

Sociology at Harvard

Program Requirements

Program Requirements			
Sociology Concentration	Sociology and Data Analytics Track	Sociology Secondary	Data Analytics in Sociology Secondary
Introduction: SOCIOL 1000 (or SOCIOL 1001-1089 by petition)	Introduction: SOCIOL 1000 (or SOCIOL 1001-1089 by petition)	Introduction¹: SOCIOL 1000 (or SOCIOL 1001-1089 by petition)	Introduction: SOCIOL 1000 (or SOCIOL 1001-1089 by petition)
Social Theory Tutorial: SOCIOL 97	Social Theory Tutorial: SOCIOL 97	Social Theory Tutorial: SOCIOL 97	
Models of Social Research: SOCIOL 1128	Models of Social Research: SOCIOL 1128	Models of Social Research: SOCIOL 1128	Models of Social Research: SOCIOL 1128
Statistics for Social Sciences: SOCIOL 1156 (or STAT 100, 102, 104, 139 by petition)	Statistics for Social Sciences: SOCIOL 1156 (or STAT 100, 102, 104, 139 by petition)		Statistics for Social Sciences: SOCIOL 1156 (or STAT 100, 102, 104, 139 by petition)
Junior Tutorial: SOCIOL 98	Junior Tutorial: SOCIOL 98		
5 additional courses with a SOCIOL prefix	3 additional courses with a SOCIOL prefix	3 additional courses with a SOCIOL prefix	1 additional course with a SOCIOL prefix
	2 additional methods courses (e.g., SOCIOL 90, 1107, 1126, 1157)		2 additional methods courses (e.g., SOCIOL 90, 1107, 1126, 1157)
2 courses in Related Fields: AAAS; ANTH; EASTD; EC; EMR; GHHP; GOV; HIST; HISSCI; PSYCH; SOCSTUD; WGS, or SOCIOL prefix.	2 courses in Related Fields: AAAS; ANTH; EASTD; EC; EMR; GHHP; GOV; HIST; HISSCI; PSYCH; SOCSTUD; WGS, or SOCIOL prefix.		
12 Courses Total	12 Courses Total	6 Courses Total	6 Courses Total
Additional Requirements for Honors²:			
Senior Thesis Tutorials: SOCIOL 99A and 99B	Senior Thesis Tutorials: SOCIOL 99A and 99B		
Thesis Required	Thesis Required		

Sociology at Harvard

All social life is patterned. By studying these patterns, sociologists help us better understand—and influence—social outcomes. If you are interested in how social systems like race, gender, sexuality, class, nationality, governance, education, culture, crime, the economy, the workplace, or the natural environment shape individual lives and life chances, then you might consider studying sociology.

Sociology Concentration

The sociology concentration requires students to take 12 courses that provide instruction in both social theory and research methods, and that engage a variety of substantive areas within the discipline. Some students choose to focus their classes on a relatively narrow topic (e.g., poverty and inequality), while others choose to engage a wide number of topics. All students are required to produce an independent research project in their junior tutorial, but senior theses are always optional.

Sociology and Data Analytics Track

Harvard Sociology introduces all concentrators to both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students who want a deeper engagement with sociological research may choose the Sociology and Data Analytics track. Because studying social processes requires a broad range of approaches, we offer instruction in statistical modeling, in-depth interviewing, ethnographic observations, archival investigations, and computational analyses. These courses train students to think carefully about every stage of research, from the development of a sociological question, to the definition and operationalization of social variables like “poverty” and “health,” to the process of ethically and accurately collecting data, to the analysis and interpretation of research findings, and, ultimately, the communication of those findings to diverse audiences.

Sociology Secondary

Students may wish to supplement their concentration with a secondary in sociology to learn how their central interests intersect with social patterns. For example, students in the environmental sciences may wish to study patterns of social inequality and poverty to better understand why environmental disasters affect some communities more harshly than others, or students pursuing a career in business or finance may wish to better understand how social patterns of race or gender shape inclusivity and productivity in the workplace.

Data Analytics in Sociology Secondary

The Data Analytics in Sociology secondary trains students from any concentration to effectively navigate the complexity of social research as it relates to their primary interest. We offer instruction in a broad range of approaches, developing proficiency in evidence-based analysis of social processes and in the application of research findings to the solution of real-world problems. For instance, pre-med students can gain proficiency in studying the social determinants of health, sociological data analysis skills can inform a senior thesis on processes of gender or sexuality, and students from a number of disciplines interested in pursuing a career in consulting or not-for-profit organizations will learn critical skills in program evaluation.



To schedule an advising appointment, contact:

Dr. Emily Fairchild, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, efairchild@fas.harvard.edu

Rebecca Russell, Undergraduate Advising and Program Administrator, rrussell@fas.harvard.edu

Or Visit: <https://sociology.fas.harvard.edu/pages/advising>

¹ Students who declared a Sociology Secondary prior to Fall 2023 are not required to take an Introduction course.

² Students in the Class of 2024 and Class of 2025 may count 99A and 99B as two of their five additional courses for the Sociology Concentration.