

SOCIOLOGY, B.A.

A sociology degree gives students the research, communication and analytical skills needed to succeed in a wide variety of career fields. The Bachelor of Arts in Sociology offers students transferable skills that facilitate careers in education, law, social work, counseling, health professions, government agencies, community service and more.

Similar to the B.S., students earning the B.A. will learn to analyze and interpret data using statistical tools that will allow them to contribute to conversations surrounding gender and racial discrimination, class, poverty and other social inequalities. The B.A. degree track emphasizes the social sciences and humanities to help students learn to communicate effectively to challenge commonly held beliefs using data and empirical evidence.

Our faculty will guide students through courses that evidence the trends, characteristics and functions of the relationship between individuals and society. Graduates of our B.A. program are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their graduate studies at USC and beyond.

Major students may pursue a Distinction in Sociology by achieving the required GPA and defending a research project. Sociology undergraduates planning to continue their graduate studies at USC can apply to the Accelerated Bachelors Program to begin earning credit towards a master's degree while pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Sociology majors completing the required SOCY 391 course will demonstrate they understand the general sociological perspective and the uses of sociological theory, can apply critical reasoning skills to evaluating theoretical explanations, and can identify uses and limitations of major sociological research methods in evaluating theories. Majors will evidence these ability to apply these skills to the study of social issues of broad impact and interest beyond the discipline.
2. Sociology majors completing advanced substantive courses (500-level) will demonstrate they (1) understand the major sociological theories in a specific substantive area of specialization, (2) can critically evaluate competing theories in the field, and (3) can identify and critique major methodological approaches within the specialty area. Examples of substantive areas are Social Inequality, Social Psychology, Sociology of the Family, and Sociology of Medicine and Health.
3. Sociology majors will demonstrate an understanding and ability to use the following statistical tools: 1. The distinction between descriptive and inferential statistics; 2. Levels of measurement, ratios and rates; 3. Various measures of central tendency and statistical variability used to describe distributions; 4. Hypothesis testing, sampling and inference from sample estimates for a population; 5. Simple bivariate modeling techniques such as correlation and regression.