

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



STUDENT HANDBOOK
FOR
MAJORS AND MINORS
2025-2026

Randall Hall, 130 Hospital Dr.
P.O. Box 400766
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Phone: (434) 924-7293
Fax: (434) 924-7028

<https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/>

Updated __.__.2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the Director of Undergraduate Programs.....	1
The Major in Sociology	2
Prerequisites	2
Requirements to Complete the Major.....	2
Credit Requirements	2
Required Courses.....	2
Elective Courses	3
Grade Requirements	3
Counting Non-Standard Courses Toward the Major	3
Summer Session and J-Term Courses	3
Courses in Other Departments of the University or Other Institutions and Programs	4
Independent Study	5
Graduate Courses and Dual-Level Courses	5
Exemptions and Waivers.....	5
Exemption from SOC 3130.....	5
Other Exemptions and Waivers.....	6
Declaring a Major in Sociology.....	6
Procedure for Declaring the Major	6
Deferring the Declaration of Major	7
Transfer Students	7
Your Faculty Advisor.....	8
Concentrations	8
Requirements	9
Crime, Law and Power	9
Global Economy, Organizations and Work	10
Health and Medicine.....	10
Procedure for Declaring a Concentration.....	11
The Distinguished Majors Program (DMP).....	11
Eligibility for Admission to the Program.....	11
Requirements	11
Levels of Distinction.....	12
Applying to the Distinguished Majors Program	12
The Selection Process	13
The Minor in Sociology.....	14
Requirements to Complete the Minor.....	14
Credit Requirements	14
Required Course	14
Elective Courses	14
Grade Requirements	14
Counting Non-Standard Courses Toward the Minor	15
Summer Session and J-Term Courses.....	15
Courses in Other Departments of the University or Other Institutions and Programs	15
Independent Study	15

Graduate Courses and Dual-Level Courses	15
Exemptions and Waivers.....	15
Exemption from the Introductory Sociology Course Requirement.....	15
Other Exemptions and Waivers.....	16
Declaring a Minor in Sociology	16
Procedure for Declaring the Minor.....	16
Changing a Major to a Minor.....	16
General Information	17
Second Writing Requirement.....	17
Enrolling in a Course that is Restricted or Full.....	17
Dropped Enrollment in a Course.....	17
Prizes	17
Degrees with Distinction	17
Applying for Graduation.....	17
Students Graduating in August or December	17
Student Organizations	18
Study Abroad.....	19
Sociology Faculty: Areas of Specialization & Degree Institution	21

The information contained herein is for informational purposes only. The Undergraduate Record and Graduate Record represent the official repository for academic program requirements. These publications may be found at <http://records.ureq.virginia.edu/index.php>.

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Welcome to the Department of Sociology! Whether you're new to the department or already well into your studies, we're excited to be part of your time at the University of Virginia. And we are hopeful that the questions you ask here will shape the way you move through the world.

Sociology begins with a simple insight: what people do, believe, and become—how they relate to one another, interact with institutions, navigate inequality, and pursue social change—all follow patterned regularities. Sociologists study those patterns across the full range of human life, from face-to-face interaction to global systems. We ask how society works, how it's changing (and being transformed), and how it might be different.

Study in Sociology at UVA is designed to offer students both a broad, systematic understanding of society and the space to shape their own intellectual path. You will receive grounding in classic and contemporary social theory; training in research design, data collection, and statistical analysis; and exposure to the current state of knowledge across a variety of substantive areas. Students accepted into our Distinguished Majors Program work closely with a faculty advisor to develop and carry out an original research project. For those who want to follow a focused trajectory, we offer three official transcript-noted concentrations: Crime, Law, and Power; Global Economy, Organizations, and Work; and Health and Medicine.

Sociology majors graduate with a strong liberal arts education and a versatile skill set. The major helps students build the ability to think critically and analytically, communicate clearly, and understand how institutions, systems, and social patterns shape everyday life. Students also gain specific experience in data collection and analysis, skills that transfer across a wide range of fields.

Our graduates go on to do many things. Some work in law, public health, education, nonprofits, government, and business. Others pursue advanced degrees in fields like social work, public policy, health administration, and sociology itself. Whatever the path, we hope the major gives you something lasting: a deeper way of seeing the world, and the tools to help make it better.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your faculty advisor, to me, or to the Department's Academic Administrator. Again, welcome and I look forward to meeting you!

B. Brian Foster
Associate Professor and
Director of Undergraduate Programs

THE MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

PREREQUISITES

Before declaring a major in Sociology, a student must first complete two courses (six credits) in Sociology, with a grade of “C” or better in each course. SOC 3020-Introduction to Social Theory or SOC 3120-Sociology Research Workshop may be used to fulfill this requirement.

Third-year transfer students may declare a major in Sociology if they have completed two sociology courses (six credits) at their previous institution, with a grade of “C” or better in each course (see “Transfer Students” below).

REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE THE MAJOR

Credit Requirements

Sociology majors are required to complete 30 credits of coursework approved by their faculty advisors or the Director of Undergraduate Programs (DUP). Normally, students meet this requirement by completing ten courses. Courses taken before declaring the major may be counted.

Required Courses

Four core courses are required for the Sociology major:

One introductory course

Students must take one of the following 3-credit courses: SOC 1010: Introductory Sociology, SOC 1220: Social Problems, or SOC 2010: Principles of Sociology. (Note: students may not take both SOC 1010 and SOC 2010 for credit.)

SOC 3020: Introduction to Social Theory (3-credit course)

Considers important classical and contemporary perspectives in social theory. This course should be taken in the third year.

SOC 3120: Sociology Research Methods (4-credit course)

Introduces students to the conceptualization of sociological research questions and to quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection and analysis. This course should be taken in the fall of the third year.

SOC 3130: Introduction to Social Statistics (4-credit course)

Introduction to elementary methods of statistical analysis. No special mathematical background or aptitude is required. This course should be taken in the spring of the third year. Students are strongly encouraged to take SOC 3120 prior to SOC 3130.

Elective Courses

Majors must also complete six elective courses (18 credits). Two of these elective courses must be at the 2000 level. Four of these elective courses (12 credits) must be at the 3000 level or above, including two courses (6 credits) at the 4000 or 5000 level. Students should note that all 4000- and 5000-level courses require at least two prior Sociology courses (6 credits) as prerequisites. Courses in the Distinguished Majors Program (SOC 4980 and SOC 4981) do not count toward the elective requirements (see “The Distinguished Majors Program” below). Only 3 credits of SOC 4970: Special Studies in Sociology (independent study) may be counted toward the major.

Grade Requirements

All courses used to meet the 30-credit requirement must be letter-graded. Courses taken on a Credit/No Credit or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis do not count toward the major.

Note: The Sociology Department waived this rule during the 2020-2021 academic year and the Fall semester of 2022, following the Provost’s grading policy during those terms. Courses completed during the 2020-2021 academic year or the Fall semester of 2022 with grades of CR will be counted toward the major.

A grade of “C” or better is necessary in every course to be counted toward the major. Students receiving less than a “C” in one of the required courses must retake the course and receive a grade of “C” or better. Students receiving less than a “C” in an elective course will be required to take another Sociology course for the major. (Elective courses where a student receives an unsatisfactory but passing grade still count toward the College’s requirement of 120 credits for graduation even though they do not count toward the major. Because the College will not give credit for taking a course twice, re-taken required Sociology courses do not count toward the 120-credit requirement.)

Students are required to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher in Sociology courses. In addition, students may not receive grades of “C minus” or lower in three or more Sociology courses. Students who fail to meet these requirements are required to petition the Director of Undergraduate Programs for permission to remain in the major. Any such petition must include both (a) an explanation of what occurred and (b) a plan for avoiding further low grades in the future. Students who do not submit a satisfactory petition will be dropped from the major.

Note: The online Student Information System (SIS) sometimes calculates the major GPA incorrectly by ignoring courses that cannot be applied toward the major due to low grades. The Department’s calculation of the major GPA includes all Sociology courses and thus may be different.

COUNTING NON-STANDARD COURSES TOWARD THE MAJOR

In addition to standard undergraduate Sociology courses offered during the academic year, certain other types of courses may be counted toward the major.

Summer Session and J-Term Courses

Sociology courses taken during the summer session at the University of Virginia are equivalent to academic-year courses and count toward the major in Sociology. Thus, both required and elective

courses may be taken during the summer session.

Sociology elective courses taken during the January term (“J-Term”) at the University of Virginia may be counted toward the major. (Required courses are not offered during J-Term.)

Courses in Other Departments of the University or Other Institutions and Programs

Required courses and the required six credits at the 4000 or 5000 level must be completed in the Sociology Department. For other electives, up to two courses (six credits) may be taken outside the Sociology Department. These may include courses in other departments and programs at the University of Virginia or courses taken at another institution or program. All such courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better. All requests to count courses taken outside the Sociology Department toward the Sociology major, whether taken at the University of Virginia or elsewhere, must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Programs.

Courses in Other Departments of the University. Approval to count a course in another department of the University toward the Sociology major may be obtained *before* or *after* taking the course. To seek approval, a student should email or submit an electronic or paper copy of the “Petition for Approval of a UVA Non-Sociology Course” to the Director of Undergraduate Programs and the Department’s Academic Administrator, together with a copy of the course syllabus. If the student is seeking approval in advance of taking the course and the syllabus is not yet available, the syllabus for the most recent prior offering of the course by the same instructor is acceptable. If the course syllabus does not include information about class session topics, readings, or assignments, the student must provide an additional document with that information.

Double counting one course toward two majors. Departmental approval for double counting courses is required by both departments. Students must request that approval using the appropriate DocuSign form (available on the Sociology website at <https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). Specific rules may be found at <https://college.as.virginia.edu/declaremajor>.

Courses in Other Institutions or Programs. Approval to count a course taken at another college, university, or program toward the major must be obtained *before* taking the course (with the exception of transfer students, discussed below). Students who have not yet declared a Sociology major but who intend to do so may seek this approval *before* declaring the major (for example, a student who wishes to study abroad in the spring semester of the second year).

For a study-abroad course: Your study-abroad application will include a form for obtaining academic approval for each course you would like to take from the appropriate academic department. If you wish to count a course toward your Sociology major, the form will be sent to the Sociology Director of Undergraduate Programs for approval. **Please note that the Director of Undergraduate Programs will also need the syllabus for any sociology course you wish to take.** You will need to obtain the course syllabus from the study-abroad program. The syllabus must include the list of topics covered, required readings, and assignments or exams. If the syllabus does not include that information, you will need to obtain a separate document that does. The syllabus or equivalent document should be attached to the form or emailed directly to the Director of Undergraduate Programs.

For a course at another institution in the United States: You must submit the College of Arts and Sciences “Request for Transfer of Credit – Major or Minor” form via DocuSign. You can access the form at this link (scroll down): <https://college.as.virginia.edu/forms>. You must attach the course syllabus. The syllabus must include the list of topics covered, required readings, and assignments or exams. If the syllabus does not include that information, you will need to obtain and provide a separate document that does. Please note that petitions for approval of summer courses at community colleges will generally *not* be approved in the absence of unusual and compelling circumstances.

Independent Study

Fourth-year students with a strong academic record (a Sociology GPA of 3.2 or higher) may wish to pursue an independent study under the supervision of a faculty member (SOC 4970 - Special Studies in Sociology). Three credits of SOC 4970 can count towards the major. Enrollment in SOC 4970 requires prior approval by the Director of Undergraduate Programs. To apply for approval, a student should first develop a syllabus with the instructor who will supervise the independent study. This syllabus should indicate the planned learning goals, readings, activities, frequency of meetings with your instructor, and modes of learning assessment. The student should also complete the Independent Study Form, which is available on the Sociology website (<https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). The form and syllabus should be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Programs, who may ask for revisions before approval.

Graduate Courses and Dual-Level Courses

Although Sociology courses at the 5000-level are designed for graduate students, some of these courses may be of interest to fourth-year students with an exceptional academic record (a Sociology GPA of 3.4 or higher). Undergraduate enrollment in a 5000-level course is at the discretion of the instructor. Undergraduate students should not normally take a 5000-level course until they have completed SOC 1010-Introductory Sociology and six courses (18 credits) in Sociology.

Occasionally the Department offers courses that have a dual listing, e.g. SOC 4053/8053. These courses are open to both undergraduate and graduate students with distinct requirements for each. Undergraduates should enroll in the lower-level course listed.

EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS

Exemption from the Introductory Sociology course requirement

Transfer students who have transferred credits for a course in Introductory Sociology taken at another institution prior to matriculation at the University are exempt from the requirement to take one Introductory Sociology course here. However, the Introductory Sociology course taken at the previous institution does not count toward the 30 credits required for the completion of the sociology major. Thus transfer students who have transferred credits for an Introductory Sociology course at another institution must take one additional Sociology course at any level.

Exemption from SOC 3130

Students may be exempted from the requirement to take SOC 3130 - Introduction to Social Statistics, if one of the following circumstances applies:

1. The student has completed PSYC 2005 & 3006 with a “C” or better *and* either (a) is double-majoring in Psychology or (b) completed those courses prior to declaring a major in sociology.
2. The student has completed STAT 2020 with a “C” or better *and* either (a) is double-majoring in Biology or (b) completed that course prior to declaring a major in sociology.
3. The student has completed STAT 2120 or STAT 3120 *and* either (a) is double-majoring in Statistics or Economics (b) completed that course prior to declaring a major in sociology.
4. The student has completed LPPA 3640 (Batten School) with a “C” or better and either (a) is double-majoring in the Batten School or (b) completed that course prior to declaring a major in sociology.

Exemption from SOC 3130 does not reduce the total 30 credits required for completion of the major. Thus, exempted students must complete an additional Sociology course at any level.

Other Exemptions and Waivers

Students in unusual circumstances may petition the DUP and the Undergraduate Studies Committee for an exemption from a requirement or a waiver of any departmental policy relating to the major. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the Committee has all appropriate materials.

DECLARING A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Procedure for Declaring the Major

Before declaring a major in sociology, a student must first complete the prerequisite courses. (See the section above on “Prerequisites” for details.). When you have completed the prerequisites and are ready to declare a major, please follow these steps:

- Step 1.** Contact the Department’s Academic Administrator and let her or him know you would like to declare your major. The Academic Administrator will assign you to a faculty advisor. You may state a preference for a particular advisor, which will be honored if possible. All regular faculty serve as advisors; see the full list on the last page of this handbook.
- Step 2.** Download and fill out a copy of the declaration worksheet (available at <https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). The worksheet will ask you to list required and elective courses and the semester in which you took or plan to take them. With respect to future elective courses, this does not represent a commitment to take those courses. The goal is simply to plan one possible path to completing the major.

To identify elective courses that you may wish to take, you can consult the current undergraduate course listing (available at <https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/undergraduate-courses>) and the University Undergraduate Record, which lists all approved courses in Sociology (<http://records.ureg.virginia.edu>).

Step 3. Schedule a meeting with your assigned advisor (in person or via Zoom). Bring the declaration worksheet to the meeting with your assigned faculty advisor. Your advisor should review your worksheet and discuss your broader interests in sociology. You and your advisor should then agree on a plan of study.

Step 4. Prepare and submit the Declaration of Major/Minor Form online through DocuSign (see instructions at <https://college.as.virginia.edu/forms>). Enter the name and email of the Department's Academic Administrator as the "Declaration of Major Contact." DocuSign will route the form to your advisor for signature. Once your advisor signs it, the form will be forwarded to the Sociology Department and the University Registrar.

Deferring the Declaration of Major

Students entering their fifth semester who have not completed the prerequisites to declaring the major must *defer* their declaration for one semester while they complete the prerequisites.

To defer your declaration, you should follow the same steps listed above for declaring the major, *except*:

- In **Step 1**, you should let the Academic Administrator know that you plan to *defer* declaring.
- In **Step 4**, you should prepare and submit the Declaration of Major Deferral Form online through DocuSign (see instructions at <https://college.as.virginia.edu/forms>).

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who transfer from another college or university who have transferred credit for two sociology courses completed with grades of C or higher at their previous institution may declare a Sociology major if the Director of Undergraduate Programs approves those courses as prerequisites to declaring. To obtain approval, students should submit the "Transfer Student Petition for Approval of Courses Taken at Previous Institution" form (available on the Department website under "Program Forms and Links") together with the course syllabi. **Students entering their fifth semester in college** should submit this petition **as soon as possible** at the beginning of the semester.

Transfer students who have transferred credit for only one sociology course or no sociology courses from their previous institution have not met the prerequisites for declaring. **Students entering their fifth semester in college** must officially **defer their declaration** of the major for one semester while they complete the prerequisites. Students may only defer their declaration for one semester. The College requires all students to declare a major by the beginning of the sixth semester. Students who have transferred credit for one sociology course from their previous institution should seek approval of that course from the Director of Undergraduate Programs by

submitting the “Transfer Student Petition for Approval of Courses Taken at Previous Institution” form (available on the Department website under “Program Forms and Links”) together with the course syllabus. **Students entering their fifth semester in college** should submit this petition **as soon as possible** at the beginning of the semester.

Any transferred sociology course may serve as a prerequisite to declaring the major. However, not all transferred sociology courses will count toward completing the major requirements.

- A course in introductory sociology taken at a previous institution may serve as a prerequisite to declaring the major. Transfer students who have taken introductory sociology at a previous institution are not required to take an introductory sociology course at the University of Virginia. However, they must substitute one additional sociology course at any level. (See “Exemptions and Waivers.”)
- The Department’s required courses in social theory (SOC 3020), social research methods (SOC 3120) and social statistics (SOC 3130) must be taken at the University of Virginia. Comparable courses taken at a previous institution may serve as prerequisites to declaring the major but cannot count toward completion of the major.
- Both 4000-level electives must be taken at the University of Virginia. A 4000-level course taken at a previous institution may serve as a prerequisite to declaring the major but cannot be used to meet the 4000-level elective requirement.

Students entering their fifth semester in college in the fall semester are strongly encouraged to enroll in SOC 3120: Sociology Research Methods immediately rather than waiting until the fourth year.

YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR

When a student seeks to declare or defer a Sociology major, a faculty member will be assigned as the student’s academic advisor, replacing any previous academic advisor. Students are expected to meet with their advisors at least once each semester to discuss choice of courses, progress toward fulfilling requirements, and any other questions or problems concerning the student’s academic work.

Faculty office hours are posted on their office doors and on the Department [website](#). If you cannot meet during your advisor’s regular office hours, contact your advisor to make an appointment.

The College schedules advising weeks in late October or early November and late March or early April. Your advisor should contact you to schedule a meeting during those weeks. However, if you do not hear from your advisor, you should take the initiative to arrange a meeting.

CONCENTRATIONS

The Department offers three concentrations as options for sociology majors: “Crime, Law and

Power,” “Global Economy, Organizations and Work” and “Health and Medicine.” Although a concentration is not required, students with an interest in one of these areas may find it valuable. A concentration enables students to pursue a coherent course of study focused on a particular theme and guides them in selecting the courses that allow for an in-depth exploration of that topic. Moreover, because concentrations are noted on students’ transcripts, they signal a specific course of study to graduate programs and employers.

Requirements

Each concentration requires the completion of three courses (9 credits) focused on relevant topics. Courses that have been pre-approved as counting toward each of these concentrations are listed below. A student may also petition the Director of Undergraduate Programs to count a course that has not been pre-approved. No more than one course (3 credits) taken outside the Department may be counted toward a concentration. To be counted toward a concentration, a course taken outside the Department must also count toward the major.

Crime, Law and Power

The Crime, Law and Power concentration may be of interest to students planning careers in law, criminal justice, politics, government, and related non-profit agencies. It provides students with a rigorous study of social theory and research to aid them in developing an understanding of crime and violence, law and the legal system, and legal and non-legal modes of exercising power in society. As the term is understood here, “power” is more specific than general inequality and refers to the ability to compel or coerce others through legal, political, or violent means.

Preapproved Sociology courses:

SOC 2210 Drugs & Society
SOC 2055 Law and Society
SOC 2230 Criminology
SOC 2380 Violence & Gender
SOC 4230 Deviance & Social Control
SOC 4260 Race Crime & Punishment
SOC 4054 Politics, Power and Social Change
SOC 4660 Sociology of Power & Authority
SOC 4055 Law, Inequality and Social Change

Other relevant A&S courses (students may count only one of these towards the concentration):

AAS 3450 Race, the Law, and the American Constitution
HIUS 2021 US Immigration Law and Policy in Historical Perspective
HIUS 3753 History of Modern American Law
PHIL 2060 Philosophical Problems in Law
PHIL 2690 Justice, Law, and Morality
PHIL 3670 Law and Society
PSYC 2410 Abnormal Psychology
WGS 3897 Gender Violence and Social Justice

Global Economy, Organizations and Work

The Global Economy, Organizations, and Work concentration may be of interest to students planning careers in business, government, law, human resources, and market research. It provides students with the opportunity to study the economic sphere of social life from within the liberal arts and sciences, utilizing a social-science point of view.

Preapproved Sociology courses:

SOC 2900 Economy and Society
SOC 3559 Sociology of Innovation
SOC 3440 Chinese Society
SOC 3470 Sociology of Development
SOC 3480 Sociology of Globalization
SOC 3710 Organizations
SOC 4140 Sociology of Consumption
SOC 4190 Gender and Work
SOC 4290 Sociology of Money
SOC 4480 Sociology of Professions
SOC 4510 Special Topics in Sociology of Work

Other relevant A&S courses (students may count only one of these towards the concentration):

ANTH 3220 - Economic Anthropology
ECON 2070 Introduction to Economics of Gender at Work
ECON 3020 Money and Banking
ECON 4150 Economics of Labor
ECON 4190 Industrial Organization
ECON 4195 Empirical Industrial Organization
HIUS 2061 - American Economic History (cross-listed as Econ 2060)
HIUS 3471 - History of American Labor

Health and Medicine

The Health and Medicine concentration may be of interest to students interested in working in the health-related fields such as nursing, medicine, or public health. Most especially, this concentration would be of benefit to students who intend to pursue a graduate degree in public health, health policy, and global health, and students on pre-med track.

Preapproved Sociology courses

2280 Medical Sociology
SOC 2520 The Medicalization of Death in American Society (Topics in Death and Dying)
SOC 3310 Sociology of Self
SOC 3559 Sociology of the Body
SOC 3700 Health, Illness and Inequality
SOC 4280 Sociology of Mental Health and Illness

SOC 4530 Special Topics in Health
SOC 4550 Sociology of Reproduction (Topics in Ethics and Society)
SOC 4560 Race and Racism in Science (Topics in Sociology of Science and Knowledge)

Other relevant A&S courses (students may count only one of these towards the concentration):

ANTH 2270 Race, Gender, and Medical Science
ANTH 3370 Power and the Body
ANTH 3390 Pregnancy, Birthing and the Postpartum
PHS 3050 Fundamentals of Public Health
PHS 3095 Health Policy in the United States – An Economic Perspective
PHS 3104 Introduction to Epidemiology
PHS 3186 Comparative Health Care Systems
PHS 3825 Global Public Health: Challenges and Innovations
PHS 4050 Global Public Health Policy

Procedure for Declaring a Concentration

Students may declare a concentration once they have completed all three courses with grades of C or above, or for students in the semester they plan to graduate, once they have enrolled in all three courses. To declare a concentration, download the relevant Concentration Form (a PDF file) from the Sociology Department website (<https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). Submit the completed form to the Department's Academic Administrator in either paper or electronic form. Students should declare a concentration no later than February 1 of the spring semester in which they intend to graduate (or October 1 for December graduation)

THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORS PROGRAM

The Department of Sociology participates in the College's Distinguished Majors Program (DMP). The DMP provides qualified and motivated students with the opportunity to design and carry out an original research project under the supervision of a faculty member over the course of two semesters. This effort culminates in writing an honors thesis. Students apply for admission to the Program in the spring semester of the third year. Successful applicants participate in the Program in the fall and spring semesters of the fourth year.

Eligibility for Admission to the Program

- To be admitted to the Program, students must have cumulative College GPA of 3.4 or higher. Students with a GPA of 3.35 or above as of the fall semester of the third year may apply for admission and may be admitted conditional on raising their GPA to 3.4 at the end of the spring semester.
- Students must have completed SOC 3120-Sociology Research Methods before starting the Program. If a student has not completed SOC 3120 in the fall semester of the third year, the student must take it during the summer session before the fourth year.

Requirements

Participation in the Distinguished Majors Program requires the completion of two additional

courses (six credits) beyond the 10 courses normally required for major. The two DMP courses, SOC 4980 and SOC 4981, are not considered electives and thus do not count toward the requirement of two 4000- or 5000-level electives to complete the major.

In the first semester of the Program, normally the fall semester of the fourth year, students must register for SOC 4980, Distinguished Majors Thesis Research. In this course, students formulate a clear research question, design their research, prepare a detailed research proposal or thesis draft, and begin data collection. If the number of Distinguished Majors is sufficient, the Department will offer a weekly Distinguished Majors seminar taught by the DUP or another faculty member. In any case, students will meet regularly with their faculty advisors.

In the second semester of the Program, normally the spring semester of the fourth year, students must register for SOC 4981, Distinguished Majors Thesis Writing. In this course, students complete data collection and analysis and write a finished thesis under the supervision of their faculty advisors. The final thesis is due at the end of April and will be jointly graded by the student's faculty advisor and another faculty member.

In unusual circumstances, a student may request to participate in the spring of the third year and the Fall of the fourth year. Students who are interested in this option should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Programs.

Levels of Distinction

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the DMP may receive their degrees with distinction. There are three levels of honors: distinction, high distinction, and highest distinction. The level of distinction awarded depends on: (1) the grade for the thesis, (2) overall performance in the Sociology major, and (3) overall College record.

The College of Arts and Sciences requires that students completing a Distinguished Majors Program earn an overall College GPA of 3.4 or higher. Importantly, the College does not round GPAs. Any student who completes the thesis but does not have an overall GPA of 3.4 or higher will receive credit for SOC 4980 and SOC 4981 but will not be able to graduate with distinction.

Applying to the Distinguished Majors Program

In February or March, a letter will be sent to all eligible students inviting them to apply to the Program. This letter will indicate the application deadline. Students who are interested in applying should follow these steps:

1. Formulate a tentative idea for a research project. Most importantly, it should interest you and it should involve asking a question that you don't already know the answer to. It's understood that your project will evolve over the course of the program.
2. Identify one or more faculty members who might be a good advisor for your project. It may be someone you have had as a course instructor. Alternatively, you can identify a potential advisor by reviewing faculty members' research and teaching interests on the Sociology website, or by consulting with the Director of Undergraduate Programs.
3. Discuss your idea for a research project with these faculty members. If you feel there is a good fit with one or more of them, ask those faculty members if they would be willing to supervise your thesis. Faculty members cannot make a commitment, but they can indicate

- whether they would be willing to serve if you are admitted and assigned to them.
4. Prepare a brief description of your planned research project as you envision it after discussing it with faculty members.
 5. Download and complete the DMP application form (available on the Department website at <https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). Email the completed form and your project description to the Academic Administrator by the announced deadline.

The Selection Process

Participation in the Distinguished Majors Program will be capped at the number that the Department has resources to advise and support, which will normally be ten to twelve but may vary from year to year. Depending upon the number of applications in a given year, it may be necessary to make a selection among the applicants. In that case, the Undergraduate Committee will consider students' records, the strength and quality of students' research ideas, and the Department's ability to provide suitable advisors for their projects. It is possible that a student may be admitted to the program but not assigned to their first-choice faculty advisor, if that faculty member is requested by more students than she or he can adequately advise. In that case, the Undergraduate Committee will work with students to identify a suitable alternative advisor.

THE MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Students pursuing other majors may find that some study in sociology is beneficial for their academic or career plans. For such students, the minor in sociology may be a good choice.

REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE THE MINOR

Credit requirements

Sociology Minors are required to complete six courses (18 credits) in the program.

Required Course

Students must complete the following course with a grade of “C” or higher:

One introductory course

Students must take one of the following 3-credit courses: SOC 1010: Introductory Sociology, SOC 1220: Social Problems, or SOC 2010: Principles of Sociology. (Note: students may not take both SOC 1010 and SOC 2010 for credit.)

Elective Courses

Minors must also complete one elective course (3 credits) at the 2000 level and one elective course (3 credits) at the 3000 level. The remaining three elective courses (9 credits) can be taken at any level.

Grade Requirements

All courses used to meet the 18-credit requirement must be letter-graded. Courses taken on a Credit/No Credit or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis do not count toward the major.

Note: The Sociology Department waived this rule during the 2020-2021 academic year and the Fall semester of 2022, following the Provost’s grading policy during those terms. Courses completed during the 2020-2021 academic year or the Fall semester of 2022 with grades of CR will be counted toward the minor.

A grade of “C” or better is necessary in every course to be counted toward the minor. Students receiving less than a “C” in SOC 1010-Introductory Sociology must retake the course and receive a grade of “C” or better. Students receiving less than a “C” in an elective course will be required to take another Sociology course to complete the minor. (Elective courses where a student receives an unsatisfactory but passing grade still count toward the College’s requirement of 120 credits for graduation even though they do not count toward the major. Because the College will not give credit for taking a course twice, if SOC 1010 is re-taken, the second time will not count toward the 120-credit requirement.)

In addition, students are required to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher in Sociology. Students who fail to do so will be dropped from the minor.

Note: The online Student Information System (SIS) sometimes calculates the major GPA incorrectly by ignoring courses that cannot be applied toward the major due to low grades. The Department’s calculation of the major GPA includes all Sociology courses and thus may be different.

COUNTING NON-STANDARD COURSES TOWARD THE MINOR

In addition to standard undergraduate Sociology courses offered during the academic year, certain other types of courses may be counted toward the minor.

Summer Session and J-Term Courses

Sociology courses taken during the summer session at the University of Virginia are equivalent to academic-year courses and count toward the major in Sociology. Thus, both required and elective courses may be taken during the summer session.

Sociology elective courses taken during the January term (“J-Term”) at the University of Virginia may be counted toward the major. (Required courses are not offered during J-Term.)

Courses in Other Departments of the University or Other Institutions and Programs

Up to two transferred sociology courses taken at another institution may be counted toward the minor, upon approval by the Director of Undergraduate Programs.

Independent Study

Fourth-year students with a strong academic record (a Sociology GPA of 3.2 or higher) may wish to pursue an independent study under the supervision of a faculty member (SOC 4970 - Special Studies in Sociology). Three credits of SOC 4970 can count towards the minor. Enrollment in SOC 4970 requires prior approval by the Director of Undergraduate Programs. To apply for approval, a student should first develop a syllabus with the instructor who will supervise the independent study. This syllabus should indicate the planned learning goals, readings, activities, frequency of meetings with your instructor, and modes of learning assessment. The student should also complete the Independent Study Form, which is available on the Sociology website (<https://sociology.as.virginia.edu/program-forms-and-links>). The form and syllabus should be submitted to the DUP, who may ask for revisions before approval.

Graduate Courses and Dual-Level Courses

Although Sociology courses at the 5000-level are designed for graduate students, some of these courses may be of interest to fourth-year students with an exceptional academic record (a Sociology GPA of 3.4 or higher). Undergraduate enrollment in a 5000-level course is at the discretion of the instructor. Undergraduate students should not normally take a 5000-level course until they have completed SOC 1010-Introductory Sociology and six courses (18 credits) in Sociology.

Occasionally the Department offers courses that have a dual listing, e.g. SOC 4053/8053. These courses are open to both undergraduate and graduate students with distinct requirements for each. Undergraduates should enroll in the lower-level course listed.

EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS

Exemption from the Introductory Sociology course requirement

Transfer students who have transferred credits for a course in Introductory Sociology taken at another institution prior to matriculation at the University are exempt from the requirement to

take one Introductory Sociology course here. However, the Introductory Sociology course taken at the previous institution does not count toward the 18 credits required for the completion of the sociology minor. Thus transfer students who have transferred credits for an Introductory Sociology course at another institution must take one additional Sociology course at any level.

Other Exemptions and Waivers

Students in unusual circumstances may petition the DUP and the Undergraduate Studies Committee for an exemption from a requirement or a waiver of any departmental policy relating to the minor. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the Committee has all appropriate materials.

DECLARING A MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Procedure for Declaring the Minor

Students sometimes know early on that they wish to complete a minor. Other students decide to declare a minor after they find they have already fulfilled all or almost all of the requirements. When you are ready to declare a minor, please follow these steps.

- Step 1.** Contact the Department's Academic Administrator and let him or her know you would like to declare your minor. The Academic Administrator will answer any questions you may have and will direct you to a member of the faculty Undergraduate Committee.
- Step 2.** Schedule a meeting with that faculty member (in person or via Zoom) to discuss your interests in sociology and the specific courses you would like to take. You and the Undergraduate Committee member should agree on a plan of study. *Note: If you have already completed or almost completed the requirements for the minor, this step is optional.*
- Step 3.** Prepare and submit the Declaration of Major/Minor Form online through DocuSign (see instructions at <https://college.as.virginia.edu/forms>). *Be sure to check the box indicating that this is a minor declaration.* DocuSign will route the form to the Undergraduate Committee member for signature. Once signed, the form will be forwarded to the Sociology Department and the University Registrar.

Changing a Major to a Minor

Students sometimes wish to change their status from a major to a minor. For example, a student who is double-majoring may find that she or he cannot complete all the requirements for both majors. In that case, you should follow the procedure above for declaring the minor but be sure to let the academic administrator know you are switching from a major to a minor.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Second Writing Requirement

Most 4000-level Sociology courses and some 3000-level courses can be used to meet the College's Second Writing Requirement (SWR). If a course meets this requirement, the syllabus should make that clear. In case of uncertainty, students should ask the instructor whether a particular course meets the SWR.

Enrolling in a Course that is Restricted or Full

During registration (after early registration) there are many occasions when a course is full or restricted. In these cases, students have the option of adding their names to the waitlist in SIS. In special cases only, a student may ask the instructor of the course to grant ad hoc permission to enroll. This approach does *not* guarantee enrollment, however, as the instructor has discretion to maintain or override enrollment limits.

Dropped Enrollment in a Course

If a student does not appear at the first class meeting, and does not contact the instructor in advance, the instructor reserves the right to cancel the student's enrollment in that course.

Prizes

The Department annually awards two undergraduate prizes: The Commonwealth Prize for the Best Undergraduate Paper in a Sociology course, and the Prize for the Outstanding Distinguished Majors Thesis. Faculty members nominate student papers for these awards.

Degrees with Distinction

Students may earn a degree with distinction by successfully completing the Distinguished Majors Program (see the section on "The Distinguished Majors Program" above) or by achieving an overall College of Arts and Sciences GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Applying for Graduation

All fourth-year students will receive information from the College regarding graduation procedures. Students must officially apply for graduation via SIS. If you have any questions regarding your progress in the major, or what requirements you may still need to complete, you should contact the Undergraduate Administrative Assistant for help.

Degree Applications are due:

- By October 1 if the degree is to be conferred in December
- By February 1 if the degree is to be conferred in May
- By July 1 if the degree is to be conferred in August.

Students Graduating in August or December

Sociology majors who will graduate in August may participate in the preceding May degree ceremony. Sociology majors who graduate in December do not have a degree ceremony at those times. In the following Spring you will receive an invitation to attend the May ceremony. Please reply to the invitation as soon as possible. You will be added to the graduation e-mail list and will receive important information about the Sociology degree ceremony.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is the International Sociology Honor Society. Alpha Kappa Delta seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition. AKD was founded at the University of Southern California in 1920 and became a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies in 1967. Students who meet the academic requirements are encouraged to join. If you are interested, please contact Professor David Skubby (AKD Advisor) at das8sd@virginia.edu. You can also visit the Alpha Kappa Delta website: www.alphakappadelta.org for more information.

What are the eligibility requirements for undergraduate students?

- Students must be enrolled as a major or minor in the Sociology program
- Students must be in their third or fourth year of college.
- Students must have an *overall* GPA of 3.3 and a GPA of at least 3.0 in *sociology classes* at UVA.
- Students must have completed four courses in sociology prior to initiation (equivalent to 12 semester hours)

What are the benefits of membership in Alpha Kappa Delta?

- Lifetime membership and recognition for outstanding academic achievement in sociology.
- A free one-year subscription to *Sociological Inquiry*, the official scholarly journal of Alpha Kappa Delta.
- AKD sponsors an annual undergraduate and graduate student paper competition. Winners receive a cash prize and travel money to participate in the American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting. First place winning papers are considered for publication in *Sociological Inquiry*.
- AKD provides travel grants to its members to present at regional sociological meetings
- Members may wear an official AKD honor cord to their graduation ceremony.
- The U.S. government accepts AKD membership as one of the credentials for entrance into government employment at the GS-7 level instead of the GS-5 level in numerous professional and technical occupations.

What are the costs of membership in Alpha Kappa Delta?

- There is a one-time membership fee of \$50. This covers the cost of the certificate, the membership card, and shipping.

STUDYING ABROAD

The Sociology department encourages students to study abroad. Education abroad creates dynamic interactions between the learners and the learning environment and exposes students to different peoples, cultures, and perspectives. Students gain an international outlook on their chosen academic field and develop important skills, such as critical thinking, independence, flexibility, resilience, and the ability to communicate across differences. Every year, some of our majors opt to spend a semester learning in another country in one of the University's own programs or in an approved program operated by another institution.

International Studies Office and Education Abroad

The Education Abroad division of the International Studies Office (<https://educationabroad.virginia.edu>) is charged with helping students to identify and apply to study-abroad programs. Education Abroad staff advise students through goal setting and program selection, guide them through financing and logistical arrangements, prepare them for cultural and academic adjustment, and maintain student records. Information on using study-abroad courses to meet College requirements is available here: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/academic-considerations>.

Students should contact the Education Abroad staff approximately one year in advance of their intended enrollment in a study-abroad program. This will allow one semester to research and make plans. Many program application deadlines are as early as a full semester in advance of enrollment. For the fall semester, most application deadlines are in March; for the spring semester, most application deadlines are in September to early October.

Study Abroad Program Offerings

The University offers a wide array of study abroad programs throughout the world during the regular academic year, the summer term, and January term. A current list of programs may be found here: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/uva-programs>. These include programs organized and run by the University of Virginia (usually called "UVA in [City]") as well as programs run by other universities and educational organizations.

It's important to realize that only certain UVA-run programs offer "direct credit." Direct credit means that courses taken in these programs appear in SIS and on your transcript as if you took them on Grounds in Charlottesville. At present, no direct-credit programs offer sociology courses.

Other UVA-run programs, and all programs sponsored by other universities and organizations, offer "transfer credit." Courses taken in these programs appear in SIS and on your transcript in much the same way as courses transferred from other institutions in the United States. Credit will only be transferred to the College if you earn a grade of C or higher.

Study Abroad Courses May Count Toward the Major

As noted above, up to two elective courses taken outside the Department may be counted toward the major. Courses taken in a study-abroad program may be counted toward this maximum if they are *pre-approved* by the Director of Undergraduate Programs prior to enrollment. The

appropriate pre-approval form is included as part of the study-abroad application packet provided by the Education Abroad office. **Note that the Sociology Department requires students to attach a course syllabus** for any course that a student wishes to count toward the major. If a current syllabus is not available, an alternative document that lists the topics covered, required readings, and required assignments or examinations may be acceptable.

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY: AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION & DEGREE INSTITUTION

Aviles, Natalie (UC San Diego)

Health and Medicine
Science and Technology Studies
Cultural Sociology
Public Policy

Bair, Jennifer (Duke)

Sociology of Development
Economic Sociology
Gender & Work, Labor Markets
Globalization

Buckelew, Rose (Duke)

Race & Ethnicity
Crime and Deviance
Mental Health
Medical Sociology

Driscoll, Daniel (UC San Diego)

Environmental Sociology

Fink, Pierre-Christian (Columbia)

Global and Transnational Sociology

Foster, B. Brian (UNC Chapel Hill)

Race and Ethnicity
Racial Stratification/Inequality
Qualitative Methods

Gorman, Elizabeth (Harvard)

Work, Occupations, Professions
Organizations
Gender & Work
Research Methods

Greenland, Fiona (Michigan)

Social Theory
Sociology of Culture
Crime and Deviance
Art/Science Studies

Hunter, James D. (Rutgers)

Sociology of Culture
Sociology of Religion
Sociology of Knowledge
Social Change

Kumar, Krishan (Kent)

Social & Political Thought
Political Sociology
Sociology of Culture
Comparative-Historical Sociology

Makarova, Ekaterina (Manchester, UK)

Urban Sociology
Social Change
Sociology of Religion
Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Mullins, Ian (UC San Diego)

Political Sociology
Cultural Sociology
Knowledge and Technology

Olick, Jeffrey (Yale)

Sociology of Culture
Social Theory
Historical Sociology

Parham, Angel Adams (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sociology of Globalization
Race and Ethnicity

Polillo, Simone (Pennsylvania)

Comparative Historical Sociology
Economic Sociology
Social Theory

Press, Andrea (UC Berkeley)

Media Studies/Communication
Sociology of Culture
Social Theory

Reed, Isaac (Yale)

Cultural Sociology
Historical Sociology
Social Theory

Roksa, Josipa (New York University)

Social Inequality
Sociology of Education
Stratification

Sarioğlu, Esra (SUNY Binghamton)

Gender & Work

Skubby, David (University of Akron)

Sociology of Childhood
Sociology of Mental Health and Illness
Sociology of Self

Slez, Adam (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison)

Political Sociology
Comparative-Historical Sociology
Quantitative Methods
Spatial Data Analysis

Stolte, Allison (Duke)

Medical sociology

Unlu, Baris (SUNY Binghamton)

Historical Sociology

Vickerman, Milton (New York University)

Race & Ethnicity
Social Stratification
Sociology of Religion
Immigration & Citizenship Studies

Wang, Yingyao (Yale)

Economic and Political Sociology

Comparative and Historical Sociology

Sociology of Development

Wicox, W. Bradford (Princeton)

Sociology of Family

Sociology of Religion