

# SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (LIBERAL ARTS)

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Program Description

Students may choose either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree program. The B.A. degree program provides a basic orientation to the field as a whole, study of its development and principles, training in methodology and study in depth of a major area of the discipline. It provides knowledge that is useful in a career in varied work settings as well as providing the foundation needed for graduate study in sociology of related fields.

## What is Sociology?

Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human social groups. The topics covered in sociology are as diverse as society itself, from families to gangs, from non-profit organizations to nations. Sociology focuses on the ways that groups and individuals interact, examining how social environments, like neighborhoods, schools, religious organizations, workplaces, and social networks shape individuals' behaviors and create cooperation or conflict. Sociology uses different methods (surveys, interviews, network analysis, observation, social media, censuses, case studies) to make the invisible patterns of the social world visible.

Sociology especially helps us understand the roots of racial, gender, and class inequality by investigating the ways that social groups control resources, enforce social boundaries, and accept unequal social outcomes. But sociology also helps us to understand how societies change, whether due to the impact of large-scale events like pandemics and economic recessions, or through social movements and labor unions.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to understand how society influence our lives, both in the United States and throughout the global community.
- You would like to advanced learn skills for social research, including statistics and data analysis.
- You want to pursue a career in research, law, social work, business, community organizing, social entrepreneurship, education, non-profit organizations, public policy, counseling, or the health professions.
- You want to understand social inequality as well as social change.