

SOCIOLOGY (BA)

Sociology explores the many ways people interact and organize themselves—within families and nations, cities and suburbs, factories, schools, churches, and even gangs. Its subject matter is the world around us. Sociologists at Loyola explore questions such as how play in public parks can build community life, effective activism to protect the environment, and the integration of immigrants into American society.

Undergraduate students entering the department become part of a distinguished program with a long history of teaching, research, and service to the community beginning in 1914. With fifteen full-time sociologists, our department supports both an active research agenda and a teaching program that grants personal attention to our students, small class sizes, and opportunities for faculty-student collaborations.

Related Programs

Minor

- Sociology Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-minor/>)

Combined

- Sociology (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/sociology-bama/>)
- Sociology/International Affairs (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/sociology-international-affairs-bama/>)

Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
SOCL 101	Society in a Global Age	3
SOCL 205	Sociological Thought ¹	3
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	3
SOCL 301	Statistics for Social Research	4
SOCL 365	Social Theory & Social Research ²	3
Electives		
Complete six total electives; five must be from SOCL 210-SOCL 380. ^{3,4,5}		18
Total Hours		34

¹ Any Sociology 100-level course is considered to be a prerequisite for SOCL 205, except by special permission of the instructor.

² SOCL 205, SOCL 206, and SOCL 301 are prerequisites for SOCL 365. These courses provide social science students with the theory and methodology background needed for more advanced work.

³ Only one semester of SOCL 380 may be counted toward the major (although this is a six credit hour course, it counts as one course).

⁴ In choosing electives, majors should consult with their department advisor. One course from another social science may be substituted with departmental permission.

⁵ A list of all Sociology (SOCL) course descriptions can be found here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/course-descriptions/socl/>).

Optional Concentrations

Health and Community Concentration

The Health and Community Concentration gives students a broad background in the discipline overall while allowing students to focus their coursework on the substantive areas of healthcare institutions, medical sociology, and the social sources of health-related inequalities across communities, including attention to race, ethnicity, gender, social class and neighborhoods. The Health and Community Concentration is well suited for students interested in a broad range of careers and courses of graduate study in health-related fields, including: medical school, medicine, and other careers in medical care (terrific MCAT prep); healthcare administration and healthcare policy; graduate study in medical sociology and/or gerontology; graduate study and careers in counseling; advocacy and/or non-profit work focused on populations facing health-based risks and inequalities both in the U.S. and overseas.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Intro Course		
SOCL 101	Society in a Global Age	
Health & Health Care		
Select one of the following:		3
SOCL 225	Sociology of Health Care	
SOCL 370	Undergrad Seminar-Special Topics ¹	
Populations (Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Immigration)		
Select two of the following:		6
SOCL 122	Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOCL 145	Religion & Society	
SOCL 171	Sociology of Sex and Gender	
SOCL 210	Gender and Work	
SOCL 220	Topics in the Life Cycle ¹	
SOCL 221	Sociology and Culture of the Life Course	
SOCL 228	Sociology of the African-American Experience	
SOCL 230	Self & Society	
SOCL 231	Childhood and Society	
SOCL 236	Population Studies	
SOCL 240	Families	
SOCL 280	Topics in Contemporary Sociology	
SOCL 380	Internship	
Communities and Neighborhoods		
Select one of the following:		3
SOCL 125	Chicago: Urban Metropolis	
SOCL 234	City, Suburbs & Beyond	
SOCL 235	Communities in a Global Age	
SOCL 272	Environmental Sociology	
SOCL 335	Urban Semester Seminar ²	
Poverty and Inequality		
Select one of the following:		3
SOCL 121	Social Problems	
SOCL 222	Poverty & Welfare in America	
SOCL 250	Inequality in Society	
SOCL 260	Power in Society	
SOCL 265	Globalization & Society ²	
SOCL 252	Global Inequalities	

SOCL 306	International Development
Total Hours	15

¹ Indicates courses that are infrequently offered

² Indicates experiential learning

Social Justice Concentration

The Social Justice Concentration gives students a broad background in the discipline overall, and in keeping with the centrality of social justice to Loyola's mission, this concentration allows students to focus their coursework on the substantive topics of social inequality, social change, and social justice. The Social Justice concentration is well suited for students interested in a broad range of careers, advocacy, and courses of graduate study in fields including: law school and legal practice in areas such as civil rights law, gender-based violence, immigration law; public policy and public administration concerning issues for marginalized populations (e.g., homelessness, education, job training/placement, housing, residency status, post-incarceration reentry, voting rights, etc.); social work and human services; teaching and educational leadership and policy; higher education and student affairs; advocacy and non-profit management in organizations that serve marginalized populations; labor organizing and collective bargaining; research for labor unions, social service agencies, and/or non-profit organizations.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Intro Course		
SOCL 101	Society in a Global Age	
Stratification and Inequality		
Select one of the following:		3
SOCL 250	Inequality in Society	
SOCL 252	Global Inequalities	
SOCL 260	Power in Society	
SOCL 306	International Development	
Populations (Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Immigration)		
Select two of the following:		6
SOCL 122	Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOCL 145	Religion & Society	
SOCL 171	Sociology of Sex and Gender	
SOCL 210	Gender and Work	
SOCL 220	Topics in the Life Cycle ¹	
SOCL 221	Sociology and Culture of the Life Course	
SOCL 228	Sociology of the African-American Experience	
SOCL 230	Self & Society	
SOCL 231	Childhood and Society	
SOCL 236	Population Studies	
SOCL 240	Families	
SOCL 280	Topics in Contemporary Sociology	
SOCL 370	Undergrad Seminar-Special Topics	
SOCL 380	Internship	
Deviance, Social Control, and Law		
Select one of the following:		3
SOCL 215	Law & Society	
SOCL 216	The Sociology of Violence	
SOCL 255	Deviance and Social Control	
Social Change		

Select one of the following: 3

SOCL 234	City, Suburbs & Beyond
SOCL 261	Social Movements & Social Change
SOCL 265	Globalization & Society ²
SOCL 272	Environmental Sociology
SOCL 304	Global Civil Society and Social Movements
SOCL 335	Urban Semester Seminar ²

Total Hours 15

¹ Indicates courses that are infrequently offered

² Indicates experiential learning

Research Methods Concentration

The Research Methods Concentration gives students a broad background in the discipline overall, while providing students the opportunity to focus their coursework on the principles and practices of social research methodology. This concentration emphasizes both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, equipping students with the skills to design, conduct, and analyze studies in the social sciences. The Research Methods Concentration is well suited for students interested in advanced degrees in business, graduate school, and a broad range of careers, including social science research, market research, data analytics, policy analyst, user experience/design, statistician, census researcher, survey research technician, and non-profit or private organizational management.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Intro Course		
SOCL 101	Society in a Global Age	
Methods		
Select five of the following		15
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	
SOCL 236	Population Studies	
SOCL 301	Statistics for Social Research	
SOCL 302	Qualitative Research ²	
SOCL 335	Urban Semester Seminar ²	
SOCL 365	Social Theory & Social Research ²	
SOCL 370	Undergrad Seminar-Special Topics	
Total Hours		15

¹ Indicates courses that are infrequently offered

² Indicates experiential learning

Double Majors

For students with a broad range of interests, a double major may offer a desirable option.

Sociology is most frequently combined with another social science (political science, psychology, etc.), but students in philosophy, biology, and languages have also found a second major in Sociology useful.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

In the suggested sequence, courses can either be taken in Fall or Spring semester dependent on student's schedules.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
SOCL 100-Level Course		3
Hours		3
Spring		
Sociology Elective		3
Hours		3
Sophomore		
Fall		
SOCL 205	Sociological Thought	3
SOCL 301	Statistics for Social Research	4
Hours		7
Spring		
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	3
Sociology Elective		3
Hours		6
Junior		
Fall		
Sociology Elective ¹		3
Hours		3
Spring		
Sociology Elective ¹		3
Hours		3
Senior		
Fall		
Sociology Elective ¹		3
SOCL 365	Social Theory & Social Research	3
Hours		6
Spring		
Sociology Elective ¹		3
Hours		3
Total Hours		34

¹ During this semester, students may pursue a possible internship as an elective credit.

Transferring Credit

In completing major requirements, not more than five (5) courses or 15 semester hours will be accepted in transfer from other colleges and universities.

College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take two Writing Intensive courses (6 credit hours) as well as complete a foreign language requirement at 102-level or higher (3 credit hours) or a language competency test. More information can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/cas/college-requirements/>).

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SCPS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/>) area.

Learning Outcomes

- Critical Thinking - demonstrate the ability to analyze and evaluate multiple and competing social, political, and/or cultural arguments.
- Sociological Imagination - the ability to articulate and evaluate how individual biographies are shaped by social structures, social institutions, cultural routines, and multiple of elements of social difference and/or inequality.
- Communication - the ability to formulate effective and convincing written and verbal arguments.
- Diversity – an awareness of how people of different cultural, religious, and political belief systems interpret the world around them through those beliefs.
- Sociological Theory - the ability to use and evaluate both classical and contemporary perspectives in sociological theory.
- Methodology - the ability to interpret and evaluate several of the major social science research methodologies, as well as the relationship between research questions and appropriate methods.
- Substantive Areas - the ability to demonstrate knowledge of multiple key substantive areas within the field of sociology and evaluate competing perspectives.
- Social Justice in the Jesuit Tradition - the ability to articulate and evaluate how sociological insights should inform a commitment to social justice.