

SOCIOLOGY (BA)

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus and Allan Hancock College

Sociology explores the nature and dynamics of human society and the interrelationship between individuals and their social groups. The goal of sociological study at Cal Poly is twofold. The first objective is to develop a sociological imagination that enables students to see their personal circumstances and problems in context of the broader, local, national, and global forces that shape their lives. The second objective is to prepare students for graduate studies and careers in such fields as criminal justice, law, social services, complex organizations, and teaching. Sociology also offers general education courses that provide an understanding of the complexity and diversity of the world's peoples and their problems. Some courses focus on American society, emphasizing issues of class, race, ethnicity and gender. Other courses have a global orientation dealing with both the past and present diversity of the world's societies, economies, politics and religions.

Internship Requirement

As a means of promoting relevant job skills, hands-on learning, and field experience, majors are encouraged to complete an internship. Students who complete an internship may register for SOC 4440 in any term for 2-12 units of credit, not to exceed 12 units total. The department will assist students in identifying suitable internships. However, students are encouraged to explore options for themselves based upon their interests.

Concentrations **Criminal Justice**

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Prepares students for careers in the criminal legal field, such law enforcement, corrections, probation, victim advocacy, rehabilitation, law, and other criminal justice agencies. A foundation in criminological theory is provided and contemporary issues and debates are examined in a socio-historic and global context. Students learn about and critique criminal legal policies, compare and contrast sources of crime data and crime rates, and evaluate and synthesize empirical research on crime, violence, victimology, and victimization as they relate to US society and other nations.

Organizations

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Prepares students for careers in HR and other industry management roles, nonprofit and political office administration, and social justice organizing. Students study a range of organizational theories and applications, from classical Weberian approaches to organizational behavior to contemporary critical frameworks in relation to both common and unusual, and traditional and contemporary organizational forms.

Social Justice

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Prepares students for careers in community organizing, public policy, human rights advocacy, and related fields. Courses provide a foundation in the principles of social justice and examine the root causes of inequality and oppression both domestically and globally. Students engage with contemporary debates about structural inequality, global development, climate justice, and human rights. Emphasis is placed on developing the skills to analyze power relations, critique policy, and apply sociological theory to advocacy, organizing, and social change.

Social Services

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

Prepares students for a variety of careers: social work, marriage and family therapy, psychology and other helping professions such as teaching or nursing. Courses explore multiple theories and psychological approaches. Students learn about different types of counseling, basic counseling techniques, and case management approaches used in social agencies and medical social work. Students will have opportunities to tour local clinical and forensic settings. Paid and unpaid internships for students to provide supervised direct services are available with many local agencies.

Individualized Course of Study

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An Individualized Course of Study consists of 16 units of coursework to be selected by the student in consultation with and approved by a faculty advisor. At least 10 of the 16 units must be at the 3000-4000 (upper-division) level. The student must also provide a written justification for the courses and the way they constitute a cohesive, integrated course of study. The list of courses is a contract between the student and the Department.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Achieve an international/global perspective of societies.
2. Develop an understanding of the problems of the U.S. as a pluralistic society.
3. Learn to apply a holistic/integrated approach to social problems.

4. Develop data collection skills and techniques used by modern sociology.
5. Be prepared to enter careers which use the skills and knowledge of sociology.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking concerning global issues.
7. Demonstrate the writing skills necessary to communicate effectively.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

- 40 units of upper-division courses
- 2.0 GPA
- Graduation Writing Requirements (GWR)
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major, Support or Concentration courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements.

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
SOC 1101	Orientation to the Sociology Major	1
SOC 1110	Comparative Societies (4B) ¹	3
SOC 1111	Social Problems	3
SOC 2216	U.S. Race and Ethnic Relations (USCP)	3
SOC 2218	International Political Economy	3
SOC 2222	Classical Social Theory	3
SOC/WGQS 3311	Sociology of Gender and Sexuality	4
SOC 3353	Research Methods for Sociology	4
SOC 4461	Senior Project I	2
SOC 4462	Senior Project II	1
SOC 4464	Professional Development for Sociologists	1
STAT 1110	Applied Statistical Concepts and Methods (2) ¹	3
Writing-Intensive Sociology Elective		
Select from the following: (Upper-Division 4) ¹		3
SOC 3315	Global Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 3321	Migration	
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course	
SOC 3343	Sociology of the Global South	
Sociology Electives		
Select any SOC course ²		15
Lower-Division Social Sciences Elective ³		3
Concentration or Individualized Course of Study		
(See list of Concentrations and Individualized Course of Study below)		16
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)		
(See GE program requirements below)		34
FREE ELECTIVES		
Free Electives ⁴		18
Total Units		120

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

² 12 units must be at the 3000-4000 level.

³ Courses from the following disciplines will be acceptable towards the lower-division Social Sciences course: Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, Geography, Sociology, Political Science, Psychology, or Women's, Gender, and Queer Studies.

⁴ If a General Education (GE) course is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.

Concentrations

Criminal Justice

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
SOC 3302	Criminology	4
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence	4
or SOC 4412	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	
Approved Electives		
Select from the following:		8
SOC 3303	Social Work, Social Advocacy, and Social Service Agencies	
SOC 3395	Sociology of Complex Organizations	
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence	
SOC 4406	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency	
SOC 4412	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	
SOC 4414	Theories of Social Work in Counseling Agencies	
SOC 4440	Internship ¹	
POLS 3334	Jurisprudence	
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S.	
POLS 3344	Civil Liberties	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
PSY 3352	Psychology of Conflict and Justice	
PSY 3375	Forensic Psychology	
PSY 4460	Child Abuse and Neglect	
SOC 3310	Self, Organizations, and Society	
or COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication	
or PSY 2252	Social Psychology	
or PSY 3304	Intergroup Dialogues	
SOC 4444	Incarceration and Society: Perspectives on the Criminal Justice System	
Total Units		16

¹ A maximum of 6 units may count towards approved electives.

Organizations

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
SOC 3395	Sociology of Complex Organizations ¹	4
or SOC/WGQS 4423	Gender and Work	
Select from the following: ¹		3-4
SOC 3310	Self, Organizations, and Society	
COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication	
PSY 2252	Social Psychology	
Approved Electives		
Select from the following: ¹		8-9
BUS 2207	Legal Responsibilities of Business	
BUS 3382	Leadership and Organizations	
BUS 3384	Human Resources Management	
BUS 4476	Leading Social Innovation	
COMS 2213	Organizational Communication	
COMS 2217	Small Group Collaboration and Creativity	

COMS 4413	Training and Development
ES/WGQS 3351	Gender, Race, Class, Nation: Critical Computing and Engineering Studies
POLS 3315	The U.S. Presidency
POLS 3319	U.S. Congress
POLS 3351	Public Policy and Administration
PSY 3304	Intergroup Dialogues
SOC 4412	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
SOC 4440	Internship ²
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above	
Total Units	16

¹ At least one concentration course must be in Sociology. A minimum of 16 units is required for the concentration, at least 10 of which must be upper-division. Units in excess of total will be applied towards major's free electives.

² A maximum of 6 units may count towards approved electives.

Social Justice

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Select from the following: ¹		6-8
SOC 3305	Social Movements	
SOC 3308	Sociology of the Environment	
SOC 3315	Global Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 3321	Migration	
SOC 3327	Social Change	
SOC 3343	Sociology of the Global South	
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence	
SOC 4431	World Population Processes and Problems	
SOC 4433	Global Climate Justice	
SOC 4435	Sociology of Health and Illness	
SOC 4444	Incarceration and Society: Perspectives on the Criminal Justice System	
Approved Electives		
Select from the following: ¹		8-10
GEOG 3325	Climate and Humanity	
GEOG 3350	The Global Environment	
SOC 4440	Internship ²	
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above		
Total Units		16

¹ A minimum of 16 units is required for the concentration. Any additional units may be applied towards major's free electives.

² A maximum of 6 units may count towards approved electives.

Social Services

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
SOC 3303	Social Work, Social Advocacy, and Social Service Agencies	4
SOC 4414	Theories of Social Work in Counseling Agencies	4
Approved Electives		
Select from the following:		8
CD/PSY 3306	Adolescence	
ES 3340	Cultural Production and Ethnicity	
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	
POLS 3310	Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the U.S.	
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S.	

POLS 4419	Social Movements and Political Protest
POLS 4458	Urban Politics
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty
PSY 3310	Psychology of Death
PSY 3318	Psychology of Aging
PSY 3330	Behavioral Effects of Psychoactive Drugs
SOC 3305	Social Movements
SOC 3306	Sociology of the Family
SOC 3310	Self, Organizations, and Society
SOC 3326	Sociology of the Life Course
SOC 3327	Social Change
SOC 4402	Gender, Crime, and Violence
SOC 4406	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
SOC 4412	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
SOC 4420	Practical Interviewing and Counseling Skills in Social Work
SOC 4435	Sociology of Health and Illness
SOC 4440	Internship ¹
WGQS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Women's and Gender Studies
WGQS/RELS 3370	Religion, Gender, and Society
WGQS 4401	Seminar in Women's, Gender, and Queer Studies
WGQS 4450	Feminist Theory

Total Units
16
¹ A maximum of 6 units may count towards approved electives.

Individualized Course of Study

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General Education (GE) Requirements

- 43 units required, 9 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 34 Units is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

Area 1	English Communication and Critical Thinking	
1A	Written Communication	3
1B	Critical Thinking	3
1C	Oral Communication	3
Area 2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units in Major) ¹	0
Area 3	Arts and Humanities	
3A	Arts	3
3B	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	3

4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 units in Major) ¹	0
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences	
5A	Physical Sciences	3
5B	Life Sciences	3
5C	Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course)	1
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	
6	Ethnic Studies	3
Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 2/5	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning or Physical and Life Sciences	3
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.) (3 units in Major) ¹	0
Total Units		34

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

Coming soon