Department of Sociology

Contact Information:
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Administration:
Head, Barbara Risman
Associate Head and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Nilda Flores-Gonzalez
Assistant to the Head: Tara Gordon

Sociology is the study of social life, including individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. Sociologists investigate the social causes and consequences of human behavior and interaction, such as inequality, poverty, discrimination, and urbanization. While offering a general sociology curriculum, the program specializes in the study of race, ethnicity, and gender; work, organizations, and the economy; and urban sociology. Students majoring in Sociology will gain an understanding of, and the ability to use, key sociological theories, methodologies, and analytical skills in building sociological knowledge.

A major in Sociology will prepare students to undertake graduate studies in sociology, and other fields such as other social sciences, social work, law, urban planning, and public health. It is also an excellent preparation for a wide variety of occupations in business and industry, the justice system, community and social services, government, education, social justice, and research.

Distinction
To be considered for Distinction, students must obtain a 3.00/4.00 overall GPA, plus the following:
- 3.50/4.00 GPA in the major for Distinction;
- 3.75/4.00 GPA in the major for High Distinction;
- 3.75/4.00 GPA in the major, SOC 499, and completion of a senior thesis for Highest Distinction.

Note: The GPA will be calculated using all of the credits that are being applied to the degree—from UIC and from any transfer institution.

Special Programs in Sociology

Research Skills
The Sociology program offers courses in which students can develop their research skills. Students can take courses such as Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Statistics, as well as learn about various research methods (such as Ethnography, Survey, Census) in introductory and more advanced research methods courses.

Area of Concentration
The Sociology program offers a general sociology curriculum with an emphasis in the study of race, ethnicity, and gender; work, organizations, and the economy; and urban sociology. Students who want to specialize in any of these areas select relevant courses at the 200- and 400-level.

Course Credit for Paid Work
Cooperative education combines work experience with academic courses. Co-op placement possibilities include a wide range of professional, managerial, and technical positions in firms, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Independent Study and Research Projects
Students can gain research experience by working with a faculty member on an ongoing research project or conducting their own independent research project. Students who want to graduate with the Highest Departmental Distinction must complete SOC 499 and write a senior thesis based on a research project.

Preprofessional Preparation
Majoring in Sociology can provide students with an excellent preparation for admission to professional and graduate programs in medicine, health, law, urban planning, social work, education, and business.

Critical Thinking and Communication
Sociology develops skills in analyzing, synthesizing, generalizing, and communicating information and knowledge. Courses stress both logical and data analysis as well as careful and thoughtful reading, discussion, and writing. Sociology’s subject matter includes relationships among economic, political, cultural, and social factors and explores the impact of physical and biological forces on individuals and society. This inclusive framework and general training lies at the heart of a liberal education for lifetime learning.

Degree Program
- BA with Major in Sociology (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/soc/ba)

Minor
- Minor in Sociology (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/soc/minor)