
Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the scientific and systematic study of human behavior. Sociologists explore the social forces that shape modern society, with an eye toward understanding how these dynamics create social inequalities and social problems. Students at SUNYIT receive a strong foundation in sociological theory and methods and sharpen these skills in areas that interest them, typically concentrating on the criminal justice or human services fields.

What can you do with a Sociology Degree?

Anything! The skills we offer in terms of data collection and analysis are useful in a large range of occupations, from medical research to journalism, from administration to marketing. Many of our students choose careers in human and social services or criminal justice. You should know that employers in all of these fields often hire individuals with a degree in Sociology. Individuals trained in the sociological perspective have a greater understanding of the social context in which human behavior and social problems take place. In order to better understand this context, your education at SUNYIT takes place on and off campus. The Sociology Program provides students numerous opportunities to work collaboratively with professors on research and writing projects, or to try out career paths through an internship. In these ways, students can engage intellectual ideas in a practical setting and make meaningful connections between classroom learning and the real world that makes them more attractive on the job market. Employers appreciate the practical experience our students can bring to the workplace.

Who should consider a B.A. in Sociology from SUNYIT?

Our program is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students:

- freshmen entering SUNYIT with an interest in human behavior, applied sociology or human services;
- students holding Associate of Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) or Associate of Arts (A.A.) degrees in a field such as sociology, liberal arts, general studies, social sciences, human services, criminal justice, policing, or industrial relations.

Who are SUNYIT Sociology Majors?

They are a diverse group of individuals who work or are interested in a variety of fields, including:

Social and human services fields, working with

- Developmentally disabled children and adults
- Victims of domestic/family violence
- Teen mothers
- The elderly

Education, working in

- School counseling
- Tutoring/mentoring programs
- Special needs programs
- Alternative schools

Many students plan to pursue further education after the B.A. in Sociology, going on to

- Graduate school in Sociology, including SUNYIT's M.S. in Applied Sociology
- Law school
- Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
- Master's in Social Work (MSW)



Will I be Able to Work Closely with Faculty?

Sociology students at SUNYIT have ample opportunities to gain practical research experience that will be valuable to them on the job market. At times, an entire course will plan and conduct a research project, often in conjunction with local organizations. Recent examples include: a survey of SUNYIT students on their satisfaction with campus life; a survey of factors that promote and inhibit economic self-sufficiency of women in the Mohawk Valley (for the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties). Students also have opportunities to work with faculty individually under our Independent Study option. Students are encouraged to participate in a research project that will lead to a professional presentation or publication of a paper.

What do Sociology Majors do for Fun?

SUNYIT has a very active Sociology Club. Students plan and participate in social and community service activities. Club events include midnight bowling, outings with children from the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, Take Back the Night events on campus (including speakers and a rally), fundraising for local charities (including raffles and canned good drives), providing aid to women and children fleeing domestic violence during the holidays, and a Rock the Vote campaign to encourage their fellow students to register for and participate in upcoming elections.

Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of at least 124 semester hours of college-level work.
2. At least 30 hours of upper-division college work must be taken at SUNYIT.
3. No more than 30 semester hours of professional courses outside the arts and sciences.
4. A grade of "C" or higher in all core courses and statistics.
5. A 2.00 cumulative grade point average in all coursework taken at SUNYIT.
6. A 2.00 cumulative grade point average in sociology and anthropology coursework toward the major.

Group I: General Education Requirements (36-48 credits)

All Sociology majors must complete the following General Education Courses:

Mathematics (MAT 111 or equivalent)	3-4 credits
Natural Sciences	
Lab Science	3-4 credits
Other Science	3-4 credits
Social Sciences	3-4 credits
American History	3-4 credits
Western Civilization	3-4 credits
Other World Civilizations	3-4 credits
Humanities	3-4 credits
The Arts	3-4 credits
Foreign Language	3-4 credits
Basic Communication	3-4 credits
Upper Division Writing (COM 306 or COM 308)	3-4 credits

Group II: Program Requirements

1. All majors must complete at least ten (10) courses in sociology and anthropology, at least seven of which must be completed at SUNYIT;
2. Students may elect no more than two (2) courses in anthropology toward the sociology major;
3. All majors must take SOC 100 or SOC 110;
4. All majors must take one intermediate elective before taking an advanced course;
5. All majors must take two electives at the lower level (from groups A or B);
6. All majors are required to take 3 courses (12 credits) of advanced coursework at the 400-level.

Course Options:

- A. SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology
SOC 110 Social Problems
- B. Intermediate Course Electives:
 - SOC 210 Sociology of the Family
 - SOC 314 Sociology of Deviance
 - SOC 350 Chemical Dependencies and Human Behavior
 - SOC 351 Sociology of Crime
 - SOC 360 Sociology of Work
 - SOC 381 Social Gerontology
 - ANT 301 General Anthropology
 - ANT 320 Social Policy
 - ANT 382 Cultures, Health and Healing

C. Group III: Advanced Coursework

Human Services:

- SOC 410 Power and Violence in the Family
- SOC 411 Sociology of Community
- SOC 424 Social Welfare Policy
- SOC 446 The Individual and Society

Criminal Justice:

- SOC 450 Sociology of Corrections
- SOC 452 White Collar Crime
- SOC 455 Sociology of Law and the Courts

Other Advanced Courses:

- SOC 465 Sociology of Occupations and Professions
- SOC 466 Worker Social Psychology
- SOC 490 Selected Topics in Sociology (varies each semester)
- SOC 491 Independent Study
- SOC 495 Practicum in Sociology (offers internship opportunity)
- ANT 460 Ethnography

D. Group IV: Core Courses (Required of all Majors)

- SOC 100 or SOC 110
- SOC 310 History of Sociological Theory
- SOC 332 Methods of Inquiry
- ANT 321 Distinctions: Race, Class, and Gender
- SOC 493 Senior Seminar in Sociology
- STA 100 Statistical Methods

Sociology Minor

See academic minor section.