

# Understanding Behavior, Groups, and Institutions Through Studying... **Sociology**



## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado Denver offers students a multifaceted learning experience that provides an understanding of how individuals and institutions interact to shape our social world. By conducting empirical and theoretical research, faculty members aim to advance and expand sociological knowledge, and use sociological theory and research findings to understand social problems and offer potential solutions. The focal areas of research for CU Denver faculty include family sociology, health, and criminology/law. In addition to offering coursework in these areas, courses are offered in a variety of subfields, including race and ethnicity, urban sociology, medical Sociology, and social psychology. Several of the department courses fulfill requirements of CU Denver's core undergraduate curriculum.

Learn about the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.



Studying sociology opens doors to many careers. Some sociologists work in social services, counseling, and research. Graduates use their degrees to work as directors of research, policy analysts, consultants, and human resource managers. Still others work as survey researchers, statisticians, urban planners, community developers, criminologists, or demographers. For those completing advanced study in sociology, college teaching is an option. College and university positions also include advising students, conducting studies, and publishing research. Overall, there is growing appreciation for sociology's contribution to interdisciplinary analysis and action.





# ***Majoring in Sociology***

The Bachelor of Arts in Sociology requires a total of 120 credits, including 32 credits earned in sociology. In addition to required sociology courses, CU Denver has a set of core university requirements for all undergraduates. These include courses in the humanities, social sciences, behavioral sciences, and natural/physical sciences. CU Denver also requires that students demonstrate competency in mathematics and writing, either through testing or coursework. Details on these requirements are available from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information, please visit: <http://clas.ucdenver.edu/advising>



Students can earn a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology through on-campus classes or by doing the degree entirely online. Of the 32 credits of coursework required in sociology, at least 16 credits must be earned in 3000 or 4000-level courses. The maximum number of credits permitted in the major is 56. Within the major, 20 credits are earned in required sociology courses, leaving 12-36 elective credits in sociology. A minimum cumulative GPA of 1.7 must be earned in the sociology electives (F's are not averaged in).

The Sociology core consists of the following courses, which must be completed with a grade of "C-" or better in each individual course.

## **Required Courses**

**SOCY 1001** - \*Understanding the Social World (3 cr.)

\*Previously Intro to Sociology

**SOCY 2001** - Inequalities in the Social World (3 cr.)

**SOCY 3119** - Qualitative Methods (4 cr.)

**SOCY 3115** - Quantitative Methods & Analysis (4 cr.)

**SOCY 3140** - Sociological Theory (3 cr.)

## **Elective Courses**

Students also choose a minimum of 12 credits of elective courses from the sociology department. Elective courses must be completed with a minimum of a "C-" in each course. F's will not be averaged in. 3 of these elective credits must be at the 4000 level.

## **Sociology Honors**

Students who major in sociology have the option of graduating with sociology honors. The Department offers three levels of honors with the BA degree: departmental honors (cum laude), high departmental honors (magna cum laude), and highest departmental honors (summa cum laude). To earn departmental honors, students must complete two semesters of Directed Research (SOCY 4880) supervised by a faculty member. Prior to beginning SOCY 4880, students are required to take Understanding the Social World (1001), Qualitative Methods (3119), and Quantitative Methods & Analysis (3115), and earn a "B" or higher in each of these courses. Occasionally, students may obtain special permission from their faculty supervisor to begin Directed Research before taking all of the courses listed above.





# Minoring in Sociology



A sociology minor is earned by completing a minimum of 15 credits in sociology with a grade of “C-” or better. Nine (9) of these credits must be earned from CU Denver. Six (6) of these credits must be upper division (3000 or 4000 level).

## Required Courses

**SOCY 1001** - \*Understanding the Social World  
\*Previously Intro to Sociology

ONE of the following courses:

- **SOCY 2001** - Inequalities in the Social World
- **SOCY 3119** - Qualitative Methods
- **SOCY 3115** - Quantitative Methods & Analysis
- **SOCY 3140** - Sociological Theory

## Elective Courses

Students also choose a minimum of 9 credits of elective Sociology courses.

## NEW Sociology Certificates

*Certify yourself with one of three new certificate offerings!*

*\*All courses must be taken a CU Denver\**

*\*Must receive a “C-” or better in all certificate courses\**

### Criminology

Criminology is the field of study dedicated to understanding crime as a social phenomenon. Criminologists study the social construction of laws, nature and causes of crime, reactions to the breaking of laws, and the prevention, control and treatment of crime. The Department of Sociology’s Criminology Certificate offers an essential foundation for students pursuing careers in criminal justice, victim and community services, criminal law, and non-profit organizations in local and international contexts. The certificate also prepares interested students for law school and graduate programs in sociology and criminology.

### Sociology of Health and Medicine

Medical sociology is a subfield devoted to the study of population health, health care systems and policy, and the social dimensions of illness and healing. Medical sociologists study the causes of health inequalities, social constructions of health and illness, origins of medical authority, doctor-patient relationships, community influences on health, and the social forces that affect policy. The Sociology Department’s Sociology of Health and Medicine Certificate provides training in the core research methodologies and theories of medical sociology, examining individual experience, institutional structures, laws and policies that affect health, and broader systems of inequality that lead to unequal rates of illness and access to care. This certificate provides depth of training in these areas and is ideal for students interested in graduate-level study and social research on health and medicine, as well as those interested in careers in public health, health care services, and non-profit organizations.

### Families and Social Welfare

This certificate provides students a foundation for understanding the complex role of families and family members at multiple levels, as well as the social systems and organizations responsible for supporting families and individuals. The content and methods courses will prepare students for direct service positions working with individuals and families (e.g., human and social services), or research, policy or advocacy positions addressing family issues (e.g., housing, violence and abuse, parenting, social welfare). Students earning the certificate also will be well-positioned to pursue advanced degrees in social work, public health, counseling, law, sociology, or related disciplines.





## Student Research

Students in The Department of Sociology at CU Denver have the opportunity to participate in research projects with faculty members, which provide opportunities for students to:

- > Contribute to the creation of new knowledge
- > Sharpen critical and analytical thinking skills
- > Enhance confidence
- > Complement and extend classroom learning
- > Prepare for graduate-level study or career
- > Develop and explore interests
- > Present work at professional conferences

## Alpha Kappa Delta

### *International Sociology Honor Society*

Sociology majors who achieved junior standing (60+ credits) can apply for AKD membership. To apply you must also have a cumulative GPA of 3.3, have completed 4 courses in Sociology, and have a 3.0 Sociology GPA. Application information is available on the Sociology Department website.

AKD members participate in a formal initiation event in the Spring semester and receive an honors cord to wear at



## Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Initiation Participants

## Sociology Internships

The Department of Sociology strongly encourages internships for all students. Internships include (but are not limited to) working for non-profit organizations, safe houses, homeless shelters, public schools, government agencies, and legal offices. Students completing internships engage in a variety of activities such as providing art therapy for abused children, teaching English to Hispanic immigrants, helping underrepresented groups with health care access, organizing and running focus groups, and assisting with food collection and distribution.

The Experiential Learning Center (ELC) is now using the program *Handshake* to help students register for internships. If you are interested in participating in an internship, you should complete your profile on *Handshake* (<http://www.ucdenver.edu/elc>). Ideally, this should be completed one semester prior to the semester you want to start your internship.

Students must also attend an Internship Workshop at the Experiential Learning Center in the Tivoli. This is where you will learn about the process for finding an internship that matches your interests and major. You will also learn more about how to utilize Handshake and other resources to search and apply for available internships. You can register for a workshop by clicking on "Events" in *Handshake* (left navigation bar).

Once you've completed the steps above, you may begin applying for internships through *Handshake*, other websites, and your network of contacts. Please contact the ELC for assistance at any point during this process. Call 303-315-7258 or email the Experiential Learning Center at [Experiential.LearningCenter@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Experiential.LearningCenter@ucdenver.edu). You must also have a faculty sponsor from the Department of Sociology to oversee your internship.



Department of Sociology Location: Lawrence Street Center - 1380 Lawrence Street - Suite 420  
Main Office # - 303-315-2148 ~ Sociology Undergraduate Advising # - 303-315-2138  
Website - [clas.ucdenver.edu/sociology](http://clas.ucdenver.edu/sociology) ~ [facebook.com/groups/UCDSociology/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCDSociology/)  
 [UCD\\_Sociology](https://twitter.com/UCD_Sociology) ~ Sociology Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Maren Scull - [maren.scull@ucdenver.edu](mailto:maren.scull@ucdenver.edu)