Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	Major Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	30	At Howard

Your Degree Breakdown:

- Major Requirements: 30 Sociology credits (10 courses)
- General Education: 30 credits (approximately 15 courses)
- Math Requirements: 3-4 credits (1 course)
- Foreign Language: 9 credits (3 courses)
- Free Electives: 30 credits
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- COAS Experiential (1 course) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. While students are not required to declare a minor, those who choose to do so must complete **15-18 credits that are not applied toward their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

University-Wide Requirements

- **Minimum GPA:** 2.0 for all undergraduate coursework
- **Residency:** Complete last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Exit Requirement:** Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- **Total Credits:** 120 credits required

General Education Requirements (30 Credits / ~15 Courses)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Knowledge of Political Institutions
- **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices

Note: ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001 -** Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

4 courses needed (each 3 credits)

- **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)

- **Third Writing Course -** Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- **Principles of Speech (AS) -** (3 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credits / 1 Course)

- **HHPL Course -** Health, Human Performance, and Leisure (2 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course -** 1 course (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language -** 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
    - 1 course can be an Intercultural Knowledge course

Humanities & Social Sciences (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **Two Humanities Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Two Natural Science Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)

Mathematics Requirements (3-4 Credits / 1 Course)

Required Course (1 course):

- **MATH 005 or Higher -** College Algebra or higher (3-4 credits)

Note: SOCI 110 (Elementary Statistics) is a separate required course for the Sociology major and provides quantitative skills training.

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- SOCI 079, SOCI 113

- SOCI 890 or HNRS 890
- Study abroad
- Community-based research projects
    - Community-based research projects must take place in the context of the SOCI 079 Internship Criminology class.

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- Students must complete an Interdisciplinary Studies department course to satisfy the requirements.

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Sociology Major Requirements (30 Credits / 10 Courses)

Foundation Courses (9 Credits / 3 Courses)

Required for all Sociology students

- **SOCI 001 -** Intro to Sociology (3 credits)
- **SOCI 110 -** Elementary Statistics (3 credits)
- **SOCI 020 -** Intro to Social Psychology OR **SOCI 166 -** Race, Class & Gender (3 credits)

Advanced Core Courses (6 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **SOCI 100 -** Social Theory & Society (3 credits)
- **SOCI 111 -** Sociological Methods (3 credits)

Sociology Electives (15 Credits / 5 Course)

- **Sociology Electives -** Upper-level Sociology course (15 credits minimum)

Prerequisites: Upper-level Sociology courses typically require completion of SOCI 001. Check individual course prerequisites.

Free Electives (30 Credits / ~10 Courses)

Remaining credits to reach 120 total. Use strategically to:

- Pursue a minor in another field
- Take additional Sociology courses
- Explore interdisciplinary interests
- Prepare for graduate school or careers

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

Always consult with your academic advisor for personalized guidance

Freshman Year (29-30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- ENGW 101/102/104 - First-Year Writing I (3 credits)
- SOCI 001 - Intro to Sociology (3 credits)
- MATH 005 or higher - College Algebra or higher (3-4 credits)
- Humanities Course (3 credits)
- HHPL course (2 credits)

Fall Total: 15-16 credits

Spring Semester

- ENGW 103/105 - First-Year Writing II (3 credits)
- SOCI 110 - Elementary Statistics (3 credits)
- Social Science Course (3 credits)
- Natural Science Course (3 credits)
- Foreign Language I (3 credits)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Sophomore Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- SOCI 020 - Intro to Social Psychology OR SOCI 166 - Race, Class & Gender (3 credits)
- Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- Natural Science Course (3 credits)
- Humanities Course (3 credits)
- Free Elective (3 credits)

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- SOCI 100 - Social Theory & Society (3 credits)
- Foreign Language III/ Intercultural Knowledge (3 credits)
- African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- Third Writing Course (3 credits)
- Free Elective (3 credits)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Junior Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- SOCI 111 - Sociological Methods (3 credits)
- Sociology Elective (3 credits)
- Social Science Course (3 credits)
- Principles of Speech (3 credits)
- Free Elective (3 credits)

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- Sociology Elective (3 credits)

- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- COAS Experiential Learning (if not completed)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Senior Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- Sociology Elective (3 credits)
- Sociology Elective (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- COAS Innovative Learning (if not completed)
- Take Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Free Electives (3 credits)
- Additional Credits to Meet Minimum 120.
- Apply for graduation

Spring Total: 15 credits

Key Requirements Summary

- **Minimum Overall GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in Sociology:** 18 minimum (may vary with electives)
- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Quantitative Skills:** SOCI 110 (Statistics) and SOCI 111 (Methods) required

Important Notes for Success

- **Foundation First:** Complete SOCI 001 early, as it's a prerequisite for many upper-level courses.
- **Research Skills Sequence:** SOCI 110 (Statistics) and SOCI 111 (Sociological Methods) provide essential research training. Complete SOCI 110 before SOCI 111.
- **Theory and Practice:** SOCI 100 (Social Theory) is typically taken in sophomore or junior year and provides theoretical foundations for understanding society.
- **Choose Your Track:** SOCI 020 (Social Psychology) focuses on individual behavior in social contexts, while SOCI 166 (Race, Class & Gender) examines social inequality. Choose based on your interests.
- **Sociology Electives:** Explore diverse areas such as criminology, family studies, urban sociology, medical sociology, environmental sociology, or social movements.
- **Foreign Language:** All 9 credits must be in the same language. Complete consecutively.
- **Social Science General Electives:** Criminology or Sociology major courses cannot double count towards general education social science requirement. It is suggested to take your social science courses outside of our department, such as: Anthropology, African American Studies, Economics, History, Political Science.
- **Experiential Learning:** Can be satisfied through internships with social service agencies, research projects, community organizations, or study abroad programs.
- **Free Electives Strategy:** With 30 credits of free electives, Sociology majors have flexibility to:
    - Complete a minor (15-18 credits)
    - Take additional Sociology courses
    - Explore graduate school preparation
    - Build career-specific skills
- **Interdisciplinary Connections:** Sociology pairs well with Psychology, Political Science, Anthropology, Social Work, Criminal Justice, or Public Health.
- **ELO Requirements:** Many Sociology courses automatically satisfy ELOs, especially ELO 1 (African Diasporic Developments) and ELO 5 (Social Responsibility and Political Institutions).
- **Advisor Consultation:** Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.
- **Scholarship Requirements:** Students are required to successfully pass a minimum of 15 credits each semester. There is an exception for students in their final term to take less than 15 credits and still be awarded their scholarship.

- **Classification:**
  - **Freshman:** 0-29 completed credits
  - **Sophomore:** 30-59 completed credits
  - **Junior:** 60-89 completed credits
  - **Senior:** 90 or more completed credits

Resources & Support

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office:** Sociology & Criminology Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Research Opportunities:** Speak with faculty about research assistant positions and independent study projects
- **Internship Opportunities:** Connect with the Career Center and department for internship placements in social services, research organizations, non-profits, and government agencies
- **Graduate School Preparation:** Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs in sociology, social work, public policy, or related fields
- **Professional Development:** Consider joining Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society) and attending professional conferences