

SOCIOLOGY (BA/MA)

The Sociology Department offers a 5 year BA/MA degree, allowing you to begin graduate school in your senior year, and to finish the MA degree at the end of your 5th year. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain an advanced degree without the time and expense of the longer 2 year MA degree offered by most programs. This is approximately one year less than normally required to earn both degrees. Graduates of this program will be well prepared to enter the labor force, a professional school or pursue a PhD.

Related Programs

Major

- Sociology (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-ba/>)
- Sociology-Anthropology (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology/sociology-anthropology-ba/>)

Combined

- Sociology/International Affairs (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/sociology-international-affairs-bama/>)

Curriculum

The BA/MA program generally requires four more sociology courses taken in the student's first four years than the eleven normally required for a BA sociology major. The four extra courses must be graduate-level courses, and are usually taken in the student's senior year. Consequently, BA/MA students will generally have four fewer non-sociology electives than ordinary BA students. In some cases, students may only take two graduate courses during their senior year, and take the other two during their fifth year along with the other graduate courses they take that year (in these instances students may take longer than five years to finish the program).

Code	Title	Hours
BA Requirements		
<i>Required Courses</i>		
SOCL 101	Society in a Global Age	3
SOCL 205	Sociological Thought ¹	3
SOCL 206	Principles of Social Research	3
SOCL 301	Statistics for Social Research	4
SOCL 365	Social Theory & Social Research ²	3
<i>Elective Courses</i>		18
Complete six total electives; five must be from SOCL 210-SOCL 380. ^{3,4,5}		
MA Requirements ⁶		
<i>Required Courses</i>		
SOCL 405	History Sociological Thought	3
SOCL 410	Logic of Sociological Inquiry	3
SOCL 412	Qualitative Methods in Social Research	3
SOCL 414	Statistical Methods Analysis I	3
<i>Choose one of the following MA track specific course:</i>		3
General Track		
SOCL 406	Modern Sociological Theory	
Applied and Public Track		

SOCL 494	Internship ⁷	
Elective Courses (See list) (p. 1)		15
Total Hours		64

- ¹ Any Sociology 100-level course is considered to be a prerequisite for SOCL 205 Sociological Thought, except by special permission of the instructor.
- ² SOCL 205 Sociological Thought, SOCL 206 Principles of Social Research, and SOCL 301 Statistics for Social Research are prerequisites for SOCL 365 Social Theory & Social Research. These courses provide social science students with the theory and methodology background needed for more advanced work.
- ³ Only one semester of SOCL 380 Internship may be counted toward the major (although this is a six credit hour course, it counts as one course).
- ⁴ In choosing electives, majors should consult with their department advisor. One course from another social science may be substituted with departmental permission.
- ⁵ A list of all Sociology (SOCL) course descriptions can be found here (<https://catalog.luc.edu/course-descriptions/socl/>).
- ⁶ Students who only took two graduate courses during their senior year of the BA/MA program will have to take eight graduate-level sociology courses to complete the program.
- ⁷ If the student intends to do the applied MA track, they are advised not to take the undergraduate internship (SOCL 380 Internship) but to take the graduate internship instead (SOCL 494 Internship)

MA Elective List

Code	Title	Hours
Select five of the following:		15
SOCL 406	Modern Sociological Theory	3
SOCL 415	Statistical Methods of Analysis II	3
SOCL 418	Demography	3
SOCL 421	Theories Social Change	3
SOCL 423	Social Movements	3
SOCL 425	Inequality and Society	3
SOCL 426	Sociology of Gender	3
SOCL 427	Political Sociology	3
SOCL 428	Poverty and Social Welfare	3
SOCL 432	Socialization Thru Life Cycle	3
SOCL 438	The Family	3
SOCL 439	Community Change	3
SOCL 440	Organizations & Organizational Change	3
SOCL 441	Sociology of Religion	3
SOCL 442	Religious Conflict & Change	3
SOCL 446	Knowledge, Power & Expertise	3
SOCL 447	Sociology of Culture	3
SOCL 448	Technology & Material Culture	3
SOCL 452	Complex Organizations	3
SOCL 453	Occupations and Professions	3
SOCL 461	Race & Ethnicity	3
SOCL 462	The Urban Metropolis	3
SOCL 463	Sociology & Natural Environment	3
SOCL 471	Sociology of Deviance & Control	3
SOCL 473	Criminology	3

SOCL 481	Medical Sociology	3
SOCL 490	Workshop: Applied Sociology	1
SOCL 491	Sociological Discourse	3
SOCL 494	Internship	3
SOCL 497	Independent Research ¹	3
SOCL 498	Independent Research ¹	3
SOCL 499	Directed Study ¹	3

¹ Only one independent research/directed study course counted toward MA.

Thesis or Portfolio

Students in the BA/MA program must do either a thesis or a portfolio.

Guidelines for Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Programs

Terms

- **Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs:** In this type of program, students share limited credits between their undergraduate and graduate degrees to facilitate completion of both degrees.
- **Shared credits:** Graduate level credit hours taken during the undergraduate program and then applied towards graduate program requirements will be referred to as shared credits.

Admission Requirements

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to enhance opportunities for advanced training for Loyola's undergraduates. Admission to these programs must be competitive and will depend upon a positive review of credentials by the program's admissions committee. Accordingly, the admission requirements for these programs may be higher than those required if the master's degree were pursued entirely after the receipt of a bachelor's degree. That is, programs may choose to have more stringent admissions requirements in addition to those minimal requirements below.

Requirements:

- Declared appropriate undergraduate major,
- By the time students begin taking graduate courses as an undergraduate, the student has completed approximately 90 credit hours, or the credit hours required in a program that is accredited by a specialty organization,¹
- A minimum cumulative GPA for coursework at Loyola that is at or above the program-specific requirements, a minimum major GPA that is at or above the program-specific requirements, and/or appropriate designated coursework for evaluation of student readiness in their discipline.²

Students not eligible for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program (e.g., students who have not declared the appropriate undergraduate major) may apply to the master's program through the regular admissions process. Students enrolled in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program who choose not to continue to the master's degree program upon completion of the bachelor's degree will face no consequences.³

Ideally, a student will apply for admission (or confirm interest in proceeding towards the graduate degree in opt-out programs) as they approach 90 credit hours. Programs are encouraged to begin advising students early in their major so that they are aware of the program and, if interested, can complete their bachelor's degree requirements

in a way that facilitates completion of the program. Once admitted as an undergraduate, Program Directors should ensure that students are enrolled using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program will ensure that students may be easily identified as they move through the program. Students will not officially matriculate into the master's degree program and be labeled as a graduate student by the university, with accompanying changes to tuition and Financial Aid (see below), until the undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once admitted to the graduate program, students must meet the academic standing requirements of their graduate program as they complete the program curriculum.

- ¹ Programs that have specialized accreditation will adhere to the admissions criteria provided by, or approved by, their specialized accreditors.
- ² The program will identify appropriate indicators of student readiness for graduate coursework (e.g., high-level performance in 300 level courses). Recognizing differences between how majors are designed, we do not specify a blanket requirement.
- ³ If students choose not to enroll in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, they still must complete all of the standard requirements associated with the undergraduate degree (e.g., a capstone).

For more information on Admissions requirements, visit here (<https://gpem.luc.edu/portal/admission/?tab=home>).

Curriculum

Level and progression of courses. The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to be competitive and attractive to our most capable students. Students admitted to Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs should be capable of meeting graduate level learning outcomes. Following guidance from the Higher Learning Commission, only courses taken at the 400 level or higher (including 300/400 level courses taken at the 400 level) will count toward the graduate program.^{1,2}

Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may come from 300/400 level courses where the student is enrolled in the 400 level of the course. Further, at least 50% of the credit hours for the graduate program must come from courses that are designed for and restricted to graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at Loyola (e.g., enrolled in plan code that indicates the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, typically ending with the letter "D").³

In general, graduate level coursework should not be taken prior to admission into the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Exceptions may be granted for professional programs where curriculum for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program is designed to begin earlier. On the recommendation of the program's Graduate Director, students may take one of their graduate level courses before they are admitted to the Accelerated Bachelors/Master's program if they have advanced abilities in their discipline and course offerings warrant such an exception.⁴ Undergraduate degree requirements outside of the major are in no way impacted by admission to an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program.⁵

Shared credits. Undergraduate courses (i.e., courses offered at the 300 level or below) cannot be counted as shared credits nor count towards the master's degree. Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may be counted in meeting both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Of those shared credits, students in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program should begin their graduate program with the standard introductory course(s)

for the program whenever possible. So that students may progress through the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program in a timely manner, undergraduate programs are encouraged to design their curriculum such that a student can complete some required graduate credit hours while completing the undergraduate degree. For instance, some of the graduate curriculum should also satisfy electives for the undergraduate major.

The program's Graduate Director will designate credit hours to be shared through the advising form and master's degree conferral review process. Shared credit hours will not be marked on the undergraduate record as having a special status in the undergraduate program. They will be included in the student's undergraduate earned hours and GPA. Graduate credit hours taken during the undergraduate program will not be included in the graduate GPA calculation.

¹ If students wish to transfer credits from another university to Loyola University Chicago, the program's Graduate director will review the relevant syllabus(es) to determine whether it meets the criteria for a 400 level course or higher.

² Programs with specialized accreditation requirements that allow programs to offer graduate curriculum to undergraduate students will conform to those specialized accreditation requirements.

³ In rare cases, the Graduate Director may authorize enrollment in a 400-level course for a highly qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, ensuring that the undergraduate's exceptional participation in the graduate class will not diminish in any way the experience of the graduate students regularly enrolled.

⁴ For example, if a particular course is only offered once every 2-3 years, and a student has demonstrated the necessary ability to be successful, the Graduate Director may allow a student to take a graduate level course to be shared prior to the student being formally admitted to the graduate program. See, also, footnote 3.

⁵ Students should not, for example, attempt to negotiate themselves out of a writing intensive requirement on the basis of admission to a graduate program.

- collect and present data in accordance with ethical and professional standards [General Track]
- use one or more data collection methods to carry out a research project, such as interviews, participant observation, surveys, or archival evidence [General Track]
- analyze quantitative or qualitative data [General Track]
- write a sociological research report [General Track]
- apply sociological knowledge to governmental, non-profit, or for-profit organizational activities [Applied Track]
- contribute to the work of a governmental, non-profit, or for-profit organization through an internship [Applied Track]
- frame a research question relevant to an organization [Applied Track]
- select appropriate data sources [Applied Track]
- collect and present data in accordance with ethical and professional standards [Applied Track]
- use one or more data collection methods, such as interviews, participant observation, or surveys [Applied Track]
- analyze quantitative or qualitative data [Applied Track]
- write a sociologically-informed report that is relevant to an organization [Applied Track]

Graduation

Degrees are awarded sequentially. All details of undergraduate commencement are handled in the ordinary way as for all students in the School/College/Institute. Once in the graduate program, students abide by the graduation deadlines set forth by the graduate program. Students in these programs must be continuously enrolled from undergraduate to graduate degree program unless given explicit permission by their program for a gap year or approved leave of absence. In offering the option of an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, the university is making possible the acceleration of a student's graduate degree completion. It should be understood that students may not request deferral of their matriculation into the Master's degree program. If students would like to delay their graduate studies after earning the undergraduate degree, they may apply for admission to the traditional master's degree program. Any application of graduate credit earned while in the undergraduate program is subject to the policies of the graduate degree granting school.

Learning Outcomes

- identify the broad theoretical orientations of the discipline [General Track]
- frame sociological research questions [General Track]
- synthesize social scientific literature [General Track]
- select appropriate data sources [General Track]