



**SOCIOLOGY MAJORS
HANDBOOK
2007-2008**

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WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology at the University of South Carolina Aiken offers the Bachelor of Arts Degree, Major in Sociology, with concentrations in criminology/criminal justice, human services, and general sociology. While there is a common core of courses which sociology majors must complete, other courses may be selected to reflect individual student interests and career goals.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide sociology majors with a reference to departmental opportunities and requirements. **Majors are expected to read this handbook in order to familiarize themselves with degree requirements and other responsibilities (e.g., meeting with academic advisors, applying for graduation) and to continue to refer to it as they continue to progress toward completion of the degree program.**

Efforts have been made to verify that all information in this handbook is accurate and current. In case there is a discrepancy between requirements or procedures presented here and those printed in the USCA Bulletin (for the academic year on the cover of this handbook), the USCA Bulletin is the deciding document.

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The mission of the Department of Sociology is to provide students with an understanding of social science theories, concepts, and methods leading to an ability to collect social science data, integrate material from diverse sources, draw conclusions from data, appreciate other cultures, and to be aware of issues surrounding social change.

Students have the opportunity to earn the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in one of three concentrations: general, human services, or criminology/criminal justice. In addition, the Department provides general education courses in geography and anthropology. Departmental mission includes contributing to the overall enhancement of the academic and scholarly community. The Department also provides expertise to local community agencies when appropriate.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN SOCIOLOGY

A student who successfully completes the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology is expected to be able to:

- 1) communicate effectively orally and in writing
- 2) Collect or assemble sociologically relevant data on a given topic
- 3) Integrate data/materials from a variety of sources into a logical framework
- 4) Draw informed conclusions from assembled data/materials
- 5) Exercise a sociological imagination*
- 6) Discuss other cultures and/or subcultures without demonstrating ethnocentrism.
- 7) Be aware of the pervasiveness of social change and of its causes and consequences

*An awareness of the interconnections between larger social forces and the individual; an understanding of the impact of history on biography.

ASSESSING THE DEGREE PROGRAM

In order to determine how successful the sociology program is at achieving the established objectives, several assessment measures have been in each sociology major's requirements. Sociology majors must:

- a) earn a grade of C or better in both English 101 and 102
- b) earn a grade of C or better in one of the following applied speech courses:
 - ACOM 201 – Interpersonal Communication
 - ACOM 241 – Public Communication
 - ACOM 342 – Interviewing
- c) build a major portfolio to be used by the faculty to evaluate the program (more information about the sociology major portfolio can be found in this handbook)
- d) prepare and make an oral presentation on project completed for the required ASCY 497—Sociological Research Methods course
- e) complete an exit survey immediately prior to graduation

BACHELOR OF ARTS SOCIOLOGY

MAJOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following pages describe the requirements for the degree in sociology. At the end of this section, is an **advisement checksheet** which is intended to be used by the student as he/she progresses toward graduation. **The checksheet should be updated regularly and is to be used to plan class schedules for new semesters before meeting with an academic advisor during priority or open registration periods. Even though, the student's academic advisor will also maintain a checksheet in the student's advisement file, the student is ultimately responsible for monitoring his/her progress toward the degree.**

Transfer credit for students coming into the USC System from other accredited colleges/universities will be evaluated by the USCA academic unit heads. The chair of the Sociology Department will review transcripts of sociology coursework completed at other institutions to determine transferability. A copy of that evaluation should be in the advisement file at the time of his/her first advisement session.

In the section which follows, more specific information is presented about the course selections in each of the General Education groups and the major.

General Education Requirements

A. SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

1. English (6 hours)

AEGL 101 and 102 must be taken for this group. A grade of "C" or higher is required in each course. A student may not take AEGL 102 without first earning a C or better in AEGL 101.

Rising Junior Writing Proficiency Portfolio (RJWPP)

All USC Aiken students must submit a writing proficiency portfolio. (This is not the same as the *Sociology Major Portfolio*, although copies of a particular paper(s) may be included in both portfolios.) Each student must submit a writing proficiency portfolio as soon as possible after the completion of sixty credit hours. Transfer students who have reached the sixty-hour level through transfer credit from other institutions are allowed 30 hours of residency at USC Aiken to build their portfolios.

It is important that students refer the *USCA Bulletin* and instructions accompanying the required RJWPP Packet (available in the USCA Bookstore) for details on the compilation and submission of the writing proficiency portfolio. Writing Room staff are available to answer further questions and to provide technical assistance.

Those students who have demonstrated competency in university-level writing will be certified as having met USC Aiken's expectations. Those students whose portfolios do not meet expectations will be required to enroll in and pass AEGL 201 – Writing in the University with a “C” or better.

2. **Math/Statistics/Logic** (6 hours)

Starting Fall Semester 2007, the mathematics placement test is required for incoming students who plan to enroll in AMTH 108 (Applied College Algebra) or above (students who have scored a 3, 4, or 5 on the Educational Testing Service Calculus Advanced Placement (AP) Exam are exempt). AMTH 108 is a prerequisite for APSY 225 (Quantitative Analysis in the Behavioral Sciences) is a required course for sociology majors. If a sociology major chooses not to take the placement test, her/his initial math course will AMTH 104 (Mathematics for Practical Purposes). Mathematics courses lower than AMTH 108 (e.g., AMTH 104) will count as free elective credit for sociology majors. For more information on the mathematics placement test, see the relevant section in the *USCA Bulletin*.

- a. Sociology majors are required to complete APSY 225 – Quantitative Analysis in the Behavioral Sciences with a grade of C or better. Students must satisfy specified prerequisites for the course (typically completion of AMTH 108 or placement above AMTH 108).
- b. A logic (APHY 110) or math course (AMTH 108 or higher*) may be used to fulfill the remaining three hours of this category.
*Important notes: AMTH 108 is a prerequisite for taking APSY 225; AMTH 221 or AMTH 222 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

3. **Applied Speech** (3 hours) Choose from:

ACOM 201 – Interpersonal Communications
ACOM 241 – Public Speaking
ACOM 342 – Interviewing

4. **Languages (6-8 hours)**

Students may choose from French, German, Italian, Spanish, or other language course sequence that may be specially offered by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Placement in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (French, German, Italian, Latin, and Spanish)

Students beginning to study a new language enroll in 101.

Students enrolling in a second language that they have previously studied whether in high school or college) will be placed at the appropriate level based on previous second-language courses and grades. Each student's advisement folder will contain written information that specifies the level of the language in which they have been placed. Students who place in 210 and pass the course with a "C" or better will have completed USC Aiken's languages requirement.

B. METHODS AND HISTORY OF DISCIPLINES (32 hours)

1. **Humanities (9 hours – at least two disciplines)**

Three humanities courses in at least two disciplines will satisfy this requirement. Courses may be selected from specified courses in the following disciplines: literature; history; art history; music appreciation; philosophy (not APHL 110); theater; religion; humanities (AHUM); and designated communications and languages courses.

A listing of courses that will satisfy the humanities requirement is included in the *USCA Bulletin*. Students are to refer to that publication when selecting coursework which will fulfill the humanities general education requirement.

2. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 hours – at least two disciplines)**

Students must successfully complete three courses in at least two of the following Social/behavioral sciences: sociology; anthropology; geography; psychology; political science; and/or economics. ASCY 101 – Introductory Sociology is the only sociology course that may be counted toward this requirement.

3. **History of Civilization (3 hours)**

AHST 101 – Introduction to World Civilizations to 1750 *or*
AHST 102 – Introduction to World Civilizations Since 1750

4. **American Political Institutions** (3 hours)

Choose from: APLS 201 – American National Government, AHST 201 – History of the United States from Discovery to 1865, or AHST 202 – History of the United States from 1865 to the Present.

5. **Natural Sciences** (8 hours)

Two courses from biology; chemistry; astronomy; physics; or geology. Both courses must include a lab. The courses need not be from the same discipline.

COGNATE, MINOR, DOUBLE MAJOR, OR SECOND DEGREE

The Cognate (12 hours)

The cognate is a minimum of 12 semester hours of coursework designed to support the major. The cognate must be selected from upper-level (300+) humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural/physical sciences, mathematics, and/or business courses and must be approved by the student's advisor. Cognate courses may be selected from one or more disciplines, thus the cognate may be comprised of coursework in as many as four disciplines or in only one discipline.

Each cognate course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

The Minor (usually 18 hours)

In place of a cognate a student may elect to complete a minor consisting of 18 hours (usually) of credit in prescribed coursework. The minor is intended to develop a coherent core of basic preparation in a second area of study. It is different from the cognate in that the courses must be concentrated in one area. A list of the minors available at USC Aiken are listed in the *USCA Bulletin* and the specific requirements for each minor are listed in that publication under the School or Department that offers it.

Courses applied toward general education requirements cannot be applied to the minor. No course may satisfy both major and minor requirements. A grade of "C" or higher is required in each minor course.

Double Major

A number of sociology majors will opt to complete a double major. A double major consists of the complete fulfillment of all requirements for one degree and all the major course requirements of a second. For double majors, the cognate or minor requirement for the degree in sociology is satisfied by the second major. Depending on the second discipline selected, it may be possible to complete all requirements for both majors within the 120 credit hour graduation requirement. The *USCA Bulletin* or an academic advisor should be consulted for additional information.

Students who wish to pursue a double major must complete a change of program form at the Office of Advisement in order that he/she may be assigned an academic advisor in each major area.

Note that a double major is not the same as a “second degree” or a “dual degree.” See below.

Second Undergraduate Degree

A minimum of 24 hours of coursework beyond the degree requirements for the first degree are required for a second baccalaureate degree. In all cases, the student must complete all requirements for both degrees. In most cases, for students wanting to major in two areas, it is advisable to opt for the “second major” (discussed above), not a second undergraduate degree. The *USCA Bulletin* and an academic advisor should be contacted for additional information.

Free Electives (13-27 hours)

Sociology majors are limited to using no more than six hours of sociology course credit as elective credit. No more than six hours of activities courses and no more than four hours for performing in University ensembles may be counted toward the degree.

Students may elect to take up to eight free elective courses on the Pass/Fail grading program. The only grades assigned on courses taken under the Pass/Fail option are “S” for satisfactory and “U” for unsatisfactory. The student will be given the hour credit for courses in which an “S” is earned, but it will not be computed into the GPA.

Students have until the last day to withdraw from a course to elect the Pass/Fail option. Those who are interested in taking course on this grading system should

ask the professor teaching the course what numerical value (or other criteria) will be used to assign a satisfactory (“S”) grade. For example, some professors may consider 65 percent satisfactory performance while other professors, at their discretion, may require a 70 percent or higher to be “satisfactory.”

Approval to elect the Pass/Fail option must be obtained from the student’s academic advisor and department chair. Students whose semester or cumulative GPA is less than 2.0 are not eligible to elect the Pass/Fail option. Other specific information about this grading option can be found in the *USCA Bulletin*.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (32-35 hours)

All major courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher. A “C” or better in ASCY 101 is a prerequisite for all upper-level sociology courses. Major courses may be repeated only once. Prerequisites for ASCY 310 and ASCY 497 include the successful completion of the Rising Jr. Writing Proficiency Portfolio or AEGL 201. Sociology majors are required to choose one of three options: Criminology and Criminal Justice, Human Services, or General.

Sociology core requirements for all majors include ASCY 101—Introduction to Sociology (offered every major semester and usually in the summer), ASCY 310—Social Demography (offered every Fall semesters, occasionally in the Spring), ASCY 320—Individual and Society (offered every Fall semester and usually in the Spring), and ASCY 497—Sociological Research Methods (offered every Spring semester, occasionally in the fall). It is important that students recognize when these courses are typically offered when developing their degree plan:

	<u>Semester Offered</u>		
	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
ASCY 101 <i>Introduction to Sociology</i>	Yes	Yes	Usually
ASCY 310 <i>Social Demography</i>	Yes	Often	No
ASCY 320 <i>Individual and Society</i>	Yes	Usually	No
ASCY 497 <i>Sociological Research Methods</i>	Often	Yes	No

Criminology and Criminal Justice Option (35 hours)

Core Requirements

- ASCY 101 – Introductory Sociology
- ASCY 310 – Social Demography
- ASCY 320 – Individual and Society
- ASCY 497 – Sociological Research Methods

Concentration Requirements

- a) ACRJ 171 – Introduction to Criminal Justice
- b) Five of the following sociology courses, including at least two 500-level courses and ASCY 350 or ASCY 353 or both.

- ASCY 308 – Community Organization
- ASCY 350 – Sociology of Delinquent Youth Behavior
- ASCY 351 – Urban Sociology
- ASCY 353 – Sociology of Crime
- ASCY 354 – Crime: Myths and Misconceptions
- ASCY 355 – Minority Group Relations
- ASCY 356 – Sociology of Law
- ASCY 358 – Sociology of Corrections
- ASCY 359 – Police and Society
- ASCY 400 – Internship in a Criminal Justice Agency
- ASCY 496 – Sociological Theory
- ASCY 504 – Social Stratification
- ASCY 507 – Sociology of Social Control
- ASCY 523 – Sociology of Deviance
- ASCY 540 – Criminological Theory

- c) One additional 300, 400, or 500 level sociology course.

Human Services Option (35 hours)

Core Requirements

ASCY 101 – Introductory Sociology
ASCY 310 – Social Demography
ASCY 320 – Individual and Society
ASCY 497 – Sociological Research Methods

Concentration Requirements

- a) ASHS 201 – Introduction to Human Services
- b) Five of the following sociology courses, at least two 500-level courses

ASCY 301 – Sociology of Gender Roles
ASCY 305 – Sociology of the Family
ASCY 308 – Community Organization
ASCY 351 – Urban Sociology
ASCY 355 – Minority Group Relations
ASCY 360 – Sociology of Medicine and Health
ASCY 400 – Internship in a Human Services agency
ASCY 460 – Sociology of Mental Health
ASCY 496 – Sociological Theory
ASCY 504 – Social Stratification
ASCY 506 – Social Organizations
ASCY 523 – Sociology of Deviance
ASCY 528 – Family Diversity

- c) One additional 300, 400, or 500 level sociology course.

The General Sociology Option (32 hours)

Core Requirements

ASCY 101 – Introductory Sociology
ASCY 310 – Social Demography
ASCY 320 – Individual and Society
ASCY 497 – Sociological Research Methods

Concentration Requirements

Six additional sociology courses, 300-level or above, including at least two 500-level courses.

ADVISEMENT AND REGISTRATION

Each semester students must be advised and register for a set of courses required to complete the degree (see degree requirements in this Handbook or *USCA Bulletin*). A student will register just before classes begin in his/her first semester at USCA. Subsequently, the student should be advised and register for courses during the priority registration period (early November for Spring semesters and early April for Summer and Fall terms). It is important that students take advantage of priority registration. Often times, classes are full by the time open registration occurs which is just before classes begin.

Advisement

Sociology majors will be assigned to an academic advisor who is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology. The advisor is familiar with the requirements for the degree and is available to answer questions and provide guidance. Advisors post office hours on their office doors and students should feel free to stop by during those hours. If the announced office hours do not fit your schedule, call or email your advisor or leave a message for him/her and ask for an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Names office locations, telephone numbers, and email addresses of faculty in the Department can be found in this handbook.

STEP 1. Make an appointment to see your academic advisor.

Before registering for courses, students must see their academic advisors for approval of their course selections. Advisors usually post appointment sheets on their office doors several days or a week in advance of the beginning of the advisement period. Students are to sign up for a time on their assigned advisor's appointment sheet. Students are obliged to keep the appointment time with their advisor, if an unforeseen event prevents a student from keeping his/her appointment time, it is expected that the student will extend the courtesy of informing the advisor as soon as possible before the appointment time.

STEP 2. Plan your schedule for the next semester.

Students are expected to be aware of degree requirements and their progress toward the degree and, prior to seeing their academic advisor, plan a tentative class schedule of classes they plan to take during the next semester. The course acronym, 3-digit course number, meeting days and times, and the 6-digit schedule code for each course need to be included in the tentative schedule. Also two or three alternate courses should be determined in the event that first choices are full. Students are to use the **Advisement Check Sheet** provided in this handbook to keep track of the courses completed and courses in which the student is currently enrolled. The academic advisor will also maintain a record of this, but

it is the student's responsibility to keep track of his/her progress.

STEP 3. See academic advisor.

For the advisement appointment, students are expected to

- a) Be on time
- b) Bring a pen and a copy of the master course schedule for the appropriate terms(s)
- c) Bring the schedule worked out in Step #2

Answers To Commonly Asked Questions Concerning Advisement

Q: *If I'm supposed to know what I need to take, why should I see my advisor at all?*

A: Your advisor will serve as a "double check" to your interpretation of which courses remain to be taken. Also, your advisor is likely to be aware of specific points which you may not know about, but which could affect your progress toward graduation. For example, your advisor may know that a course you must take is only offered every other or every third semester and if you don't take that course in a semester when it is offered, you may have to wait a year or year and half before that course is offered again. This could delay your graduation. Also, courses and academic regulations may change, and these changes may not show up in the *Bulletin* in time for you to make decisions.

Q: *My schedule and my advisor's schedule are in conflict and I can never get an appointment to see my advisor at a time that meets my needs. What am I supposed to do?*

A: If you have made a serious effort to see your advisor, but have been unsuccessful, see the chair of the Sociology Department for help. If finding a mutually agreeable time continues to be a problem for more than one semester, you may request a new advisor. This is done through the Advisement Center in Room 108H of the Penland Administration Building or by going directly to the Sociology Department faculty member who you would like to have as your new advisor. The option of changing advisors is also available for other reasons. No advisor in the Sociology Department is going to be upset with a student who changes to another advisor, whatever the reason. It is not a good idea, however, to change frequently, since continuity with the same advisor provides the opportunity for the advisor to get to know your goals and plans and to provide better advice as a result.

Registration

Following the meeting with the academic advisor and completion of the Advisement Form which indicates his/her approval of course selections, students may have two options for registering for classes:

- 1) Students may use the Visual Information Processing (VIP) site on the internet. The address is **<http://vip.sc.edu>**.
For information on using VIP, see the current *USCA Schedule of Classes*.
- 2) Your advisor may register students in his/her office using Faculty Desktop Registration (FDR). Not all advisors have access to FDR or do not make it available at all times during a registration period. Ask your advisor if FDR is an option.

On occasion, it may be necessary to for a student register for a class(es) in person at the Records Office (108A Penland Administration Building). This will be the case when special paperwork needs to be processed such as for independent studies, internships, overrides, overloads, and courses requiring special permission to enroll.

Special Note

A good source of options and instructions for registering for classes is the current *Schedule of Classes* booklet. The schedule booklet also includes a calendar of important dates for the semester, a final exam schedule, and information about dropping/adding courses, paying fees, withdrawing from school, and other important information. Because the booklet includes so much information, it is a good idea for students to keep it handy even after they have registered for classes.

What To Do If A Class Is Full (Closed) Or Has Been Cancelled?

- a) If there are multiple sections of the course offered, meaning that the course is offered at several different times, students may choose a section which is still open. It is not necessary to obtain the academic advisor's permission to do this.
- b) If there are no other open sections of the course, the student may enroll in one of the alternate courses which were approved by the academic advisor.
- c) If neither of the above is available, the student may contact the Chair or Head of the Department or School that offers the closed class to see whether an "override" is possible or see the academic advisor for approval of some other course.

It is very important that the student does not enroll in a course without advisor approval. Students who have done this have, on occasion, made serious mistakes which delayed their graduation.

Dropping And Adding Classes

Dropping Classes

If a student decides that he/she registered for too many classes for the semester or sees that he/she is headed for failure in a particular class, he/she should see an academic advisor and drop one or more of the classes.

During the first week of classes, a student may drop a course without having the course appear on the student's transcript. After the first week of classes, a student may still drop a course without a grade penalty up through the final withdrawal date. The final withdrawal date is included on the Academic Calendar which is printed each term in the *Schedule of Classes* booklet.

Dropping or withdrawing from a course requires an advisement form and the signature of the academic advisor.

Students may use VIP, or an advisor may use FDR in his/her office to process the student's request to drop a course(s). However, by taking the drop form to the Records Office (108A Penland Administration Building) may be the best option. If drop form is processed in person, the student will receive a printout showing that the course has been dropped. This document could prove useful later if there is any question about whether or not the course was dropped.

Adding Classes

Students must see their academic advisor to add a course or replace a course that is being dropped. Classes can be added during the first week of classes, but not after that time.

NEARING GRADUATION

Graduation Check

In the next to last semester before graduation, students should remind their advisor that a graduation check is needed. This is done before the end of registration in a student's last semester. This is done in order to determine exactly what courses and how many hours are necessary to fulfill degree requirements. The academic advisor handles this review. For example, a student who is planning graduate at the end of a spring semester, should have a graduation check completed during the preceding fall semester.

Graduation Application

During the student's last semester, he/she must apply for graduation. Graduation applications are obtained and filled out by the student in the Records Office (108A Penland Administration Building). The Records Office will retain one copy of the application. The student will deliver the application package which will include an academic transcript generated by the Records Office to his/her academic advisor for further processing.

The graduation application deadline for each semester is included on the Academic Calendar that is printed in the *Schedule Classes* booklet. ***Students are to assume full responsibility for remembering to apply for graduation and completing the process. Advisors are not obligated to remind students about this requirement.***

Senior Exit Survey

Near the end of the student's final semester before graduation, he/she will receive a letter from the Chair of the Department and a Sociology Major Exit Survey. Survey information is used by Department Faculty to assess and further develop the program. Majors are required to complete the survey as a part of their graduation requirements.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A USC System GPA of 2.0 or higher is required for graduation. If a student's System GPA is lower than 2.0, he/she will not graduate even though all course work has been completed for the degree. Also, depending on how many grade hours have been accumulated, the student may be subject to suspension from the university. See the *USCA Bulletin* for more information on suspension and probation levels.

THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR PORTFOLIO

A major portfolio will be created for each sociology major. The portfolio will consist of the major projects completed for the co-capstone courses in the Sociology program, ASCY 310—Social Demography and ASCY 497—Sociological Research Methods.

Faculty in the department use the portfolios to assess the Sociology degree program. The Sociology Major Portfolio is not used to evaluate individual students and it should not be confused with the Rising Junior Writing Proficiency Portfolio (RJWPP). Information about the objectives and procedures associated with the RJWPP can be found in this handbook under General Education Requirements and in the *USCA Bulletin*.

Constructing The Sociology Major Portfolio

An individual student's portfolio is made up of the major projects the student has completed for ASCY 310 and ASCY 497. For each of these classes, the student will be required to submit two copies of the projects completed for this course at the time and/or intervals determined by the professor instructing the course. Ideally, the student will label the copy as "portfolio copy." The professor will transfer one copy to the office on campus that maintains portfolio files. The other copy will be graded by the professor as usual.

The following information answers some commonly asked questions about the Sociology Major Portfolio.

Q: *Why are portfolios required for sociology majors?*

A: The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and USC Aiken's accreditation association (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) require that all academic programs be evaluated for effectiveness on an ongoing basis. The faculty in the Department of Sociology have developed a set of measures for program assessment which includes the a review of portfolios of students work.

Q: *How will these portfolios be used? If mine is weak, could it keep me from graduating?*

A: It is important to understand that the major portfolio is used to evaluate the sociology program, not individual students. Portfolios will be evaluated after the students graduate. Normally the content of the portfolio itself will not cause the individual student to gain or lose anything. Reviewers will examine the contents of the portfolios for how well students:

- 1) Communicate in writing
- 2) Collect or assemble sociologically relevant data on a given topic
- 3) Integrate data/materials from a variety of sources into a logical framework
- 4) Draw informed conclusions from assembled data/materials
- 5) Exercise a sociological imagination*
- 6) Discuss other cultures and/or subcultures without demonstrating ethnocentrism.
- 7) Be aware of the pervasiveness of social change and of its causes and consequences

*An awareness of the interconnections between larger social forces and the individual; an understanding of the impact of history on biography.

If most portfolios reviewed indicate that sociology majors have these abilities, it indicates that the program is effective at achieving its goals. If the papers/projects included in many of the portfolios do not demonstrate such skills, it will indicate that there is a problem with the design of the program. In that case, the program will be revised in an effort to improve its effectiveness.

Important Final Note On The Sociology Major Portfolio

Professors will guide the student in all steps in the portfolio process. It is important for students to remember that, unlike the Rising Junior Writing Proficiency Portfolio, they are not being individually graded or evaluated, therefore cannot “fail” in the process. However, the Sociology major portfolio is a graduation requirement. Students who fail to submit faculty-designated items for inclusion in the portfolio will either not pass the course or will not officially graduate.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each semester, including summer, qualified sociology majors have the opportunity to serve as interns at various agencies in the local and surrounding areas. Student interns enroll in ASCY 400 and receive three semester hours credit. Interns are required to 1) spend 150 hours over the duration of the term (about 10 hours per week during fall and spring semesters) in training and assignment at their respective agencies and 2) complete an academic component. The academic component includes maintaining a journal, readings, a final paper or annotated bibliography, and regular meetings with the internship coordinator.

Sociology majors must meet the following qualifications to apply for an internship:

- 1) minimum 2.0 cumulative USC Aiken grade point average
- 2) 60 hours of completed course work toward Sociology degree—at least 12 hours at USC Aiken
- 3) Sociology 101 and nine additional hours of sociology course work with a grade of “C” or better in each course

Participating Agencies

South Carolina Department of Social Services

Interns will work closely with caseworkers in either the economic services or human services division of the agency. Internship to be served at the Aiken or the North Augusta Office.

The Children’s Place

At this local agency, interns will be trained in the design and implementation of intervention/education programs for young children who have been abused or neglected.

Aiken County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council

Students will gain practical experience assisting staff in teen prevention initiatives. Intern will interact directly with youth in various programs. Through this internship there is opportunity for significant inter-agency exposure.

Cumbee Center for Abused Persons

Interns will be trained and will serve as a victim advocate in rape crises and domestic assault situations.

Victim-Witness Services

Interns will be trained to advise witnesses of crime about services available to them.

Aiken Solicitor's Office

Interns will assist prosecutors with the jury selection process.

Department of Corrections

—Lower Savannah Work Center or

—Trenton Correctional Facility

At each of these state facilities, interns will be trained to interview inmates for the classification systems which affects inmate eligibility for assignments and services. The interns will learn about the correctional system in South Carolina, statutes governing inmate sentences, and the service agencies that aid inmates and their families.

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Interns will assist classification personnel at the federal prison in Edgefield, SC. An outstanding opportunity to learn about the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and to get one's "foot in the door" at a federal agency.

South Carolina Probation, Parole, and Pardons Services

Interns will be trained to assist an agent with his/her regular caseload at the Aiken Office of this state agency. Experiences will include attending court sessions and observing field work and field visits.

Private Probation

Interns will learn the essentials of probation case management by assisting a Lead Probation Officer at an Augusta, GA private probation agency. Following training, interns may have the opportunity to supervise a small caseload.

State Law Enforcement Division (S.L.E.D.)

Interns will be assigned to a specific division of this agency (e.g., Records, Alcohol Enforcement, Investigations) and will assist officials with their regular workload. Commute to Columbia, SC is required.

Local Law Enforcement

—Aiken Public Safety or

—North Augusta Public Safety

Interns will gain a comprehensive view of local law enforcement by interning at either of these local agencies. Experiences will include general patrol, dispatch, investigations, records, and court sessions.

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WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of group life. As a social science, it combines scientific and humanistic perspectives in the study of urban and rural life, family patterns and relationships, social change, inter-group relations, social class, environment, technology and communications, health care and illness, social movements, community responses to disasters, and pressing contemporary social issues.

Sociology is a valuable liberal arts major for students planning careers in a wide variety of fields including social research, criminology, demography, social psychology, public administration, gerontology, education, rehabilitation, social work, and market research. It provides a useful background for those planning to enter law, business, medicine, community planning, architecture, and politics. In many professional schools, sociology courses are part of the requirements. Persons holding a Bachelor's degree in sociology are frequently employed in the helping professions, in business, and in various public sector positions, especially those dealing with social programs and their implementation. Usually, they are not employed in jobs with the title "sociologist," since that title requires graduate training.

Employment opportunities for those with Bachelor's degrees in sociology include entry-level positions in the following areas: administration, advertising, banking, counseling (family planning, career, substance abuse, and so forth), community planning, health services, journalism, group and recreation work, marketing and market research, sales, teaching (if certified), human resources/personnel work, social services, and social research.

Sociology is a liberal arts major with an advantage. In addition to knowledge in specific course areas such as sociology of families, communities, and organizations, you will learn social research design, statistics, and data analysis. These will be useful to you as you enter the job market.

Excerpted from *Careers in Sociology*, American Sociological Association

There is a wealth of information about careers for sociology majors and other information for students who are majoring in sociology located at the student web site of the American Sociological Association (ASA): www.asanet.org. There are also a number of ASA career-oriented publications for students available for order on the web site.

The book, *Careers in Sociology* by W. Richard Stevens, Jr. is a comprehensive guide. A good portion of the book is available to read at www.abacon.com/socsite/careers.html. A copy of the book, which includes a *Workbook for Job Seekers in Sociology* can be purchased through that web site. Also, the book is available for students to read in the USCA Career Services Library. The USCA Career Services Office also has numerous other publications of interest to students who are majoring in sociology.

The following page lists areas and potential job titles for persons holding a B.A. degree in sociology.

Human Services

Counseling
Advocacy
Mental Health Services
Administration
Programming
Recreation
Gerontology
Health Agencies
Group Worker
Social Services Worker
Drug Abuse Counselor
Fund Raising
Caseworker
Youth Outreach
Recreation Specialist
Housing Coordinator

Criminal Justice

Law Enforcement
-Local, State, Federal
Correctional Personnel
Rehabilitation
Court Administration
Probation & Parole
Private Security
Corrections Administration
Crime Prevention
Juvenile Court Worker

Education

Teaching
Administration
Admissions Counselor
Alumni Relations
Placement Officer
Research
Guidance Counselor
Student Personnel Specialist

Government

Local Planning
Social Science Analysis
Program Development
Demography
Management
Personnel
Research
Environmental Analyst
Investigation
Grants Officer
Policy Analyst
Public Information Specialist
Affirmative Action Specialist

Social Science Research

Market Research Analysis
Evaluation Research
Consulting Firms

Business

Demography/Planning
Human Resources
Management
Sales
Advertising
Marketing Analysis
Consumer Research
Insurance
Real Estate
Personnel/Training
Administration
Labor Relations Specialist
Customer Relations
Organizational Planning
Banking
Recruiter
Technical Writer
Quality Control
Merchandiser/Purchaser

Notes



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