



University of New Hampshire

Department of Sociology
UNDERGRADUATE HANDBOOK

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Table of Contents

SOCIOLOGY AS A FIELD OF STUDY AT UNH.....	- 4 -
Personal Significance.....	- 4 -
Employment Prospects.....	- 4 -
PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS	- 5 -
Declaration of Major.....	- 5 -
Advising.....	- 6 -
Requirements	- 6 -
<i>Major</i>	- 6 -
<i>Transfer Courses</i>	- 7 -
<i>Language Requirement</i>	- 7 -
<i>Minor Programs</i>	- 7 -
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAJORS	- 8 -
Sociology Independent Study (SOC 595).....	- 8 -
Senior Thesis (SOC 799)	- 8 -
Internships (SOC 793, SOC 792), Semester in the City, and The Washington Center	- 9 -
Honors Programs	- 9 -
<i>Department Honors-in-Major:</i>	- 9 -
Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research	- 11 -
<i>Undergraduate Research Awards (URA):</i>	- 11 -
<i>Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF and SURF Abroad):</i>	- 11 -
<i>International Research Programs:</i>	- 12 -
UNH Undergraduate Research Conference (URC)	- 12 -
<i>Perspectives</i>	- 12 -
SOCIOLOGY FACULTY	- 13 -
SOCIOLOGY COURSES	- 14 -
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES.....	- 15 -
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY	- 16 -

SOCIOLOGY AS A FIELD OF STUDY AT UNH

Personal Significance

Majors: Sociology seeks to understand the complexities of social behavior across a range of organizations and institutions. The major helps students to understand how social forces shape and constrain people's lives. It likewise promotes scientific inquiry, digital literacy, and cultural awareness. It helps students hone creative thinking and written and verbal communication skills. Our majors learn how to conduct research, perform statistical analyses, and communicate research findings. They graduate prepared to succeed in an increasingly diverse, global, data-driven, and technological world. The Sociology program prepares majors for employment directly after graduation and for graduate work in sociology and related fields. The core courses in theory, methods, statistics, and sociological analysis are especially valuable. Students become familiar with the basic conceptual and methodological tools of the discipline and are encouraged to employ these tools in the substantive areas of their interest. In addition to the core courses, the department offers courses in the areas of criminal justice, mental health, the family, social stratification, race relations, and social policy.

Liberal arts students: The Sociology undergraduate offerings are an important contribution to the education of any liberal arts student. As a social science, sociology offers a strong combination of insight about social interaction and social institutions from both a scientific and humanistic perspective. Its insights and methods therefore provide valuable complements to course work in just about any other liberal arts discipline.

General value for all students: All students majoring in any field, including STEM disciplines, can benefit from exposure to the sociological perspective and sociology's findings, as well as the theoretical underpinnings and methods, of our discipline. Our wide range of courses is intended to appeal to various student interests. The student is offered a valuable experience in gaining a better understanding of the modern social world. Such an experience makes for greater success in any career and contributes to one's ability to participate thoughtfully as a global citizen.

Employment Prospects

The Sociology major helps students develop skills that are valuable to employers and graduate programs alike. Our graduates learn how to lead organizations and solve complex problems both inside and outside the workplace. As part of their undergraduate training, students gain practical knowledge about how data for social research are collected and analyzed. The ability to understand, plan and perform social research is a very valuable skill for many occupations in business, science, education, and the service professions. Students wishing to develop these skills beyond the required coursework will find additional opportunities and guidance (through independent study, reading and research course, and senior thesis) to design and carry out their own research projects, or to work with faculty on ongoing investigations.

A recent survey of alumni indicates the wide spectrum of employment found by our majors: law, data analysis, government, educational administration, personnel administration, counseling, mental health, library science, communications, criminal justice, insurance, social planning, marketing, environmental analysis, social work, healthcare, and management. Some of our majors have also pursued academic employment. The nature of the program means that students are not narrowly “tracked” into any single career path, but remain free to choose from many possibilities. Individual major programs emphasizing, for instance, criminology, in conjunction with minors such as education, justice studies, women’s studies, and American studies are popular.

Many Sociology majors plan to obtain graduate degrees in the social sciences or other fields. Judging by the successes of recent graduates, the UNH undergraduate sociology program provides a good background for further study. (And it should be noted that UNH itself has very active M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Sociology.)

The UNH Office of Career and Professional Success (CaPS) (<https://www.unh.edu/career/>) can provide help with resume writing, interviewing, networking, internships, career planning, and placement. Students are encouraged to visit CaPS early in their educational career, but also know that CaPS can help students throughout all their years at UNH.

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Declaration of Major

If you have not already declared the Sociology major prior to or upon entering UNH, you may declare a major in sociology once you have completed at least one introductory level sociology course with a grade of C or better. Depending upon your academic status, there are certain steps that need to be followed when declaring Sociology as your major.

If you declare Sociology as a major upon or before entering UNH, it is strongly encouraged you enroll in Sociology 400 during your first semester. You must earn a grade of C- to maintain your status in the program. If you received transfer credit for Introductory Sociology from another institution and earned at least a C, you do not have to take the course again at UNH.

If you are an undeclared Liberal Arts student, baccalaureate degree students will be able to request a change of major/option or add a second major/option within their own college using an online process via Webcat (the link can be found at <https://my.unh.edu/>), then selecting “Student Records” and “Change of Major.”

If you have a declared major (other than Sociology) within the University, baccalaureate degree students will be able to request a change of major/option or add a second major/option using an online process in Webcat.

Advising

All majors are assigned a faculty advisor upon their entrance into the program. If a particular faculty member is desired (because of substantive interests or personal acquaintance), please inform our administrative staff. All students should consult with their advisor at **each** pre-registration to assess how well the overall goals established during the initial advising are met and to follow through on new substantive interests or career plans. Students should work out a tentative schedule (with alternative courses identified) **before** the meeting. Advising can go far beyond the mechanics of satisfying the academic requirements for graduation: faculty advisors want to facilitate the development and realization of students' goals in connection with each advisee's skills, experience, and long-term goals.

Requirements

Major

- To declare a major in sociology, students must have completed one sociology course with a grade of C or better.
- Majors must complete a minimum of 40 semester credits with a grade of C- or better in each course and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better in all required sociology courses.
- SOC 400, 402, 599, 601, and 611 are required and at least two of the additional five major required elective courses must be at the 600- or 700-level.
- Sociology majors may meet the Discovery Program Capstone requirement in a variety of ways. Satisfactory completion (a grade of C- or better) of SOC 611, or of a 700-level sociology course, a senior thesis (SOC 799), or an IROP/SURF research experience will fulfill the Capstone requirement. In all cases the Capstone course must be taken during the student's senior year.
- SOC 402 is a prerequisite for SOC 601.
- SOC 599 must be completed no later than the junior year and is a prerequisite for majors taking 600- and 700-level courses.
- SOC 595 can be used to fulfill one lower-level elective **or** SOC 799 or SOC 792 can be used to fulfill one upper-level elective. SOC 595 and SOC 792 are offered as a variable credit course (2-8), and SOC 799 is 4 or 8 credits.
- Sociology majors may use two major required courses to satisfy two Discovery category requirements. In addition, SOC 599 "Sociological Analysis" can be used to satisfy both a major requirement and the Inquiry Discovery requirement.
- Statistics courses taken in other disciplines are generally not acceptable as a substitute for SOC 402, unless the student matriculated prior to 8/29/2011.
- A declared Sociology major is required to take at least one sociology course each semester until all major requirements have been fulfilled. This can be one of the required courses or an elective sociology course. The course is to be selected at pre-registration in consultation with the assigned faculty advisor.
- Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University core requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program.
- B.A. candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

Transfer Courses¹

- **Lower-level:** A student seeking transfer credit may petition to have up to two lower-level sociology courses taking outside of UNH count toward the major. This can be any two 400-500 level electives or one 400-500 level elective plus Introductory Sociology, provided that the student earned a grade of C or better. *The student should submit a petition (available in the Sociology department office) along with relevant syllabi for review to the Undergraduate Committee chair.*
- **Core Requirements and Upper-level:** In special circumstances, credit for other core requirements (402, 599, 601, and 611) and all upper level electives (600 or higher) taken outside of UNH may be petitioned. Approval is granted by the Undergraduate Committee, who will review the course syllabus. *The student should submit a petition (available in the Sociology department office) along with relevant syllabi for review to the Undergraduate Committee chair.*
- **More than two courses:** In all cases, student requests to apply *more than two* non-UNH courses to their major requirements must be reviewed by the Undergraduate Committee through the petition process. *The student should submit a petition (available in the Sociology department office) along with relevant syllabi for review to the Undergraduate Committee chair.*

Language Requirement

The Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of New Hampshire requires that a student satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement. The language requirement may be fulfilled by completing two semesters at the elementary level or one semester at the intermediate or advanced level.

The Department of Sociology requires all students to choose from one of the following languages:

Arabic	Chinese	French	German	Greek	Italian
Hittite	Japanese	Latin	Portuguese	Russian	Spanish

Exceptions to this list must be petitioned and approved by the Department of Sociology's Undergraduate Committee and the student's advisor.

Minor Programs

Any five courses in sociology, with a grade of C- or better and a 2.00 grade-point average in these courses constitute a minor; certification by the Undergraduate Committee chair is required. Sociology majors are encouraged to explore possibilities for combining their program in such a way as to secure minors in other disciplines and in interdisciplinary minors in which double-counting of two courses is allowed (see Employment Prospects above).

1 Study Abroad and National Student Exchange Courses: Any sociology courses taken during UNH study abroad or exchange programs must be approved in advance of the student's travel and are also subject to the transfer credit policies.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAJORS

Sociology Independent Study (SOC 595)

Students may elect to pursue independent learning opportunities for credit via SOC 595. SOC 595 is offered as a variable credit course (2-8). Students should identify a faculty member who shares an interest in the topic and who agrees to work as the student's supervisor. The student should, in consultation with and approval by the faculty supervisor, develop an independent study proposal. The planned scope of work and how this aligns with the planned number of credits must be part of the proposal. The proposal must be approved by the Undergraduate Committee prior to registration. Forms for proposals are available in the Sociology department office.

No more than 4 total credits of independent study (SOC 595, SOC 799, or SOC 792) shall apply toward the major requirements. SOC 595 can be used to fulfill one lower-level elective or SOC 799/SOC 792 can be used to fulfill one upper-level elective. Any additional credits of independent study will count only toward the student's cumulative 128-credit graduation requirement.

Senior Thesis (SOC 799)

Students may elect to complete an independent research project in the field under the supervision and guidance of a faculty supervisor (SOC 799). SOC 799 is offered as a 4 or 8 credit course. Students should identify a faculty member who shares an interest in the topic and who agrees to work as the student's supervisor. The student should, in consultation with and approval by the faculty supervisor, develop a thesis proposal. The planned scope of work and how this aligns with the planned number of credits must be part of the proposal. The proposal must be approved by the Undergraduate Committee prior to registration. Forms for proposals are available in the Sociology department office.

Students must start work on their thesis the next to last semester of their undergraduate curriculum. For most students, this will be the fall semester of their senior year. Students are encouraged to present their thesis work at the Undergraduate Research Conference (URC): <https://www.unh.edu/urc>. Students will submit a complete copy of the final version of the thesis to the chair of the Undergraduate Committee by the end of their final semester of SOC 799.

No more than 4 total credits of independent study (SOC 595, SOC 799, or SOC 792) shall apply toward the major requirements. SOC 595 can be used to fulfill one lower-level elective or SOC 799/SOC 792 can be used to fulfill one upper-level elective. Any additional credits of independent study will count only toward the student's cumulative 128-credit graduation requirement.

Internships (SOC 793, SOC 792), Semester in the City, and The Washington Center

From time to time, the Sociology department is able to offer an internship course (SOC 793). In semesters when this is not offered, students may complete a variable (2-8) credit independent study internship (SOC 792). Internships are intended to help students gain practical field experience to augment their training in sociology and assist them in developing professional skills and competency in the areas of service, research, and/or administrative work. Students will be able to apply their formal course work to applied settings, drawing on their understandings of social stratification and diversity, work and occupations, small group dynamics, leadership in bureaucracies, organizational decision-making, and the design and implementation of applied research projects. Students will also be charged with developing a reflective approach to their ongoing professional socialization and cultivating their sense of self as practicing sociologists.

Students looking to engage in an internship should first make contact with a faculty member who agrees to be their faculty supervisor, coordinate with the student's on-site supervisor, and be responsible for evaluating student's work at the internship site. The student is responsible for completing the independent study internship proposal form (available in the Sociology department office) and having their faculty supervisor approve this before the form goes to the Undergraduate Committee for approval. The internship must be approved before the student can register for SOC 792.

For more information about finding internship opportunities, please visit the Career and Professional Success website: <https://www.unh.edu/career/>.

For information about the Semester in the City program, students should visit: <https://www.unh.edu/social-innovation/semesterinthecity>.

For information about The Washington Center Program, students should visit: <https://www.unh.edu/washington>.

Honors Programs

The University offers several different honors options. Students wishing to participate in the University Honors Program (UHP) as well as Departmental Honors Program should contact the Honors Program Office. Information describing the University Honors Program is available in the Undergraduate Catalog and on the UHP website: <https://www.unh.edu/honors-program>.

Department Honors-in-Major:

The Departmental Honors Program gives students an opportunity to work closely with faculty members, to explore their sociological interests at a deeper level, and to develop skills that will be useful in graduate school or in the professional world. Honors status is indicated on the diploma and signifies academic excellence to future employers or graduate school admissions committees.

Honors-in-Major Requirements:

1. Maintain a 3.40 grade point average overall and in the sociology major.
2. Successfully complete a minimum of 16 honors-designated credits within the major. All honors-designated courses, with the exception of SOC 440H, SOC 444H, and SOC 402H, must be at the 600- or 700-level.

To designate a course as honors, students are responsible for meeting with the course instructor to determine the scope of additional work required to receive honors credit; and completing an “Honors Designation Form” for each regular course requested to be completed at the honors level, and returning it (with the instructor’s signature) to the Registrar’s Office during the regular add/drop period.

As part of the 16 credit hours of honors designated classwork, students must either successfully complete an honors thesis **OR** two sociology courses at the 700/800 level. Details of these options are as below:

a.) An Honors Thesis (SOC 799H): The thesis may be completed in one or two successive semesters by registering for 4 to 8 credits of SOC 799H. If a student completes an 8-credit thesis, s/he will complete two of the four (4) required courses of honors designated coursework. (Note: Although 8 credits may be used to satisfy the Honors-in-Major requirement, only 4 credit hours of SOC 799H may be used to fulfill the Sociology major elective requirement.)

Honors Thesis Requirements:

- The thesis will involve independent research in the field under the supervision and guidance of a faculty supervisor, with review and approval of the Undergraduate Committee chair.
- Students must start work on their thesis the next to last semester of their undergraduate curriculum. For most students, this will be the fall semester of their senior year.
- Students must present their analyses at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference in the spring.
- Students will submit a complete copy of the final version of the thesis to the chair of the Undergraduate Committee by the end of their final semester of 799H.

b.) Two sociology courses at the 700/800 level as well as producing a rigorous research paper in each of these courses.

3. All honors-in-major students must present at the Undergraduate Research Conference.

To Declare Honors-in-Major:

- Eligible students who are interested in the program should contact the chair of the Undergraduate Committee to obtain information regarding the program and the forms that

need to be processed in order to formally be approved for the program.

- Once approved, students should contact the Sociology Office staff to formally register as an Honors-in-Major student. In addition, each semester students should provide the Sociology Office a list of the honors-designated courses for which they have enrolled.

If you have questions about honors in the Sociology major, contact your advisor or call the Sociology Department at (603)862-2500.

Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research

The Hamel Center for Undergraduate Research provides the resources and financial support for the research, scholarly, and creative projects of UNH students across all majors. They administer a number of different programs, and full details can be found on their website: <https://www.unh.edu/undergrad-research/>

Of particular note to many Sociology students are the following programs.

Undergraduate Research Awards (URA):

Students are encouraged to develop, in collaboration with faculty with shared research interests, research projects eligible for financial support by the URA. Because there are proposal deadlines each fall and spring, interested students should speak with their advisors and the Hamel Center staff early in the semester. Some faculty members may already have projects where student help can be incorporated, but independent projects within a faculty member's areas of professional competence can also win sponsorship. URA awards are for expenses incurred from research/publication related to courses (such as Senior Thesis or Reading and Research) taken for academic credit. Stipends for the academic year research fellowships are also available.

Collaboration between undergraduates and faculty members can be particularly fruitful. The chair of the Undergraduate Committee may be able to advise interested students of faculty members who have particular projects under way. Faculty research interests in general are listed below in the Sociology Faculty section. Students are encouraged to meet with appropriate faculty members in order to receive sponsorship.

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF and SURF Abroad):

SURF USA awards offer students the opportunity to pursue a research project full-time for ten weeks in collaboration with a faculty member. The award for the summer includes a stipend to the student and an honorarium to the faculty sponsor, in addition to some support for research expenses. Students may use their fellowships to conduct research at UNH or at another appropriate location within the United States. To apply, students must have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and sophomore or junior status.

SURF Abroad grants are awarded, on a competitive basis, to enable qualified undergraduates to carry out independent research activities for nine weeks full-time at a location outside the United States.

International Research Programs:

The Hamel Center offers summer and regular semester funding for students to conduct international research. One of these programs is the International Research Opportunities Program (IROP), and another is the Study Abroad Research Grant.

UNH Undergraduate Research Conference (URC)

During the spring semester, the university provides students with opportunities to present their research, scholarship, and creativity to the UNH community. Students (whether majors or not) who have written outstanding papers for courses in sociology are encouraged to present their findings at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference held in late spring semester each year. Students may also present their work in poster sessions. Students interested in exploring URC events, past programs, and registration details should visit the URC website: www.unh.edu/urc. Students may also receive credit or extra-credit in courses for presenting. A recent survey of URC participants shows that participating students rate presenting at the URC to be one of the most rewarding experiences of their UNH education. Presentations are also a wonderful resume-building experience.

Perspectives

The Sociology department proudly supports a student-produced and edited academic journal entitled *Perspectives*. All Sociology students are encouraged to submit their work for publication review. Papers written for courses, independent study projects, or thesis papers are appropriate. Please contact the Sociology department about submission formats and publication dates.

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

Katherine Abbott	Court procedure, courts and justice, institutions and social change, law and society, qualitative methods
Cliff Brown	Social stratification, race and ethnic relations, environmental sociology
David Finkelhor	Criminology, family, childhood, victimology, child maltreatment
Ryan Gibson	Social psychology, race and ethnic relations, sociology of mental health, legitimacy, quantitative methods.
Rebecca Glauber	Family, work, gender and social stratification
Lawrence Hamilton	Quantitative methods, social change, social conflict, environmental sociology
Kenneth Johnson	Demography, rural and urban sociology, quantitative analysis
Jonathan Koltai	Medical sociology, work and stratification, social policy, quantitative methods
Catherine Moran	Research methods and statistics, stratification, teaching and learning sociology, culture, fashion
Thomas Safford	Environmental sociology, globalization, organizations, and community
Nena Stracuzzi	Medical sociology, gender and sexualities, and family
Heather Turner	Sociology of mental health, family, aging/life course, child maltreatment, survey research
Karen Van Gundy	Sociology of mental health, substance use, life course, gender

SOCIOLOGY COURSES

Schedules for the current and upcoming semester are usually posted outside the Sociology Office, McConnell Hall Room 303, before they appear on Webcat or the Time/Room Schedule. In preparing course selections students should keep in mind opportunities offered for the following semester as well.

SOC 400 Introduction to Sociology	SOC 656 Terrorism
SOC 402 Statistics	SOC 660 Urban Sociology
SOC 440A Drug Addiction in American Society (Honors)	SOC 665 Environmental Sociology
SOC 444A Society in the Arctic (Honors)	SOC 670 Sociology and Non-Fiction Film
SOC 450 Contemporary Social Problems	SOC 693 Global Social Change
SOC 515 Introductory Criminology	SOC 697 Special Topics in Sociology
SOC 520 The Family	SOC 715 Criminological Theory
SOC 525 Juvenile Crime and Delinquency	SOC 720 Sociology of Drug Use
SOC 530 Race and Ethnic Relations	SOC 725 Social Demography
SOC 535 Homicide	SOC 730 Communities and Environment
SOC 545 Sexualized Violence	SOC 735 Sociology of Community
SOC 565 Environment and Society	SOC 740 Sociology of Mental Health
SOC 570 Sexual Behavior	SOC 745 Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality
SOC 595 Independent Reading and Research	SOC 773 Childhood & Social Policy
SOC 597 Special Topics in Sociology	SOC 780 Social Conflict
SOC 599 Sociological Analysis	SOC 788 Advanced Medical Sociology
SOC 601 Methods of Social Research	SOC 792 Independent Study Internship
SOC 611 Sociological Theory	SOC 793 Internship
SOC 620 Drugs and Society	SOC 794 Evaluation of Social Programs
SOC 625 Mental Health and Society	SOC 797 Special Topics in Sociology
SOC 630 Sociology of Gender	SOC 799 Senior Thesis
SOC 635 Medical Sociology	
SOC 640 Sociology of Religion	
SOC 645 Class, Status, and Power	
SOC 655 Sociology of Law and Justice	

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

August	Fall semester classes begin
October	URA proposals for Spring and IROP proposals due
November	Pre-registration for Spring
December	Classes end
January	J-Term classes Spring semester classes begin SURF abroad for Summer proposals due
March	<i>Perspectives</i> call for paper submissions Deadline for submissions to Undergraduate Research Conference URA proposals for Fall and SURF USA proposals due
April	Pre-registration for Fall Undergraduate Research Conference
May	Classes end Sociology Undergraduate Ceremony University Graduation

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR: Requirements Summary (*See Sociology Undergraduate Handbook for a full description*). To declare a major in sociology, students must have completed a sociology course with a grade of C or better. Majors must complete a minimum of 40 semester credits with a grade of C- or better in each course and a GPA of 2.0 or better in sociology courses. SOC 400, 402, 599, 601, and 611 are required. At least two of the additional five major courses must be at the 600 or 700 level. Sociology majors may meet the Discovery Program Capstone requirement in a variety of ways. Satisfactory completion (a grade of C- or better) of SOC 611, or of a 700-level sociology course, a senior thesis (SOC 799), or an IROP/SURF research experience will fulfill the Capstone requirement. In all cases the Capstone course must be taken during the student's senior year. SOC 402 is a prerequisite for SOC 601; SOC 599 must be completed no later than the junior year and is a prerequisite for majors taking 600 and 700 level courses. SOC 595 can be used to fulfill one lower-level elective **or** SOC 799 can be used to fulfill one upper-level elective. **In addition to SOC 599, which may count toward the Discovery Inquiry requirement and the major, students may double count up to two SOC major requirements toward their Discovery requirements (i.e., 402 as QR).** (Statistics courses taken in other disciplines are generally **not** acceptable as a substitute for SOC 402.) Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University core requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. B.A. candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

BACHELOR OF ARTS: Requirements Summary (*see Undergraduate Catalog for full description*). At least 128 credits in courses numbered 200-799, with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 for all courses taken at the University in which a grade is given; and completion of the University writing requirements; and proficiency in a foreign language; and completion of the Discovery Program (University core curriculum) requirements as set forth in the catalog of the year of matriculation.

SOCIOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Required Grade

- SOC 400 Introductory Sociology _____
- SOC 402 Statistics _____
- SOC 599 Sociological Analysis _____
- SOC 601 Research Methods _____
- SOC 611 Sociological Theory _____

Electives Grade

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
- 4.* _____
- 5.* _____

At least two electives must be 600-level or above.

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT:

Fulfilled by successful completion of SOC 611, a 700-level sociology course, a senior thesis (SOC 799), or an IROP/SURF research experience during the student's senior year

INQ: Inquiry requirement fulfilled by SOC 599

DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Discovery Foundation Skills Course Taken

- Inquiry Course _____
- Writing Skills (ENGL 401) _____
- Quant. Reasoning (QR) _____

Discovery in the Disciplines

- Biological Science (BS)** _____
- Physical Science (PS)** _____

**** One BS/PS course must have a lab component (DLAB attribute)****

- Environment, Technology, & Society (ETS) _____
- Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) _____
- Historical Perspectives (HP) _____
- Humanities (HUMA) _____
- Social Science (SS) _____
- World Cultures (WC) _____

Foreign Languages: Courses

- College Board achievement test or, _____
- 1 semester intermediate course or, _____
- 1 year college-level course _____

Writing Intensive

- ENGL 401 _____
- WI in Major _____
- WI Upper Level _____
- WI General _____