

Sociology

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Sociology is the study of group life. Thus, sociologists study the social and cultural forces that shape people's behavior, beliefs, and relationships. This includes all types of social interaction—from economic to political to cultural, and the full range of social organization—from small groups to communities to nations. Sociologists emphasize the careful use of rigorous methods to expand our understanding of the contemporary social world. Sociology is a general liberal arts major appropriate for many careers in industry, education, and government as well as for graduate study in administration, health, law, social work, public policy, and the social sciences.

Requirements for the Sociology Major: 11 courses

The major requires eleven courses: two foundation courses SOC 101/HON 216 and STA 215 or STA 115), two core courses (SOC 301 and SOC 302), six SOC electives (at least four of which must be selected from the 300- or 400-level department offerings), and a senior capstone (SOC 398+499 OR SOC 493). Please see the Sociology & Anthropology Department web page for more detail, including specialization-specific requirements.

Specializations in Sociology

Students can optionally declare a specialization for the Sociology major in one of two areas: Health and Environmental Studies or Non-Profit and Community Development. Specializations can be declared when applying for admission to TCNJ or during the course of study at any point prior to the last semester before graduation. Specializations can also be dropped or changed at any point during the course of study. Declaring a specialization will prescribe certain choices within the 11-course Sociology major, and in some cases may also add requirements for correlate courses outside of the major. All students must take the core, foundation, and capstone courses. Students in specializations must choose five of their six electives from a tailored list available on the websites for the Health and Environmental Studies Specialization and the Non-Profit and Community Development Specialization.

Health and Environmental Studies Specialization

This specialization examines human health and its relationship with the non-human environment, two separate areas of interest which are now widely understood as inextricably linked. Students in this specialization will study how social status affects risk of illness, how people seek and receive medical treatment, how healthcare is organized and prioritized, how health services are managed for various client populations, and how the environment affects human health. This specialization is ideal for students aiming for careers in community and public health professions, urban and regional planning, social work, healthcare professions, health research, and academic positions. In addition to subject-specific knowledge, these professions generally require students to have strong backgrounds in understanding diverse

populations, quantitative and qualitative research methods, critical thinking, and communication skills. The sociology major with a health and environment specialization provides an ideal curriculum for developing these general skills, while substantively examining the subjects of health and environment.

Sociology Major/Non-Profit and Community Development Specialization

This specialization focuses on the study and improvement of social life. It poses a crucial question to students: how can sociology be used to make the world a better place? The specialization should appeal to students interested in social work, the leadership of non-profit and non-governmental organizations, nonprofit/NGO leadership, social policy, urban and regional planning, community and international development, urban studies, law, and public health. The specialization offers advanced subject- appropriate academic work in community development, non-profit organizations and applied sociology while providing ample opportunities for hands-on experiences. It will train students in theoretical and applied research methods, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Students in good academic standing and first-term students without a GPA are allowed to declare a major as long as entrance requirements have been met. To declare a major in Sociology, paperwork must be submitted by the college deadlines. Upon declaration, the chair gives written notice to the Office of Records and Registration and assigns the student an advisor within the major. Students proceed according to the requirements of the Bulletin in effect at the time of their formal declaration. The department also accepts pre-major applications. Pre-majors are admitted for a transitional semester while they complete the required entrance coursework. If the coursework is successfully completed, pre-majors will be admitted to the major.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for sociology programs. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

Entry to the program:

- Internal transfer into the program from another program within the College requires completion of an application process. Students should fill out [the Change of Major form](#) and return it to the Sociology department office. Applicants for full major status must have completed SOC 101 (C) and STA 215 or STA 115 (C). The program also accepts internal transfers as pre-majors, who will convert to full major status upon completion of SOC 101 (C) and STA 215 or STA 115 (C).
- External transfer students who wish to enter The College of New Jersey with a Sociology major must meet college transfer admission standards.

Retention in the program:

- All students (including transfer students) must take at least five Sociology course units at The College of New Jersey.
- Students must earn a C- or better in each elective course applied to the sociology major, and a C or better in these “critical content courses”: SOC 301, SOC 302, and SOC 101/HON 216. However, a sociology course for which the grade is D+ or D may be applied toward graduation as a free elective.
- In accordance with College policy, courses may only be repeated once. Courses can be repeated twice only with permission from the Department Chair. Students must make consistent progress in the major. Specifically, any student not registered for major classes for three consecutive semesters will be dismissed, unless the student has completed the major or there are extenuating circumstances.

Graduation requirements:

- Graduation standards: requires a GPA of 2.0 in sociology courses. Only grades of C– or higher in SOC/ANT major options and SOC 398+499, and C or higher in SOC 101, SOC 301, SOC 302, and STA 115 or STA 215 can be applied toward graduation degree requirements. Students who want to apply a course toward graduation for which they received a D+ or lower must repeat the course, earning a higher grade.

Four-Year Suggested Sequence: Sociology**First Year**

FYS First Year Seminar	1 course unit
HSS 99/Orientation Course for Humanities and Social Sciences	0 course units
SOC 101/Introduction to Sociology	1 course unit
SOC Major Options	1 course unit
STA 115/Statistics	1 course unit

or

STA 215/Statistical Inference*

Foreign Language (if not exempted)** 2 course units

Second major and/or

minor courses and/or electives 2-3 course units

*Preferred option: students should take a STA 215 section designated for Social and Behavioral Sciences

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other College Core courses.

***Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.

Total for year**8-9 course units****Sophomore Year**

SOC 301/Development of Socio-Cultural Theory*	1 course unit
SOC 302/Quantitative Research Methods*	1 course unit
SOC Major Options (except 400-level)	2 course units

College Core courses	2 course units
Foreign Language (if not exempted)**	1 course unit
Second major and/or minor courses	2 course units
<i>*Sociology majors must have received a C or above in SOC 101 or HON 216 before taking SOC 301. Sociology majors must have received a C or above in SOC 101 and a C or above in STA 115 or STA 215) before taking SOC 302.</i>	
<i>**It is recommended that students exempted from this course take another College Core course</i>	
Total for year	8-9 course units

Junior Year

SOC Major Options	2 course units
College Core courses	3 course units
Second major and/or minor courses and/or electives	2-3 course units
Total for year	7-8 course units

Senior Year

SOC 398/Sociology Capstone Internship--Capstone*	0.5 course unit
SOC 499/Senior Seminar in Sociology—Capstone*	0.5 course unit
Or	
SOC 393 Independent Research in Sociology* with SOC 493 Senior Capstone Research in Sociology*	2 course units
SOC Major Options	1 course unit
College Core courses	2 course units
Second major and/or minor courses and/or electives	3-4 course units
Total for year	7-8 course units

**Sociology majors must have received a C or above in SOC 301 and SOC 302, and have taken at least four major options, three of which must be 300-level or above before taking SOC 398 and SOC 499. SOC 398 & 499 together constitute the Senior Capstone requirement (1 unit total) of the Sociology major and must be taken in the same semester. An alternative to fulfilling the Senior Capstone requirement is SOC 493 Senior Capstone Research (prerequisite SOC 393). Students must take 1 unit of SOC 393 on the same research project in the semester prior to registering for SOC 493 with faculty and chair permission. Sociology majors must have received a C or above in SOC 301 and SOC 302, and have taken at least four major options, three of which must be 300-level or above before starting their capstone research in SOC 393. This unit of SOC 393 will count as one of the six SOC Major options. Upon the completion of the first semester of research in SOC 393, students can complete the capstone requirement by registering for SOC 493 (1 unit) or SOC 398+499 (1 unit).*

External Transfer Student Course Sequence/Internal transfer four semester sequence (Sociology major requirements only)

The department encourages prospective external transfer students to take an introductory course in sociology, a course in statistics, and up to one sociology elective before enrolling at the College. If transfer students have received the minimum grades for the introductory sociology and statistics courses, they should enroll in at least two SOC options (at least one at the 300-level) during their first semester at TCNJ. Note that all students need 32 units to

graduate, therefore students should craft course progressions that will ensure that they reach this threshold. Repeated courses only count once toward graduation.

These pathways are appropriate for external transfer students with an Associate degree, OR come to TCNJ with most College Core requirements complete OR are internal transfers.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
For students with NO sociology courses	[STA 115 OR STA 215 if needed] SOC 101 <i>(2 units)</i>	SOC 301 SOC elective SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 302 SOC elective SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 499/398 (capstone) SOC 300-level elective SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>
For students with SOC 101 (recommended plan)	SOC elective SOC 300-level elective [STA 115 OR STA 215 if needed] <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 301 SOC elective SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 302 SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 499/398 (capstone) SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>
For students with SOC 101 (steeper transition; only recommended for students with extensive reading/writing preparation. Students may shift to the recommended plan during add-drop)	SOC 301 SOC elective [STA 115 OR STA 215 if needed] <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 302 SOC elective <i>(2 units)</i>	SOC 300-level elective SOC 300-level elective SOC 300-level elective <i>(3 units)</i>	SOC 499/398 (capstone) SOC 300-level elective <i>(2 units)</i>

Declaration of Optional Minor

Students eligible to declare majors may also declare minors in those disciplines where minors have been established. Students declare minors by filling out this form (Application for Minor or Course of Study) and sending it to the department chair. The chair gives written notice to the Office of Records and Registration. Students proceed according to the requirements of the Bulletin in effect at the time of their formal declaration. Students are responsible for knowing their minor requirements and for completing them. Minors not complete at the time of the student's graduation will be dropped from the student's record. Students are encouraged to declare intended minors as soon as they make decisions to pursue them as some classes may be restricted to majors and minors. Minors must be officially declared before the deadline for applying for graduation in a given term.

Requirements for the Sociology Minor

A five-course minor in sociology is available. Requirements for the minor include:

1. SOC 101/ Introduction to Sociology (C)
2. SOC 301/ Development of Socio-cultural Theory (C) OR SOC 302/ Quantitative Research Methods (C)
3. Any two SOC courses at the 300-level (C-).
4. Any additional SOC course OR ANT 110 (C-).