Sociology

Loyola University Chicago’s College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) offers undergraduates a comprehensive liberal arts education that introduces them to various disciplines and viewpoints in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. CAS students develop valuable career and life skills, including critical thinking, strong verbal and writing abilities, comprehensive general knowledge, social awareness, and research competencies. As the largest of Loyola’s 10 schools, CAS has extensive resources, providing students with modern labs and electronic classrooms, opportunities to participate actively in research, and a distinguished faculty of teacher-scholars.

Recent growth and renovation at both Loyola’s Lake Shore and Water Tower Campuses have enhanced living and learning for students. Recent additions to the Lake Shore Campus include the Norville Center for Intercollegiate Athletics, a state-of-the-art facility that includes a new strength and conditioning center, a sports medicine facility, student athlete activity spaces, and offices for athletics administrators. Future enhancements include a new student union and academic building, among others.

For more information about what’s new at Loyola, visit [LUC.edu/undergrad/whatsnew](http://LUC.edu/undergrad/whatsnew).

THE MAJOR

**BA in Sociology**

Sociology is the study of group life—its characteristics, changes, causes, and consequences. It seeks to help students develop a critical understanding of how people and groups relate to each other. With this understanding, students raise questions about the direction of society, interpret social trends, and examine significant social issues such as:

- The structure of inequality
- Community-based efforts toward social change
- The social impact of gender and sexuality
- Race and ethnicity
- The impact of the mass media on culture
- The social role of religion
- Life in the city and suburbs
- The changing family
- Globalization
- The influence of new technology

Picturesque Lake Shore Campus, situated on the shore of Lake Michigan and located on Chicago’s North Side, is home to more than 3,400 undergraduate resident students.
Sociology

Career Opportunities

A survey of 1,000 Loyola sociology majors who have graduated since 1970 found that most have used the skills learned in sociology classes to better understand the organizations in which they work and the communities in which they live. Many students went into business (about 40%), and found sociology particularly useful in understanding business organizations. Sociology students receive sophisticated training in social research techniques, including computer skills and interviewing skills.

The sociology major prepares students for careers in fields such as law, health, business, government, religion, social research, journalism, market research, criminology, demography, social psychology, public administration, gerontology, education, social work, and community planning; and for positions such as market researcher, buyer, sales and investment manager, personnel officer, marketing representative, and public relations director. The department also offers a combined major in sociology and anthropology.

Internships

The department sponsors internships where students work from 10 to 20 hours per week in a field setting. Students may receive up to six credit hours in Sociology (SOCL) 380 for this work. Students may work in such environments as an alderman’s office, a hospital for single mothers, juvenile court, the Better Government Association, consumers’ groups, and neighborhood organizations. Internships provide firsthand knowledge about the kind of work and training that students might like to pursue after graduation. Interns frequently find employment or job leads through these fieldwork experiences.

Faculty

Because the department offers MA and PhD graduate degrees in sociology, it stresses faculty research and publication. Faculty members bring this expertise to the classroom to provide quality undergraduate education. Many majors opt to conduct research under the direction of faculty members. Particularly strong areas of faculty interest include urban communities, social policy, religion and religious institutions, culture, and women in society.

Chairperson: Rhys H. Williams, PhD, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Michael Agliardo, S.J., PhD, University of California–San Diego
David Embrick, PhD, Texas A&M
Judson Everitt, PhD, Indiana University–Bloomington
Anne Figert, PhD, Indiana University
Marcel Fredericks, PhD, Loyola University Chicago
Marilyn Krogh, PhD, University of Chicago
Marvin Langman, PhD, University of Chicago
Kelly Moore, PhD, University of Arizona
Jon Norman, PhD, University of California–Berkeley
Philip Nyden, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Elfriede Wedam, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago
Judith Wittner, PhD, Northwestern University
Talmadge Wright, PhD, University of California–Irvine

Course Offerings

Sociology (SOCL)

101 The Sociological Perspective: An Introduction
120 Social Analysis and Social Action
121 Social Problems
122 Race and Ethnic Relations
123 Mass Media and Popular Culture
124 Women and Society
125 Chicago—Growth of a Metropolis
126 Science, Technology, and Society
205 Sociological Thought
206 Principles of Social Research
210 Men, Women, and Work
212 Patterns of Criminal Activity
215 Law and Society
216 Sociology of Violence
221 Aging in Culture and Society
222 Poverty and Social Welfare in America
225 Sociology of Health Care
228 Sociology of the African-American Experience
230 Self and Society
231 Childhood and Society
234 City, Suburbs and Beyond
235 Communities
## Major Requirements

The required courses for sociology majors are SOCL 205, 206, 301, and 365. (Note: Any SOCL 100-level course is considered to be a prerequisite for 205, except by special permission of the instructor.) SOCL 205, 206, and 301 are prerequisites for 365. These courses provide social science students with the theory and methodology background needed for more advanced work. Besides the four required courses, majors take seven additional courses, five of which must be from SOCL 210–380. One elective taken in a related field may count toward the major with the permission of the chair or undergraduate advisor. Only one semester of SOCL 380 (Internship) may apply toward the major (although this may be a six-credit-hour course, it counts as one course). In choosing electives, majors should consult with their department advisor. In completing major requirements, not more than five courses (15 credit hours) will be accepted in transfers from other colleges and universities. All required courses must be taken in the sociology department at Loyola.

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### Graduate Programs at Loyola

The department offers the five-year BA/MA degree, MA and PhD degrees in Sociology, and the MA degree in Applied Sociology.

### Core Curriculum

- Focuses on desired knowledge, skills, and values in addition to academic disciplines.
- Includes 45 credit hours of coursework, developing important skills through 10 required areas of knowledge:
  - Important skills include communication, critical thinking, ethical awareness, information literacy, quantitative and qualitative analysis, research methods, and technological literacy.
  - Required areas include college writing seminar(s), artistic knowledge and experience, historical knowledge, literary knowledge, scientific literacy, societal and cultural knowledge, philosophical knowledge, theological and religious studies, and ethics.
- “Values Across the Curriculum” requirements:
  - 12 credit hours completed through the Core, major, or electives, focusing on:
    - Understanding and promoting justice
    - Understanding diversity in the United States and the world
    - Understanding spirituality or faith in action in the world
    - Promoting civic engagement or leadership
- Makes up about one-third of a student’s Loyola academic experience, complemented by the major and electives.
- Incorporates great flexibility with myriad courses from which to choose for each required area. Courses may be completed at any time during a student’s Loyola education.

For more information, please visit [LUC.edu/core](http://LUC.edu/core)