

Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Sociology is the study of people in groups. Sociologists examine how people interact, in small groups like families, medium-sized groups like sororities and fraternities, and large groups like communities, with the goal to make the world better.

Most people engage in sociology every day without even knowing it by studying and predicting behavior. If you have ever thought: why do some people bully or why do some people commit crimes, or why do some people behave one way in front of one group of people and another way in front of others, you are asking the same questions that sociologists ask.

The sociology major at Penn State Harrisburg provides an opportunity for students to explore social structure, interaction, and change, addressing topics such as culture, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social class, inequality, urban life, globalization, environmental change, and political conflict.

[Two options](#) are available within the major:

- General Sociology
- Community Organization and Social Services

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PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**



**Bachelor of Science in
Sociology**

Curriculum

The sociology curriculum at Penn State Harrisburg has been carefully constructed by award winning faculty to ensure the best possible learning outcomes. With the goal of providing students with the best job prospects, our two Sociology options have been tailored to meet the needs of students seeking work in a variety of areas.

All students must take courses in sociological theory, research methods, and statistics. Additionally, students in both options are required to complete a minimum 3-credit internship in a relevant area, and a senior seminar course.

In the **General Sociology option**, additional courses have been selected to provide students with the breadth and depth necessary for employment across a variety of settings or to make the transition into a graduate program. Our program emphasizes understanding social institutions, social change, and diversity to create a well-rounded student with an appreciation for cultures around the world. Courses such as sociology of education, political sociology, U.S. immigration, and the sociology of religion provide a strong foundation.

For students who wish to work in human service professions, our new **Community Organization and Social Services option** prepares graduates with knowledge put to practical use. With courses in such areas as organization and leadership, community contexts, and group processes and dynamics, this option prepares students for employment in the helping professions. Students can prepare for their career by taking courses such as urban sociology, social change, race and ethnicity, and sociology of the family. Graduates emerge job ready with a degree from one of the most recognized universities in the world.

For students wishing to continue their education, Penn State Harrisburg offers a Master's of Arts program in Community Psychology and Social Change that builds on the foundation laid out in our undergraduate sociology program.

Visit for complete details.

Courses

Courses are designed to maximize employment opportunities after graduation. For example, students seeking a career in politics may choose Political Sociology (SOC 446). Students entering human service professions will start with Introduction to Human Service Organizations (BESC 376). Students who aspire to work in public education can choose Sociology of Education (SOC 416). Students who want to work with diverse populations can take a course in Race and Ethnicity (SOC 409). Aspiring city planners can choose Urban Sociology (SOC 015).

Each course successfully combines theory, research, and practice to ensure that students develop skills in evidence-based practice that will allow them to excel on a chosen career path. In addition, all students are required to complete an internship that provides hands-on learning and the opportunity to build connections in the community.

Faculty function as teachers, advisors, and mentors, helping students achieve long-term goals and develop as community leaders.

What students say about our program:

"The most influential aspect of the Sociology program at Penn State Harrisburg is the individual passion of each professor and their love for the discipline. The unique combination of each professor's individual focus and expertise has instilled many practical life skills onto my educational experience. As a result of this dedication and guidance, I have been able to reach my highest potential. I am confident that I am leaving this program well-rounded and prepared for the next chapter of my life."
—Jaime Maddox

"I have found a very supportive environment in the Sociology program at Penn State Harrisburg. The faculty and staff are genuinely concerned about student well-being and committed to giving them a quality education. Faculty members are willing to spend a great deal of time outside the classroom mentoring me to enhance my understanding on sociological issues. I feel that the mentoring relationships I made with faculty have prepared me to excel in my future endeavors. I attribute my academic success and enthusiasm as a sociologist to the outstanding faculty of Penn State Harrisburg."
—Diana Swartz

A degree in sociology can take you wherever you want to go!

Visit for complete details.

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

Science

Three units of science are required. Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)