



A Guide to Majoring

in

Sociology

at

Cameron University

Every Student. Every Story.

Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology

2800 W. Gore Boulevard

Lawton, OK 73505

www.cameron.edu ~ 580.581.2490

http://www.cameron.edu/cj_sociology

Introduction

Congratulations, you've decided to major in Sociology at Cameron University. We are pleased to welcome you to the major and hope that your learning experience is both challenging and rewarding. This pamphlet is intended to give you a detailed overview as to the requirements for the major, along with some suggestions on how to enhance your educational experience. A brief description of sociology is provided below, along with some general career opportunities available to those with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Please feel free to discuss specific career interests with your advisor, along with visiting the official website of the American Sociology Association (<http://www.asanet.org>) for additional career information.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human behavior, group processes, social institutions, and societies. Sociologists are often interested in why people act in particular ways, how they function within social groups, and how societies change over time. The subject matter of sociology is extremely wide, ranging from the interaction between two people to economic and political relations among nations. If you have ever wondered why some people commit crime and others do not, why many women earn less money than men, or why some people get divorced while others never marry, then sociology is the major for you.

Career Opportunities

A bachelor's degree in sociology provides a strong foundation for a career in a variety of fields. Sociology students receive training in social research methods, statistical analysis, and computer skills. These skills can be used in conducting research for government agencies at the county, state, and federal level. Sociology graduates can also use these research skills in the private sector, such as conducting market and survey research for marketing companies. Other career opportunities for sociology graduates include: civil service, law, law enforcement, secondary school teaching, social work, and counseling. With a master's or doctorate in sociology or social work, graduates can teach in higher education and have access to higher paying state and federal jobs.

The Sociology Degree Program at Cameron University: (39 Total Hours)

Required Courses: (18 hours)

Sociology majors are required to earn a C or higher in each required course for the major.

SOCI 1113	– Introductory Sociology
SOCI 2013	– Social Statistics
SOCI 2223	– Sociological Research Methods
SOCI 3123	– Sociological Theory
SOCI 4213	– Social Stratification
SOCI 4903	– Sociology Capstone

Electives: (21 hours)

All courses included here must have Sociology prefixes. A minimum of 15 hours must be at the 3000-4000 level with no more than 6 hours at the 1000-2000 level.

SOCI 2023	– Social Problems
SOCI 2503	– Popular Culture
SOCI 3003	– Deviant Behavior
SOCI 3013	– Racial and Cultural Minorities
SOCI 3223	– Social Psychology
SOCI 3323	– Collective Behavior
SOCI 3343	– Political Sociology
SOCI 3353	– Social Demography
SOCI 3373	– Sociology of the Community
SOCI 3403	– Sociology of the Family
SOCI 3413	– Gerontology
SOCI 3513	– Intro to Social Welfare and Human Services
SOCI 3733	– Sociology of Gender
SOCI 3991-3	– Internship in Sociology
SOCI 4003	– Criminology
SOCI 4013	– Juvenile Delinquency
SOCI 4103	– Sociology of Religion
SOCI 4303	– Globalization and Development
SOCI 4403	– Domestic Violence
SOCI 4491-3	– Independent Study
SOCI 4533	– Human Services Counseling Strategies
SOCI 4591-3	– Selected Topics in Sociology

Assessment Examination Prior to Graduation

Every student majoring in Sociology is required to take our Program Assessment examination prior to graduation. The exam is administered in the Sociology Capstone course (beginning in spring 2012) and consists of multiple choice questions on a variety of areas within the field of sociology. The Sociology Program uses this examination (called the Major Field Test in Sociology) to assess its success. The Sociology Capstone course is designed to strengthen your knowledge of sociology while also preparing you for this exam.

Academic Advisement

The Sociology Program assigns advisors based on the student's last name. Below is a list of Sociology faculty according to first letter of the student's last name:

Robert Bausch, Ph.D.: A through G

Maxwell Kwenda, Ph.D.: H through M

Su Lee, Ph.D.: N through Z

We strongly encourage students to contact their advisor as soon as possible after declaring Sociology as their major. Your advisor will work with you to ensure that you are aware of current course offerings in Sociology and to make sure that your degree plan is sound. To ensure that no professor advises an unfair number of students, it is important that students see their assigned advisor.

General Advisement

Once you are established here at Cameron and have initially met with your assigned advisor, there are some things to keep in mind. You should meet with your advisor at least once or twice a semester to make sure that you are progressing successfully through your degree plan. Discuss with your advisor any need you may have to balance work, family, or other obligations. We do not want students overloading themselves with too many courses if they have full-time jobs, a busy family life, etc.

If you are having difficulty with finding enough Sociology courses at times most convenient for you, discuss this with your advisor. It is possible to take courses (online or other formats) from other colleges and transfer them back to CU. However, please discuss transferability of courses with your advisor first before taking any courses elsewhere.

Finally, contact your advisor about setting up a degree check the semester PRIOR to the semester in which you will graduate. That will give you advance notice in case there are additional courses you need to take prior to graduation.

Career Preparation

The Internship Course

The Sociology Program offers an internship course (1-3 credit hours) each fall and spring semester. Many of our students are interested in a variety of careers, but might be unaware of the typical workday in a particular occupation. There are multiple benefits to taking the internship course. The student gains a better understanding of what it is like to work in a particular field. Second, the student has an opportunity to see how their academic knowledge applies in the broader community. Lastly, students have the opportunity to build a network of connections in their field of interest.

Graduate School

While graduate school is not for every student, we hope that most students give it some consideration. Graduate school involves work at the Masters level and beyond, possibly leading to a Ph.D. degree. We encourage students to give some serious thought in attending graduate school. If you are interested in graduate education, speak with your advisor by the time you are a junior so that you can begin preparing. Your advisor will discuss any entrance exam you might need to take (i.e. the GRE) and some options regarding schools, programs, etc.

Letters of Recommendation

Whether you will be applying for graduate school or looking for immediate employment upon graduation, you will likely need letters of recommendation from your professors. Ideally, you will have taken courses from every sociology professor, giving you an opportunity to have a few letters from professors in your major. It is generally wise to ask only those professors in whose courses you've done well for a letter of recommendation.

Here is some general advice when requesting letters of recommendation from the Sociology faculty. You should give us as much advance notice as possible so that we have the time to write a good letter. Keep in mind that we receive many requests for letters and we are pretty busy throughout the year. Furthermore, make sure you give us the following information:

- **Contact person's name and address**
- **Name of organization/company**
- **Your specific academic/career interests**
- **Your previous relevant work experience**
- **Your academic accomplishments (awards, etc.)**
- **Involvement in extra-curricular/honor society activities**

Providing as much information about yourself, including your career and/or educational goals, will help us write much more effective letters for you.

Final Comments

The Sociology faculty want you all to succeed, whatever your education and career goals might be. Please consider us as a resource to help you in achieving your goals. Additionally, please consider joining the Alumni Association of Cameron University upon graduation and keep them updated as to your accomplishments. We will want to know how you are doing after graduation, the field in which you are employed, etc. Finally, we wish you all the best of success while you attend Cameron and afterwards.

Contact Information

Dr. Robert Bausch

Email: rbausch@cameron.edu

Phone: 580.581.2492

Dr. Maxwell Kwenda

Email: mkwenda@cameron.edu

Phone: 580.581.2939

Dr. Su Lee

Email: suholee@cameron.edu

Phone: 580.581.2945

