Sociology
Undergraduate Handbook

Revised Spring 2013
This booklet is subject to revision. Contact the Undergraduate Advising Office for additional information.

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Dear Sociology Student,

Welcome to the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois!

This handbook contains information about the requirements of the Sociology major at University of Illinois, the Sociology Department at large, and how to get the most out of your experience as a Sociology major while at the University of Illinois.

Undergraduate education is highly valued in the Sociology Department. In recent years, several of the Sociology Department’s faculty have been named to the University’s List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by their Students. Further still, we are pleased that we can count several Sociology faculty as among those receiving college and campus teaching awards as well. The Sociology faculty are also active researchers which further enhances the classroom experience and provides valuable training for students interested in careers as sociologists.

The Sociology major at the University of Illinois prepares a student for a variety of career options, developing skills ranging from research design to writing and presenting reports to diversity awareness. Career options include administration, advertising, banking, counseling, community planning, human resources, social services, and social research. Sociology also provides a valuable foundation for post-graduate training in any of the social sciences and for professional training in fields such as law, medicine, and social work.

Please feel free to contact the undergraduate Advising Office should you need assistance during your career here at the University of Illinois.

Nicole Holtzclaw-Stone
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Sociology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Majoring in Sociology

The Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of the nation’s finest. The department has approximately 20 faculty members, 50 graduate students, and 500 undergraduate majors. The department offers three degrees, the B.A., the M.A., and Ph.D. All members of the faculty are active scholars whose writings appear in books and in the leading scientific journals.

Our undergraduate program in Sociology consists of a rigorous set of courses designed to teach students all aspects of Sociology, including theory, methods, and substantive issues. Students can expect that their Sociology professors will be among the best teachers on campus. In recent years, several of the department’s faculty and graduate students have received college-wide and campus-wide awards for excellence in undergraduate instruction. In addition to traditional coursework, the department offers a variety of other opportunities to get involved, including extracurricular sociology organizations, and paper competitions.

The main areas of undergraduate specialization in Sociology at the University of Illinois include:

- Transnational Studies
- Race, Class, Gender
- State, Law and Society
- Health
- Environment
- Immigration

Overview of Requirements

- 5 Required Courses
- 32 hours total of Sociology courses
- 12 advanced hours-300 or 400 Level
- 12 hours of supporting coursework outside the Sociology Department
- Minimum 2.0 GPA-Major and Overall
- All other applicable LAS and University requirements
Required Courses

**Sociology 100 – Introduction to Sociology**
An overview of the topic of sociology, of various sociological perspectives, and of how scholars in the discipline study social phenomena. This course is a prerequisite for most two-hundred level courses.

**Sociology 200 – Introduction to Sociological Theory**
Classical theories by Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as theories by contemporary writers.

**Sociology 280 – Introduction to Social Statistics**
An introduction to the statistical measures and techniques used in the social sciences. This course is a prerequisite for Sociology 380. Other courses that meet this requirement: STAT 100, PSYCH 235, ECON 202, MATH 161, EDPSY 290, UP 116. Also Parkland College’s MATH 108 and MATH 160. Note that these courses meet the statistics requirement but do not count toward sociology hours.

**Sociology 380 – Social Science Research Methods**
An introduction and comparison of survey research, field research, and demographic methods.

**Advanced Methods Course** - Choose one of the following:
- Sociology 480 - Methods of Field Research
- Sociology 481 - Survey Research
- Sociology 485 - Intermediate Statistics
- Sociology 488 - Demographic Methods

Each of these courses teaches students how to conduct research in a particular substantive area of sociology.

32 Total Hours in Sociology

Students must earn a total of 32 hours of credit in sociology. In order for transfer credit to count, it must be accepted by the College of LAS as Sociology coursework. If students take courses in other departments, they will not count as Sociology hours unless they are cross-listed courses. For example if a student takes an alternate statistics course, such as STAT 100, they will have fulfilled the course requirement, but will not earn Sociology hours. Similarly, PSYCH 201, (Social Psychology), is NOT cross-listed with SOC 201, (Social Psychology), so students will not receive sociology hours for the course, just standard LAS elective credit.
Graduation Requirements

Minimum 2.0 GPA in Major and Overall

In order to graduate, your GPA in the major must be a 2.0 or above, and your overall GPA must be 2.0 or above. If your GPA for transfer credit from other colleges is less than 2.0, this may affect your eligibility to graduate. Please check with an advisor.

Other Student Responsibilities

Major Plan of Study

All students in the College of LAS are required to complete a major plan of study before graduation. This is a form that documents your progress in the major and declares your supporting coursework (see page 8). Completing this form takes about 20 minutes and should be done by the second semester of your junior year. You will not be allowed to graduate without having completed this form. If you need to complete the form, make an appointment with the Sociology advisor.

Meeting Graduation Requirements

As a Sociology major, you are responsible for reading and understanding all graduation requirements at the departmental, college, and university levels and making sure that they are met. Advisors can assist you and you will be notified if you are not making satisfactory progress, but ultimately whether you graduate on time is up to you. There are several key documents which you should read carefully. The following lists the documents and where you can obtain them if you do not already have them:

University Requirements:

UIUC Programs of Study: http://provost.illinois.edu/ProgramsOfStudy/2011/fall/programs/

LAS College Requirements: http://www.las.uiuc.edu/students/requirements/

Sociology Major Requirements:

Undergraduate Sociology Handbook (this booklet)

University of Illinois Student Code: http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/
Supporting Coursework

Every Sociology major must complete 12 hours of supporting coursework. Supporting coursework consists of a set of courses which are logically grouped, and which reflect, or support a student's interests outside of the Sociology Department. Students should begin planning and completing their supporting coursework no later than their sophomore year.

The following courses cannot be used for supporting coursework:

- Sociology department courses
- Courses cross-listed in Sociology
- Applied art courses, such as a musical instrument
- Courses that satisfy the foreign language requirement

You must see a Sociology advisor early in your junior year for formal approval of your supporting coursework on your Major Plan of Study form. There are generally five ways to plan a cohesive set of supporting courses:

1. **Take 12 hours of courses in one department**

   Sociology majors often take their supporting coursework in departments such as Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, Community Health, Business Administration, Speech Communication, and Human Development and Family Studies.

2. **Assemble a cohesive package 12 hours of coursework**

   Many students take courses which are in different departments, but are related. For example, pre-law students might take law related courses in Political Science, Business Administration, and History. The Sociology advisor can clarify and explain in further detail options for supporting coursework.

3. **Use courses taken towards a minor**

   If you complete a minor in another department, you may use the courses you took to complete the minor as supporting coursework, provided that they meet the qualifications listed above. Departments that offer formal minors in which you may be interested include Anthropology, Cinema Studies, Classics, Comparative Literature, Computer Science, English, English as a Second Language, French, German, Greek, History, Italian, Latin, Mathematics, Russian Language and Literature, and Spanish, and Portuguese. Consult the latest edition of *Undergraduate Programs* for information about other departments offering minors. You must talk to an advisor in your minor department and you must formally notify LAS by the beginning of your last semester about your intentions to graduate with a minor.

4. **Uses courses taken towards an interdisciplinary minor**

   Interdisciplinary minors include courses spread across several departments. Seven examples of interdisciplinary minors are:
   - African Studies
• Afro-American Studies
• Asian American Studies
• Gender and Women's Studies
• Latin American Studies
• Latino/Latina Studies
• Russian and East European Studies

If you are interested in completing an interdisciplinary minor, ask an advisor for more information.

5. Use courses taken towards the completion of a double major

If you are double-majoring, you may use courses taken to complete the double major for your supporting coursework provided they do not fall under the restrictions listed above. Students often double-major in Sociology and another social science such as Psychology or Political Science.
Expanding Your Horizons

**Internships**

In order to do an internship, students must find an internship opportunity, and a professor to supervise the internship. In some cases the department can refer students to internships, or assist them in finding one. Permission to enroll in this course will depend on the professor and the student formally agreeing on course requirements and grading strategy. In addition, you must complete an internship form. Enrollment in Sociology 400 is restricted to juniors and seniors with a 3.0 GPA. This course is usually offered once an academic year. Consult a departmental advisor for details.

**Independent Studies**

Some students are interested in special topics in sociology for which no course is currently taught. One way to focus on a special topic is to take an independent study. To take an independent study, you must make arrangements with a professor who will supervise and grade your work for the semester. A good way to do this is to put together a brief proposal, and then stop by a professor's office hours. If you have an idea for a project, but don't know who would be a good professor to work with, stop in and talk to the advisors. The two independent study courses are Soc 390, Individual Study, and Soc 490, Honors Individual Study. To qualify for Soc 490, you must be eligible for graduation with departmental distinction (see page 12). Once a professor agrees to supervise you, you will be given his or her call number so that you can enroll on Enterprise.

**Study Abroad**

Students are strongly encouraged to take a semester to study abroad. Sociology students who take a semester to study somewhere else come back and report that it was a great experience. Visiting another country will enable the student to experience a different environment and culture which will give new meaning and context to academic study at the University. More information is available in the Study Abroad Office located at 115 International Studies Building, 910 South 5th Street.

Gray Swicegood, Associate Professor of Sociology at UIUC, often offers a Spring Study Abroad course in Belgium in partnership with Katholieke Universiteit Leuven(KULeuven). In this program, students gain international experience and learn more about potential specialization pathways including sociology and policy, anthropology, political science, and governance. Courses are taught in English.
Minoring in Sociology

The minor in Sociology is designed to teach students the basic theoretical and methodological approaches in Sociology. Students must notify their college by the beginning of their last semester about their intent to graduate with a minor in Sociology. In order to declare a minor in Sociology, you must register in the Sociology Advising Office and your college office.

The requirements for a minor in Sociology include:

- **Sociology 100 – Introduction to Sociology**
  An overview of topic of sociology, of various sociological perspectives, and of how scholars in the discipline study social phenomena. This course is a prerequisite for more two-hundred level courses.

- **Sociology 200 – Introduction to Sociological Theory**
  Classical theories by Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as theories by contemporary writers.

- **Sociology 280 – Introduction to Social Statistics**
  An introduction to the statistical measures and techniques used in the social sciences. This course is a prerequisite for 380. Other courses that meet this requirement: STAT 100, PSYCH 235, ECON 172, MATH 161. Also Parkland College’s MATH 108 and MATH 160. Note that these courses meet the statistics requirement but not count toward sociology hours.

  2 Advanced Sociology Courses – 300 or 400 level (6 hours)

  3-6 Elective Sociology Hours – 100 or 200 level

  **18 Total Sociology Hours**

If you have any questions about obtaining a minor in Sociology, see the Sociology advisor.
Honors and Awards

*Graduating with Departmental Distinction*

In order to achieve distinction, high distinction, or highest distinction, a sociology major must meet the following requirements:

1. Have completed SOC 490 “Advanced Independent Study” or SOC 495 “Honors Seminar”

AND

2. Attain a UIUC GPA of 3.25 or higher

If both these requirements are met, then the MAJOR GPA distributes as follows:

- 3.25 – Distinction
- 3.50 – High Distinction
- 3.75 – Highest Distinction

Enrollment in Sociology 495 is restricted to juniors and seniors who have permission from the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Keep in mind that Sociology 495 is usually offered only in Spring semesters. Sociology 490 is an Advanced Independent Study course, which requires permission from the Director of Undergraduate Studies as well as coordination with a faculty member.

Departmental Distinction is represented on your transcript and diploma.

*Graduating with LAS College Honors*

To be eligible to graduate with LAS College Honors, you must do one of the following:

1. Graduate with Sociology departmental distinction.

OR

2. Complete 25 hours of honors courses (see the Timetable online).

OR

3. Earn 35 hours of advanced course work (see LAS Student Handbook).

To actually receive college honors, you must graduate within the top 12% of your class. The three levels of college honors, and approximate GPAs needed are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate GPA Needed</th>
<th>Top 3% of graduating class</th>
<th>3.93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summa cum laude</td>
<td>Top 7% of graduating class</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna cum laude</td>
<td>Top 12% of graduating class</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cum laude</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Useful Websites

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
http://www.sociology.illinois.edu

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
http://www.asanet.org

OTHER ON-CAMPUS INFORMATION

UIUC email from web: http://g.illinois.edu
Degree Audit (DARS): http://registrar.illinois.edu/dars/generate.html
Grades: https://apps.illinois.edu/selfservice/
LAS Gen. Ed. requirements: http://www.las.uiuc.edu/students/requirements/gened

BEYOND UIUC

Study Abroad: http://www.studyabroad.uiuc.edu
Volunteering: http://www.cuvolunteer.org
Career info and preparation: http://careercenter.uiuc.edu
UIC EPICS: https://www.epics.illinois.edu/index.aspx
Planning Your Future

Careers

The UIUC Sociology major is not a vocational program; thus it doesn't prepare you for a specific job. However, the major provides you with a variety of important skills which are vital in many careers, including writing, research, and analysis skills. Some areas in which sociology majors get jobs are business and industry, the justice system, community and social services, government, education, and research.

Career Services Center

The Career Center offers career development programs and resources including career/employment counseling, UIUC Epics (a computer-based career guidance program), career planning groups, and job search services and programs such as on-campus interviewing and resume workshops. The Career Services Network also has materials such as employment opportunity listings, the I-Link careers and internships database, listings, and government employment announcements to help you job-hunt. The Career Services Web site is www.careerservices.uiuc.edu.

Other Career Search Strategies

Get an Internship and/or Volunteer. With an internship you can not only get 3 hours of credit (Sociology 400), but you will also get valuable experience to help you decide what you would like to do. It is also an excellent item for your resume.

Talk to People You Know. Become a career researcher by asking people you know (and/or people your parents or friends know) about their job. What do they like best? What do they like least? How do they spend their days? Most people are happy to talk to you about their career!

Browse the Undergraduate Library Career Cluster. There are some great books in this cluster. However, you can't check the books out, so plan a few hours some day to go browse. Consider ordering a book you like from the bookstore.

Take career exploration courses: Get credit for finding your career!

Ed Psych 220 “Career Theory and Practice.” Design and implementation of an innovative life planning process; a participatory experience that includes a survey of theories, models, and research on life and career planning and that encourages systematic skill identification, values clarification, and the development of job search strategies.

SOC 199 “Exploring Careers with a BA in Sociology.” This course is intended both for Sociology majors and non-majors who want to explore a variety of career options with a BA in Sociology. In this course, we will explore your career interests and skills, read about and discuss career options, meet with professionals in a variety of disciplines (law enforcement, law, social service agencies, business, social work and more), and shadow a professional in a field of your choice. We will explore how the sociological imagination prepares you to work in a variety of careers.
Planning Your Future

Graduate School

Graduate and Professional Schools

Investigating and applying for graduate school is a time-consuming process, so start early. Some of the major steps that need to be taken include:

- Deciding on a course of study
- Selecting prospective graduate schools and obtaining application packets
- Taking appropriate exams
- Getting letters of recommendation, writing a statement of purpose
- Assembling all other materials for application

There are many resources to help you do these things. Review the following web sites:

**Information and Ranking on Graduate Schools**

- http://www.petersons.com
- https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/gradschool

**Deciding and Applying**

- http://www.gradschools.com/article-detail/a-1690
- https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/gradschool
- Fall Sociology Advising event *Info Session on Grad School in Sociology*

**Admissions Essays**

- http://www.accepted.com
- http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/gradapp.html
Getting Advice

Emergencies
If you have any type of emergency, such as a death in the family, sexual harassment, assault, discrimination, or other crises, the emergency dean can advise you on how to handle these problems and tell you how to handle academic matters during the course of the emergency. The Emergency Dean is available 24 hours a day at (217) 333-0050.

Sociology Department
The Sociology Department has two undergraduate advisors (the Sociology Advising email address is listed on page 17 of this booklet). Keep in mind that advisors' office hours typically change every semester. The advisors can explain the department's requirements, help you plan a program of study, talk about course content, answer questions about graduate school, and describe career options. If you have a problem that cannot be resolved by the advisor, you may want to consider meeting with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Sociology, the University Ombudsman, or a Dean in the College of LAS.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Sociology Departments is within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). You must therefore fulfill all University and LAS requirements. These requirements are described in detail in the LAS College Student Handbook. The College’s staff of Admissions and Records Officers (AROs) keep precise records about your progress toward graduation and are the ones who actually certify a student for graduation. The Assistant Deans in the LAS College Office also provide advice and academic counseling for undergraduate students under special or extraordinary circumstances. The AROs and Deans are housed in the LAS Student Academic Affairs in 2002 Lincoln Hall.

Personal Issues
If you have personal concerns, you can contact the undergraduate advisors for a referral to a campus unit or organization which can assist you. There are people on and around campus to help with respect to a variety of personal issues and/or emergencies. Departments include Counseling Center, Women’s Resource Center, Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, LGBT Resource Center, Division of Disability Resources, International Student and Scholar Services and others.
General Directory

Administration

Main Office 3116 Lincoln Hall  http://sociology.illinois.edu

Mina Seaton 3116 Lincoln Hall  seaton@illinois.edu
Office Support Specialist

Margaret L. Krause 3116 Lincoln Hall  mlkrause@illinois.edu
Office Support Associate

TBA 3112 Lincoln Hall
Head of Department

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Assistant to the Head

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Academic Advisor

Nicole Holtzclaw-Stone 3070 Lincoln Hall  soc-advising@illinois.edu
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Advising 3070 Lincoln Hall  soc-advising@illinois.edu

Rebecca L. Sandefur 3102 Lincoln Hall  sandefur@illinois.edu
Director of Graduate Studies
Sociology Faculty

Bayat, Asef
3086 Lincoln Hall
abayat@illinois.edu

Social Movements and non-movements; Urban Space and Politics; Religion, Politics and Everyday Life; Islam and the Modern World; International development; Middle East Studies.

Chapa, Jorge
3082 Lincoln Hall
jchapa@illinois.edu

Gender, Work, Communities, Families

Dill, Brian
3078 Lincoln
dill@illinois.edu

Development, Historical Sociology, Globalization & Africa

Gille, Zsuzsa
3092 Lincoln Hall
gille@illinois.edu

Environmental Sociology, Contemporary Theory, Sociology of Knowledge

Ghamari-Tabrizi, Behrooz
445A Gregory Hall
bghamari@illinois.edu

Global History
Holtzclaw-Stone, Nicole  
3070 Lincoln Hall  
holtzcla@illinois.edu  

*Globalization, Gender, Development & Globalization, African Studies*

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Jung, Moon-Kie  
3076 Lincoln Hall  
jung3@illinois.edu  

*Race & Ethnicity, Asian American Studies, Class Analysis, Social Inequality*

---

Kelly, Margaret  
3097 Lincoln Hall  
mskelley@illinois.edu  

*Drugs, Crime, Society*

---

Liao, Tim Futing  
3096 Lincoln Hall  
tfliao@illinios.edu  

*Comparative Family Studies, Demography, Methodology*

---

Marshall, Anna-Maria  
3090 Lincoln Hall  
amarshall@illinois.edu  

*Law & Politics, Constitutional Law, Civil Liberties, Political Behavior, Feminist Theory*
McDermott, Monica  
3094 Lincoln Hall  
mcderm@illinois.edu  

Race & Class

Mendenhall, Ruby  
3104 Lincoln Hall  
rubymen@illinois.edu

Family, Housing, Economic Mobility

Redstone Akresh, Ilana  
3074 Lincoln Hall  
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U.S. Immigration & Demography

Sandefur, Rebecca  
3080 Lincoln Hall  
sandefur@illinois.edu

Inequality and Social Stratification Work; Occupations and Professions; Law and Society; Labor Markets, Careers and Social Mobility; Research Methods; Access to Justice

Schulz, Markus  
3098 Lincoln Hall  
ms111@illinois.edu

Social Theory, Transnational Processes, Political Imagery, Social Movements, New Media, Latin America
Steward, Daniel
3072 Lincoln Hall
djs@illinois.edu

Sociology of Science & Technology, Sociology of Cyberspace; Social Theory, Theories of Justice; Sociology of Law, Law & Society; Social Movements, Social Problems

Swicegood, Gray
3101 Lincoln Hall
swice@illinois.edu

Demography, Life Course, Racial & Ethnic Group Fertility Differentials

Zerai, Assata
3102 Lincoln Hall
azerai@illinois.edu

Maternal and Child Health, Health Inequality; Race, Class and Gender
Sociology Emeritus Faculty

Bordua, David J., *Emeritus*
3095 Lincoln Hall
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*Crime & Delinquency, Deviance & Social Control, Law & Social Policy*

Brunstein, William, *Emeritus*
3095 Lincoln Hall
brunstein@illinois.edu

*Political Sociology, Democratization, Social Movement*

Choldin, Harvey M., *Emeritus*
303 Intl. Studies Bldg.
hcholdin@illinois.edu

*Urban & Suburban Sociology, Demography, Social Problems, Community Studies*

Kluegel, James R., *Emeritus*
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*Stratification, Beliefs about Inequality, Public Opinion*

McPhail, Clark, *Emeritus*
3095 Lincoln Hall
cmcphail@illinois.edu

*Sociology Psychology, Collective Action, Social Movements*