Bachelor of Arts in sociology

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of Sociology		
Degree abbreviation	B.A.	**CIP code**	45.1101
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/sociology/undergraduate		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The sociology major is a flexible, skills-based major. Students choose a plan of study that fits their career interests and build their own sociological tool kit for addressing personal and social problems.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The major supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and opening paths to economic mobility. Students learn to read research critically, analyze data and write persuasive arguments, skills that help them be career-ready.

About the program

Sociology majors study how societies work, from social behavior to social structure and change. Students learn to read research, work with data and build arguments with evidence. The major is a great fit for students who want to understand social problems and help solve them.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in five core areas: (1) Critical reading and discipline specific knowledge; (2) Communication; (3) Research Design; (4) Data Analysis; and (5) Reflexivity. Faculty will assess all five outcomes each year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain core sociological concepts, theoretical perspectives and research methods. Graduates will be able to organize, code and interpret empirical data to measure variables and uncover themes and patterns.

How students show it

Assignments completed throughout the curriculum, particularly at the 3000 and 4000 levels.

Where it is assessed

Faculty will assess final papers submitted for 4000-level courses.

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication**: well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☒ **Team/collaborative communication**: contributing to group projects and shared goals
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work

Graduates will be able to write clear, logically organized arguments that bring together sources, use data as evidence and follow the citation conventions of the field. Graduates will have experience with oral communication including public speaking and conference-style academic presentations. Graduates will be able to work with peers on collaborative projects to pursue shared goals.

How students show it

Assignments completed throughout the curriculum, particularly at the 3000 and 4000 levels.

Where it is assessed

Faculty will assess final papers submitted for 4000-level courses. Faculty will track and evaluate assignments at 3000 and 4000 level that involve oral communication and/or team/collaborative exercises.

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to summarize sociological studies accurately and explain their contributions and shortcomings. Graduates will be able to draw accurate conclusions from data and recognize the limits of that data.

How students show it
Assignments completed throughout the curriculum, particularly at the 3000 and 4000 levels.
Where it is assessed
Faculty will assess final papers submitted for 4000-level courses.

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all five outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

A faculty assessment committee convenes each year to collect and assess all final papers submitted at the end of 4000-level sociology courses. Papers are assessed with respect to the five outcomes based on a shared rubric; this involves a blind review by two assessors for each paper. Scores are compared to competency targets for each outcome and compared to scores from prior assessments. Faculty meet each year to review assessment results and decide how to improve courses and the major.

Assessment methods may change over time.