

Sociology

Undergraduate Programs

Degrees and Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
Minor in Sociology

Career Options

Writer/editor
Social science research specialist
Newscaster
Consumer relations researcher
Community college teacher
(Master of Arts required)
Rehabilitation counselor
Streetworker with urban youth
Juvenile court counselor
Parole officer
Urban renewal researcher for
nonprofit organization
Youth counselor
Public relations staffer
Public opinion analyst
Personnel staff member
Labor relations staffer
Family planning worker
Career counselor
Market researcher
Technical writer
Human resources manager
Governmental researcher
Community organizer

What is Sociology and Why Study it?

Sociology examines the social aspects and dimensions of most everything human beings do in the realm of politics, economics, culture, technology, relationships and identity. Sociologists conduct research and develop social theory explaining why and how factors like race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality influence how human beings behave, think and feel. Sociologists ask such critical questions as: Why do some people possess more power, wealth, authority and influence than others? Why do some people vote more often than others? Why do more men than women advance in scientific and technological jobs? Why do humans change their behavior based on who is observing them? How do processes of globalization change our everyday lives? How do people respond to human diversity? How do human beings go about changing, or maintaining, social norms and social institutions? Asking these kinds of questions allows us to better understand the social environments in which we live and work today.

Studying sociology at SF State provides students critical and reflexive perspectives with which to understand the world. It pushes students to develop the analytical, research and compositional skills necessary to investigate, understand, analyze, explain and improve the world around them.

Sociology courses cover a broad range of topics, including the study of individuals as social actors; the investigation of social institutions such as law, family, media, popular culture, medicine, education and religion; social processes of ethnic, class, gender and sexual inequalities; and the organization of entire societies in global context.

At SF State, sociology faculty and students are especially concerned with questions of social inequality and justice. We consider the social institutions and practices that perpetuate inequality; and we pursue research and practice that promote greater equity and justice in the world. By addressing what we know (evidence), how we know (method of social research) and how we explain or interpret social data (theory and analysis), the undergraduate major in sociology provides the tools and the intellectual framework to better understand the society in which we live, our own place in society and social worlds unlike our own. By providing information that students can use to better understand the complexity and multiplicity of social worlds, the sociology major provides a broad educational experience not a specialized career training program. The department offers a variety of courses of interest to non-majors as well as majors

Sociology Faculty

The eleven full-time and several part-time faculty members in the department add to students' experiences in the classroom by drawing upon their own backgrounds and current research projects. Faculty members have worked in health delivery systems; anti-domestic violence agencies; public education reform; prison education; environmental movements; youth activism; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movements; and organizing women workers around the world. The faculty's research reflects many areas of interest that concern sociologists. Books and articles written by faculty members deal with topics ranging from female workers in Silicon Valley factories; social change in the public school system; the impact of globalization and industrialization upon the Brazilian rain forests; civil society in Japan; art and social movements in Latin America; lesbian and gay sexuality, relationships and family life; citizenship lessons in sexuality education; and youth activism, popular culture and social change in the United States.

A Future in Sociology

Upon graduation, students can continue their education with graduate work in sociology or in a related field such as social work (MSW), public administration (MPA), public health (MPH) or law (JD). After attaining a sociology BA, some graduates pursue a teaching credential for K-12 education. Many professional sociologists teach and/or conduct research in colleges and universities; others work in government, industry or the nonprofit sector. Teaching in colleges and universities often requires a Ph.D., but many community colleges hire instructors with a Master of Arts degree in sociology.

Employers in many different industries and institutions recognize the value of hiring persons with a BA in the liberal arts and social sciences including sociology. Public agencies, nonprofit organizations and large business corporations often look to hire employees with excellent interpersonal, communication and compositional skills. A solid base in research design, data analysis, statistics and sociological concepts helps students compete for support positions in research, policy analysis, program evaluation and other social service endeavors.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Sociology

HSS 370
415-338-1466
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Web: <https://sociology.sfsu.edu>

How to apply

Apply online through CSU Mentor: www.csumentor.edu. It's the easiest and fastest way to apply. For more information about SF State admissions, visit the SF State Prospective Student Web site: www.sfsu.edu/future.

Reaching SF State by mail

To reach any SF State department or program by mail, write to the specific office, followed by:
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

By phone

University Information
415/338-1111

Admissions Office

415/338-1113
E-mail: ugadmit@sfsu.edu

SF State on the Internet

For access to the university *Bulletin* (catalog), Class Schedule, and other campus information, visit SF State on the Web: www.sfsu.edu

Facilities Available to Students

The Sociology Department provides career, post-graduate and program advising to help students make academic and occupational decisions. Faculty encourage students to supplement their Bachelor of Arts in sociology with significant volunteer work related to their interests and with a selection of elective courses that will enhance their employment prospects upon graduation.

The department maintains a sociology student lounge as a place to study, work on research papers, hold study groups or for students to just relax and get to know their sociology peers. The sociology student lounge has several computers that are available for students to work on research projects and papers. The department also has an active student organization, the Sociology Students Association (SSA). SSA organizes a series of events and is a fun way to bring students together and get involved.

The Sociology Major

Required Courses (19 units)

SOC 300 GW	Sociological Analysis - GVAR (SOC 300 is a prerequisite for all other required courses in the major)
SOC 370	Classical Theories of Society
or	
SOC 371	Contemporary Theories of Society (Passing SOC 370 or SOC 371 is a prerequisite for SOC 392)
SOC 392	Introduction to Research Methods
SOC 393	Quantitative Analysis of Social Data
or	
SOC 394	Sociological Field Methods
SOC 500	Senior Seminar
or	
SOC 501	Internship: Applied Sociology
and	
SOC 502	Internship Seminar: Applied Sociology

Sociology Electives (23-24 units)

In fulfilling the elective requirements students must complete at least one course from each of the following two areas*

Area 1: Inequalities in the United States

SOC 272	Social Inequality: Poverty Wealth, and Privilege
SOC 330/RRS 330	Comparative Race and Ethnicity in the US: Class Gender, and Nation
SOC 362	The Social Construction of Deviance and Conformity
SOC 400/SXS 400/PSY 450	Variations in Human Sexuality
SOC 455	Punishment and Social Control
SOC 467/SXS 467	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultures and Society
SOC 468	Social Aspects of Human Sexuality
SOC 469	Gender and Society
SOC 490	Sociology of Popular Culture
SOC 491	Ancestors or Data?: Culture, Conflict and NAGPRA

Area 2: Global Inequalities

SOC 461	Ethnic Relations: International Comparisons
SOC 471	Societal Change and Development
SOC 477	Environmental Sociology
SOC 480	City in a Global Society
SOC 481	Sociology of Brazil
SOC 482	Global Immigration and Immigrants
SOC 483	Global Sociology
SOC 484	Population and Social Dynamics
SOC 645	Identities, Inequalities, and Struggles in Latin America

*The remaining units may include additional courses from these areas, 3-4 upper-division units outside sociology upon approval of a sociology adviser and any other course with a sociology prefix including SOC 105, SOC 110, SOC 200, SOC 245 and courses taken at other institutions.

Total units for major **42-43**

The Minor Program in Sociology

At least half the units making up the minor (12 units) must be taken in residence and at least half must be upper division. Students must be assigned letter grades for all courses taken toward the minor.

Required Courses (12 units)

SOC 300 GW	Sociological Analysis - GVAR (SOC 300 is a prerequisite for all other required courses in the minor)
SOC 370	Classical Theories of Society
or	
SOC 371	Contemporary Theories of Society (Passing SOC 370 or SOC 371 is a prerequisite for SOC 392)
SOC 392	Introduction to Research Methods

Sociology Electives (6-8 units) Select one course from either of the two areas that appear in the B.A. above. The remaining units toward the 18-20 units may include additional courses from these areas or any other course with a sociology prefix including SOC 105, SOC 110, SOC 200, SOC 245 and courses taken at other institutions.

Total units for minor **18-20**