

SOCIOLOGY - 5-YEAR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND MASTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

This program enables students to receive their Sociology undergraduate degree (BS) and a Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) graduate degree in five years.

The Department of Sociology and the Bush School of Government and Public Service offer a 5-year combination degree program that allows Sociology majors to enter the Bush School at the start of their senior year (typically year four) at Texas A&M University.

To be considered for the 5-year combined degree program, Sociology students must have a minimum 3.25 GPA and have completed 102 of the 120 hours of course work required to receive a bachelor's degree. These courses must include all of the specific prerequisites for a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, as well as the courses required by the College of Liberal Arts and by Texas A&M University for an undergraduate degree. Interested students are encouraged to contact an academic advisor for more information.

A Bachelor of Science in Sociology provides a solid foundation in the knowledge and skills needed to address real-world social issues and problems, while allowing students to explore a wide range of social topics and issues. Some courses include hands-on service-learning opportunities in which students connect service and/or research in the community with course material. For sociology majors seeking to enter applied fields, we have a highly praised internship program that offers practical experience in community nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and businesses. To further complement our courses, students accepted into our honors program have opportunities to work one-on-one with professors engaged in sociological research.

The Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) program develops principled leaders for the public and nonprofit sectors, providing students the tools and knowledge they will need in order to perform effectively and ethically in a time when public servants face new and increased challenges. The MPSA program is fully accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The curriculum provides students with general knowledge and analytical skills in management, leadership, policy analysis, and research methods.

MPSA students have ample opportunities to engage in public service and to develop leadership skills both inside and outside the classroom through interaction with high-level public leaders, real-world consulting projects, student organizations, and the School's Public Service Leadership Program. MPSA graduates leave the Bush School ready to make a difference, whether they choose to work in government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector.

Program Requirements

First Year

		Semester Credit Hours
Fall		
ENGL 104	Composition and Rhetoric ¹	3
Creative arts (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts)		3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Mathematics (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics)		3
Sociology elective ^{1,2}		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring

Select one of the following:		3
COMM 203	Public Speaking	
COMM 205	Communication for Technical Professions	
COMM 243	Argumentation and Debate	
ENGL 203	Writing about Literature	
ENGL 210	Technical and Professional Writing	
American history (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Mathematics (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics)		3
Sociology elective ^{1,2}		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Second Year

Fall

SOCI 220	Methods of Social Research ¹	3
American history (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Literature directed elective (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/arts-and-sciences/)		3
Social and behavioral sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ³		3
Sociology elective ^{1,2}		3
Semester Credit Hours		18

Spring

SOCI 230	Classical Sociological Theory ¹	3
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Government/Political science (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science)	3
Language, philosophy and culture (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)	3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Literature directed elective (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/arts-and-sciences/)	3
General elective ⁴	3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Third Year

Fall

SOCI 420 Advanced Methods of Social Research ¹	3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Social and behavioral sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ³	3
General elective ⁴	3
General elective ⁴	3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Spring

SOCI 430 Contemporary Sociological Theory ¹	3
Government/Political science (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science)	3
Language, philosophy and culture or creative arts (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)	3
Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Sociology elective ^{1,2}	3
General elective ⁴	3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Fourth Year

Fall

BUSH 631 Quantitative Methods in Public Management I ⁵	3
PSAA 601 Foundations of Public Service ⁵	3
PSAA 621 Economic Analysis ⁵	3
PSAA 643 Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector	3

Semester Credit Hours 12

Spring

PSAA 611 Public Policy Formation ⁵	3
Select one of the following: ^{5,6}	3
BUSH 632 Quantitative Methods in Public Management II	

BUSH 635 Quantitative Methods in Public Management II: Policy Analysis Emphasis	
PSAA 630 Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations	
BUSH elective ⁵	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3

Semester Credit Hours 12

Fifth Year

Fall

PSAA 675 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3

Semester Credit Hours 12

Spring

PSAA 676 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar II	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3

Semester Credit Hours 12

Total Semester Credit Hours 150

¹ A grade of C or better is required.

² Select from SOCI 100-499 (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/soci/>), SOCI 608.

³ SOCI courses do not count toward fulfilling this requirement.

⁴ Any 100-499 course not used elsewhere. No more than 6 semester credit hours for SOCI 484 may be applied to the Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology.

⁵ Course applies toward both degrees.

⁶ See Bush School advisor for course selection information.

Graduation requirements include 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/>) courses. A course satisfying a Core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. The required 6 hours may be met by courses satisfying other areas of a degree program. See your academic advisor for further information.

No more than 33 credit hours in SOCI may be applied to the major.

Other courses may qualify. Consult the approved list of courses available in the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Arts and Sciences or from departmental advisors. No more than one course may be counted in more than one category.

Please note that university requirements specify that all students must take at least two courses in their major that are designated as fulfilling a writing intensive requirement (W). See the section on general requirements for baccalaureate degree for more information.

The program includes a total of 168 hours which up to 18 hours may be applied toward both the Bachelor of Science in Sociology and the Master of Public Service Administration.

See the MPSA program in the Graduate and Professional Catalog for the MPSA requirements.

Minor Field of Study

Sociology majors are not required to select a minor field of study. If chosen, the minor must consist of 15-18 hours, with no more than 9 hours taken at a 100- or 200-level. No more than six hours from the minor may be used to fulfill other requirements. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the minor field.