

# Department of Sociology

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## Contact Information:

Campus Location: 4112 Behavioral Sciences Building (BSB)  
 (312) 996-3005  
[soc.uic.edu](http://soc.uic.edu)

## Administration:

Head, Sharmila Rudrappa  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Pamela Popielarz

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 particularly focuses on how social inequalities are structured and legislated, how they are supported by cultural representations and hegemonic ideologies, and how people navigate and push back against them in their everyday lives. The program specializes in the study of: race, ethnicity, and immigration; gender and sexualities; organizations and the economy; politics, globalization, and social change; urban and spatial inequality; and health, science, and knowledge. Students learn multiple methodological approaches for the study of social life, such as ethnography, in-depth interviews, survey research, focus groups, statistical analysis of secondary data, and the use of comparative historical methods. Sociology majors in the program also explore how to actively use research-based evidence to increase the quality of life for the residents of Chicago, the state, the nation, and the world.

Sociology develops skills in analyzing, synthesizing, generalizing, and communicating data, information and knowledge. Courses stress both logic 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 such forces on individuals and society. This inclusive framework and general training lies at the heart of a liberal education for lifetime learning.

A major in sociology will prepare students to undertake graduate studies in sociology, and admission to other professional and graduate programs in medicine, health, law, urban planning, social work, education, and business. 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. Students may also choose to tailor their undergraduate curriculum with one of the four optional concentrations: data and analytics; health and medicine; professions, occupations, and work; or sociology for social work.

## 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.

## Degree Programs

- [BA with Major in Sociology](#)
- [BA with Major in Sociology, Concentration in Data and Analytics](#)
- [BA with Major in Sociology, Concentration in Health and Medicine](#)
- [BA with Major in Sociology, Concentration in Professions, Organizations, and Work](#)
- [BA with Major in Sociology, Concentration in Sociology for Social Work](#)

## Minor

- [Minor in Sociology](#)