semester of their senior year.
- b) by March 15 of the 2nd semester of their junior year, in which case they will complete their thesis during the 2 semesters of their senior year.

Since departmental awards for seniors are usually determined around March 1, and the honors thesis often is 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 1 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 advisor.

Students in the honors program register for 2 successive semesters in Directed Honors Research (SOC 492 and 493). The 1st 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 1st semester, the student must submit a paper to the primary thesis advisor by the last day of classes. This paper must contain the literature review, hypotheses, and research design, along with a bibliography. The research itself usually is carried out in the 2nd 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 2nd semester of the program. If their project requires statistical analysis, students also should complete SOC 398 *Social Statistics* before beginning the 2nd semester of their research.

See SOC in the Courses of Instruction section.