

SOCIOLOGY, BA

Everyone is part of multiple social groups. Your local community, your ethnic group, your religious organization, your workplace, your team, your family - these are all examples of groups to which you might belong. The Sociology major at UWM offers students a chance to better understand these groups and the people within them. Students explore the social causes and consequences of human behavior, including topics such as political movements, population shifts, housing patterns, racism, gender inequality, the legal system, crime, families, sexuality, workplace organization, food cultures, and more.

UWM students in Sociology can customize their major. Beyond the core courses that all majors take, students have many electives to choose from. They can take a broad array of courses or become more specialized by choosing electives focused around particular topics of interest. Our graduates are known for their strong knowledge of the field as well as exceptional technical skills that are highly desirable. Sociology is a social science and relies on data, statistics and research to form theories and draw conclusions. Students in UWM's Sociology program learn how to process, analyze and synthesize large volumes of information in a logical and consistent manner using the latest software tools, a skill that has gotten them noticed by employers from businesses and government agencies that rely on data to make informed decisions.

Sociology is also one of UWM's majors available entirely online for students that wish to earn their degree from a distance. All classes required for the major can be taken online, or students can mix-and-match and take some online and some traditional classes. Many sociology courses are cross-listed with other certificate programs and interdepartmental majors.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	30
	L&S Requirements (general degree and major requirements)	75
	Electives	15
	Total Credits	120

Credit numbers reflect total possible credits towards degree. Due to the ability to count courses towards more than one requirement, credit amounts will vary. Please work with your academic advisor on your plan of study.

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation, developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Categories and Credits		
	Civics and Perspectives (CP)	6
	Communication and Literacy (CL)	6
	Humanities and Arts (HA)	6
	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	3
	Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL)	6
	Social and Behavioral Science (SBS)	3
	Total Credits	30

Letters and Science Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 or above) courses.

The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), students must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, a Natural Science Lab requirement, the Research requirement, and a Language other than English requirement. The International requirement develops student potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that students take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for students to build critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project in their major. The Language other than English requirement further develops student proficiency in a language other than English. And, the requirement that students take an L&S

Natural Science lab ensures exposure to and practice with the scientific method in action.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of those 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 and above) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the B.A. must fulfill a language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or equivalent in two languages other than English (including all languages other than English and American Sign Language).

Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some two-course (minimum 6 credits) combination of:

1. Courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).
2. Any study abroad course(s).

Students who graduate secondary school in a country other than the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement to obtain deeper experience across our three substantive divisions.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 9 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must include a laboratory or fieldwork experience.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Students should contact their major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research

requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses taken at UWM.

Sociology Major Requirements

Students must complete at least 15 upper-division (numbered 300 and above) credits in the major in residence at UWM. The College requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA on all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work.

The major in sociology requires a minimum of 30 credits including the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
SOCIOL 261	Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology ^{1,2}	3
SOCIOL 361	Research Methods & Data in Sociology (satisfies L&S research requirement)	3
SOCIOL 375	Social Theory	3
Additional Requirements		
Select 21 additional credits		21
Total Credits		30

¹ PSYCH 210 shall be accepted as a substitute for SOCIOL 261 to fulfill the statistics requirement for students majoring in Sociology. With the approval of the undergraduate advisor, majors may substitute a different elementary statistics course from another discipline for the SOCIOL 261 requirement.

² SOCIOL 261 fulfills the College of Letters & Science "Mathematics and Formal Reasoning" requirement **AND** the UWM Quantitative Literacy - B (QL-B) requirement.

At least 15 credits must be in upper-division (300 level and above) sociology courses taken in residence at UWM.

Students in the Schools of Education and Social Welfare should consult their programs regarding social science requirements.

Sociology courses often are cross-listed with several certificate programs and interdepartmental majors.

Sociology BA Learning Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified by our faculty as key aspects of student learning in sociology:

1. Appropriate Use of Sociological Concepts and Theories: Students graduating from the sociology BA program will be able to use sociological concepts and theories to examine and explain existing and emerging social patterns and to compare and assess competing explanations. [SOCIOL 375]

2. Identify, Construct, and Assess Argument: Students graduating from the sociology BA program will be able to construct a logical, coherent, and persuasive argument, including one that identifies and assesses an author's main claim and subclaims. Students will be able to identify and employ credible evidence to support this argument. [SOCIOLOGY 375]
3. Research literacy: Students graduating from the sociology BA program will be able to design and evaluate social research projects, including the choice of an appropriate research subject, the systemic collection and analysis of data, and the accurate interpretation of empirical results. [SOCIOLOGY 361]
4. Quantitative Literacy: Students graduating from the sociology BA program will be able to interpret basic statistics and quantitative analysis. [SOCIOLOGY 261]
5. Career Readiness: Students graduating from the sociology BA program will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to address problems encountered in a range of professional work settings. [SOCIOLOGY 261/SOCIOLOGY 361/SOCIOLOGY 375]

- Provide you with information about campus and community resources and refer you to those resources as appropriate.
- Monitor your progress toward graduation and completion of requirements.

Faculty advisors mentor students in the major and assist them in maximizing their development in the program. You will begin working with a faculty advisor when you declare your major. Faculty advisors are an important partner and will:

- Help you understand major requirements and course offerings in the department.
- Explain opportunities for internships and undergraduate research and guide you in obtaining those experiences.
- Serve as an excellent resource as you consider potential graduate programs and career paths in your field.

Students are encouraged to meet with both their college advisor and faculty advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are available in-person, by phone or by video.

Currently enrolled students should use the Navigate360 website (<https://uwm.navigate.eab.com/>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor or call (414) 229-4654 if you do not currently have an assigned Letters & Science advisor. Prospective students who haven't enrolled in classes yet should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

Declare Your Sociology Major

Advising for the major takes place within the department by a faculty member. Click on "Declare Your Major (<https://uwm.edu/sociology/students/undergraduates/declare-your-major/>)" to fill out the online request to join the program. Once you complete a request, it will be assigned to a Letters & Science academic advisor. They will follow up with you about your declaration request. After your request to declare sociology as a major is approved (unless otherwise stated) it will be filed as part of your student record. Within approximately 5-7 days, a sociology faculty advisor will review your unofficial transcript and you will receive a detailed email with your assessment to let you know exactly where you are in your progress toward the degree. If you are unable to complete the online request form or for any other questions, please email sociology@uwm.edu.

All students are cautioned to consult their Letters & Science academic advisor AND their major advisor prior to each registration period to ensure they understand all requirements.

Applicants who have not started classes at UWM yet who wish to change their major should contact our admissions counselor at let-sci@uwm.edu.

Letters & Science Advising

During your time at UWM, you may have multiple members of your success team, including advisors, peer mentors and success coaches. Letters & Science students typically work with at least two different types of advisors as they pursue their degrees: professional college advisors and faculty advisors. L&S college advisors advise across your entire degree program while departmental faculty advisors focus on the major.

College advisors are located in Holton Hall (or virtually for online students) and serve as your primary advisor. They are your point person for your questions about navigating college and completing your degree. College advisors will:

- Assist you in defining your academic and life goals.
- Help you create an educational plan that is consistent with those goals.
- Assist you in understanding curriculum, major and degree requirements for graduation, as well as university policies and procedures.

Honors in the Major

Sociology majors who have maintained at least a 3.000 GPA overall, a 3.500 GPA in all courses attempted for the major, and a 3.500 in all advanced-level (numbered 300 and above) courses attempted for the major are awarded the distinction "Honors in the Major" when they graduate. An "Honors in the Major" notation will appear on the student's transcript.

Sociology Honor Society & Awards

In addition, majors and minors who maintained at least a 3.300 GPA overall and a 3.000 GPA in courses taken for the major are invited to join Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society. Sociology faculty members annually select academically talented majors or minors for both the "Distinguished Scholar Award" as well as the "Joan W. Moore Service Scholar Award." Both awards are presented to an accomplished junior or senior in the major or minor each spring at the department's award ceremony.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive

all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.