

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Students in the bachelor of arts in sociology program enjoy a dynamic and empirically rigorous curriculum that prepares them to be informed members of their communities, critical consumers of information, and change-makers. The flexible study plan includes core courses that introduce students to the “sociological imagination” and how it connects to contemporary issues of social significance; that provide theoretical tools for analyzing key historical and contemporary issues in society; and that give students a foundation in research methods to enable them to read and produce significant empirical knowledge.

Students are immersed in a broad range of topics, including urban sociology, class and inequality, race and ethnic relations, sex and gender, and social problems. By living in a city that offers a rich social laboratory, Sociology majors are provided with real-life experiences conducting quantitative and qualitative research and developing skills in sociological observation and analysis. Program graduates are prepared to conduct research, attain advocacy positions, assume leadership roles in nonprofits and other organizations, or work in fields including criminal justice, publishing, marketing, and politics. They have gone on to work for government entities like the Census Bureau and the U.S. Congress, nonprofit organizations like the Alzheimer’s Association, as well as pursuing graduate and professional education and opportunities with organizations such as the Peace Corps and Teach for America.

Outside the classroom, many students engage research (<https://sociology.columbian.gwu.edu/research/>) opportunities or take on internships at social advocacy organizations in the Washington, DC, area.

Visit the program website (<https://sociology.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-sociology/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

Program-specific curriculum (below)

Achievement of a minimum grade of C- in all courses that count toward the degree.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
SOC 1001	Introduction to Sociology	
or SOC 1002	The Sociological Imagination	

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
SOC 2101	Social Research Methods *	
SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis *	
SOC 2103	Classical Sociological Theory	
SOC 2104	Contemporary Sociological Theory	
SOC 4195	Senior Research Seminar	

<b>Electives</b>		
Seven additional upper-level Sociology (SOC) courses, including at least two courses in the 2160s or 2170s.		

\*Recommended to be taken before the senior year.

Note: A student majoring in sociology may not declare a second major or a minor in criminal justice, or vice versa.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) **for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements may also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/>), in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors, students must maintain a 3.5 grade-point average in the major, must be registered in SOC 4195 Senior Research Seminar during the senior year, and must receive an A grade on the research paper.