

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

PROSPECTUS

The Field: Sociology is the scientific study of the causes and consequences of human interaction. The Sociology Program at the University of Guam combines scientific and humanistic perspectives in the study of family patterns and relationships, social change, social movements, community development, and social issues, such as ethnic, religious, political, and gender relations. Sociology is most interested in the diversity of the world, and it is for this world that students must be prepared.

Career Possibilities: This program equips students with the necessary skills to pursue careers in:

- Research
- Journalism
- Politics and government
- Public relations
- Business
- Counseling
- International aide work
- Criminal justice
- Community development
- Social work
- Public administration
- Education
- Family services

Additionally, this program provides training and a strong foundation for students wishing to pursue graduate degrees in sociology and other related disciplines and for entry-level positions involved with the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of social behavior, social action, and social institutions.

Why UOG?: Through studying in one of the three areas of concentration of UOG's Sociology Program — Gender & Family Studies, Social Problems Studies, or Development Studies — students will encounter unique opportunities for both personal and academic growth. In recent years, students have presented research at international conferences; received scholarships and travel grants; participated in international field schools, internships, and service opportunities; and engaged with the local and regional communities beyond the classroom.

The Sociology Program also offers a minor, which students may consider as a complement to their chosen major.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning objectives of the Sociology Program are based on those of the American Sociological Association. Graduating students must be able to demonstrate their understanding and application of:

1. The discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality such that the student can apply the sociological imagination and sociological principles and concepts to any social topic, including within her or his own life;
2. The role of theory in sociology, such that the student will be able to define theory and describe its role in generating sociological knowledge and be able to compare and contrast basic theoretical perspectives;
3. The role of empirical evidence and the application of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in collecting data and the ability to design a research study, collect and analyze data, and present the findings in research-paper format;
4. Technical skill in retrieving information and data from archival sources, the internet, and other data storage formats and the use of computers for data analysis;
5. Scientific technical writing that accurately conveys the data findings and an understanding of the issues and



the ability to apply the principles of ethical practices in sociology.

CONCENTRATIONS

SOCIOLOGY CONCENTRATIONS

Students in the Sociology Program must choose one (or more) of the following areas of concentration and take no fewer than nine credit hours in their area.

Gender & Family Studies

The area of Gender & Family Studies focuses on the social dynamics that surround society's definitions of gender and gender identities. It examines the subtle interplay and dynamics of relations between the various genders and within them. What does it mean to be female or male in the 21st century? In what ways does culture influence gender? How have gender roles changed over time? Why are gender roles so different throughout our world?

This area of concentration also focuses on one of the most important social groups: the family. How do families function? How do they generate and manage conflict? And in our rapidly changing social world, what new forms of family are emerging that represent diverse societies?

Utilizing the scientific method, students will better understand ways to define families as private and public institutions that are influenced by collective and individualistic cultures. Students will study the ways religion, the state, cultural and racial diversity, social media, and technology construct family structures and their interactions.

Gender and family are inextricably intertwined structures, and it is important to conduct research in the region as these structures continue to transform and adapt to social change.

Social Problems Studies

Have you, or someone you know, ever been a victim of a crime? Have you, or someone you know, ever experienced family violence, drug or alcohol abuse, lived in poverty, or been discriminated against? All of these topics, and many more, are considered social problems.

Sociology is a science, and, as such, the way sociology approaches social problems is through research, the

systematic investigation of the world around us. By conducting research on social problems, sociologists strive to better understand social problems and ideally find solutions for these problems.

The objectives of the Social Problems Studies area of concentration are to 1) provide students with an understanding of the relevant research on social problems, both in Micronesia and around the world, and 2) assist students in developing the ability to design a research study, collect and analyze data, and present their findings in a research paper. Ideally students will develop and apply the sociological perspective as they take a new look at the world around them and the social problems that they encounter. Maybe you will be the person to reduce crime and poverty.

Development Studies

The Development Studies concentration focuses on the ways in which societies grow and transform. The curriculum allows students to explore the realities and challenges of the modern world, while critically looking at how humanity arrived at this place in history.

Why is there so much wealth and yet so much poverty in the world? How have people in different cultures responded to the challenges they face? What can indigenous people teach us, and how can we empower communities to take charge of their own destinies? Development Studies addresses these and many more questions. The framework is grounded in the processes, policies, and practices of development with a particular focus on sustainability, drawing on indigenous philosophy.

A unique focus on the application of learning outcomes means that students will graduate with:

- a comprehensive understanding of the history and key concepts of development work;
- the skills to lead transformational efforts;
- the capacity to demonstrate initiative, leadership, and originality in identifying challenges and opportunities for our society; and
- the ability to understand global trends and challenges communities face and how they can contribute to the welfare of these communities.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (42–43 CREDIT HOURS)

Heading	Content
General Education (Recommended Courses)	See the Student Advisement Sheet of the General Education Requirements and include under: Tier II: Direction Building (9-11 credit hours) 1) CF, DF, or UU as a prerequisite (can be within a declared major): SO-203 2) DF or major exploration: SO-350 3) DF or UU exploration outside major requirement (may apply to a minor or second major): MA-151

Heading	Content
	Tier III – Capstone Experience SO-491
Required Courses (21-22 credit hours)	SO-101 SO-203 SO-350 SO-351 SO-414 SO-491
	Choice of: MA-385 MA-387 MA-387L
Elective Courses (21 credit hours)	Take 21 credit hours of 100-, 200-, 300-, and 400-level Sociology (SO) courses in Sociology or program-designated Sociology electives. Students must choose one (or more) areas of concentration and take no fewer than nine credit hours' worth of electives in their concentration. No fewer than six credit hours from the 400-level coursework toward completion of major requirements are required. Note: A course can only be used once.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS (9 CREDIT HOURS)

Heading	Content
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Gender & Family Studies (9 credit hours)

Required Courses

WG-101

SO-230

SO-342

SO-445

SO-455

The following courses may also satisfy the major concentration if approved by the course instructor:

Choice of:

SO-480

SO-491

SO-498

Social Problems Studies (9 credit hours)

Required Courses

SO-344

SO-202

SO-221

SO-302

SO-386

SO-411

Heading

Content

SO-418

AN-421

PY-440

The following courses may also satisfy the major concentration if approved by the course instructor:

Choice of:

SO-480

SO-491

SO-498

Development Studies (9 credit hours)

Required Courses

PS-304

SO-332

GE-341

SO-360

SO-405

MI-520

SO-475

The following courses may also satisfy the major concentration if approved by the course instructor:

Heading	Content
	Choice of:
	SO-480
	SO-491
	SO-498

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

SOCIOLOGY MINOR REQUIREMENTS (18 CREDIT HOURS)

Heading	Content
General Education (Recommended Courses)	See the Student Advisement Sheet of the General Education Requirements and include under: Tier II: Direction Building (9-11 credit hours)
	1) CF, DF, or UU as a prerequisite (can be within a declared major):
	SO-203
	2) DF or major exploration:
	SO-350

Heading	Content
	3) DF or UU exploration outside major requirement (may apply to a minor or second major):
	MA-151
	Tier III – Capstone Experience
	SO-491
Required Courses (3 credit hours)	SO-101
Elective Courses (15 credit hours)	Take 15 credit hours of any 200-level and above Sociology (SO) courses, six credit hours of which must be at the 300- or 400-level.

FACULTY

Profile URL	https://www.uog.edu/directory/ames-angeline.php
Profile URL	https://www.uog.edu/directory/ames-todd.php
Profile URL	https://www.uog.edu/directory/cabrera-debra.php
Profile URL	https://www.uog.edu/directory/johnson-kirk.php