

Both Sociology and Family Studies students have the option to round out their program with either SOC 498: Senior Capstone Seminar or SOC 411: Internship. When doing a capstone, senior students engage in original research which draws upon theoretical knowledge acquired in their research methods and theory classes. A major original research paper and oral presentation are the cumulative outcomes of the 498 course. The topic will be focused on a family topic for Family Studies students.

For those students who choose to participate in an internship, SOC 411 gives them the opportunity to apply knowledge from their coursework, clarify their own professional objectives, and gain professional experience in an approved community organization or agency. They will be required to complete a substantive term paper as part of their internship which will incorporate the theories and topics learned throughout their program.

The goal of the Department of Sociology and Family Studies' Discipline Specific Honors (DSH) track is to help students to produce a high-quality research paper or community project that is the culmination of their academic coursework and interests. Both sociology and family studies majors will complete 12 hours of honors contracted courses toward this end.

Admission Requirements:

Students must email their intent to join discipline specific honors to the chair of the department. This written declaration must include at least one (more are welcome) general area of study the student hopes to further explore through the DSH track. Students are free to change their general topic but they must enter the program with some proposed area of study. The department chair will make the final decision regarding the student's admission into DSH following a meeting with the student.

Sociology majors will complete the following as honors contracted courses:

- SOC 214: Social Research I or SOC 422: Social Research II (3 hours)
- SOC 417: Social Theory (3 hours)
- One upper-level sociology elective (3 hours)
- SOC 498: Senior Capstone (3 hours)

*Substitutions are allowed if agreed upon by the thesis advisor and department chair.

Family Studies Majors will complete the following as honors contracted courses:

- SOC 425: Strengthening Marriages and Families OR SOC 214: Social Research I OR SOC 422: Social Research II
- SOC 417: Social Theory
- One upper-level sociology elective
- SOC 498: Senior Capstone

*Substitutions are allowed if agreed upon by the thesis advisor and department chair.

The final product of the DSH track will be either:

1. A high-quality research paper that will be submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal.
2. A community project or program that the student creates and implements. For example, students may help to assess the efficacy of a local non-profit, designing a workshop for families at a local church, or creating a semester-long afterschool program for disadvantaged youth.

All students will present their final product at one of the following:

1. The Union University Spring Scholarship Symposium.
2. An academic conference.
3. A meeting of stakeholders or community leaders, if applicable. This option is primarily for those undertaking a community project or program.

Progression:

Advising sessions will be used to further explore the student's interests and monitor their progression toward a completed research paper or community project. By the fall advising session of their junior year the student must propose a general research topic or community project in order to enroll in DSH contracted courses for the spring of their junior year. Students may modify their topics up to the start of the fall semester of their senior year.

Pi Gamma Mu, national social science honor society, seeks to improve scholarship in social studies; to inspire service to humanity by an intelligent approach to the solution of social problems; and to engender sympathy towards others with different opinions and institutions. Students who have completed 20 hours of social science with a "B" average or above are eligible for membership.

Sociological Inquiry Society (S.I.S) functions as a Christian community of students interested in sociological foundations and enables students to better understand and exercise sociology outside the classroom through discussion, activities, and service.

The **Pi Gamma Mu Scholarship Leader Award** is presented to the graduating member of the society with the highest academic average.

() Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

211. Principles of Sociology (3) F, S

Designed to introduce students to the sociological study of society. Sociology focuses on the systematic understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change. Understanding sociology helps discover and explain social patterns and see how such patterns change over time. By making vivid the social basis of everyday life, sociology also develops critical thinking by revealing the social structures and processes that shape diverse forms of human life.

213. Social Change for Social Problems (3) F–Odd Years

Reciprocal credit: ICS 213.

Sociologists hold a passion to make the world a better place. This passion is combined with the use of the scientific approach to understand and explain social phenomena. The results of scientific investigation can be used to suggest social policies that can mitigate the negative consequences of problems that inevitably plague all human societies. We will discuss suggestions for policy designed to mitigate the negative consequences of social problems.

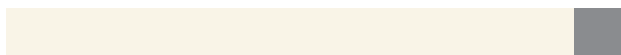
214. Social Research I (3) F–Odd Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211

An introduction to statistics common in social science research. Topics include descriptive and inferential statistics, hypothesis testing, significance, correlation, analysis of variance, and multiple regression. Emphasis is on application and effectively using a common statistical program (PASW/SPSS).

220. Introduction to Studying Families (3) F–Odd Years

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321. Social Gerontology (3) As Needed

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 321.

A brief, comprehensive introduction to the subject of aging. The social and socio-psychological aspects will be examined.

322. Sociology of Health and Medicine (3) As Needed

A sociological examination of health, illness, and the social organization of medical care in the US. Consideration is given to race, class, gender, and age as factors influencing health, illness, and the delivery of medical care.

324. Social Deviance (3) As Needed

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 324.

Focuses on why certain individuals violate social norms and the ways society responds and attempts to control deviant behavior. Topics include: defining, measuring and explaining social deviance and types of deviant behavior as well as personal and social consequences of deviant behavior.

325. Families Across Cultures (3) F, S

Reciprocal credit: SW 325, ICS 325.

The family as an object of sociological inquiry within the context of cross-cultural, multi-cultural and historical bases. Continuity and change, similarities and differences are emphasized.

326. Juvenile Justice (3) As Needed

This course covers youthful crime: its volume, causes and trends. The prediction, prevention, treatment and control of juvenile delinquency by social control agencies is examined relative to social policies needed to reduce its incidence. The organization and procedures of the juvenile justice system are also explored.

327. Sociology of Media and Technology (3) As Needed

In this course, attention will be given to different aspects of the relationship between technology and society and directions for the future. The nature of technology and the process of innovation are driven by social influences and pressures. Those social influences mean that technologies reflect and often reinforce the structures of social, economic, and political power in any society. Special emphasis on social media and the effects it has on daily interactions in society.

333. Parent-Child Relations (3) S—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211.

Social and historical context of parent-child interaction over the life course; analysis of theories, research and educational programs; socialization into the family; examination of parenting as a developmental process. Overview of the parenting process in diverse cultural and familial structures. Emphasizes the use of Biblical teaching in parent-child relations.

356. Food, Culture and Society (3) As Needed

Reciprocal credit: ICS 356.

This course explores how social and cultural contexts affect food production and consumption. Specifically, this course examines how modern food practices have become disordered, diverging from a proper theological approach to creation.

370. Gender and Sexuality (3) As Needed

Reciprocal credit: SW 370.

Gender and sexuality in American society and cross-culturally with consideration to the role of gender in structuring identity, male/female interaction, and constraining or expanding

425. Strengthening Marriage and Families (3) F—Even Years

Prerequisites: SOC 211 or 220.

Family theories from sociological and family studies perspectives exploring historical roots, assumptions, concepts, and applications for strengthening relationships. Emphasizes using Biblical principles to strengthen marriage and families.

435. Contemporary Issues in the Family (3) As Needed

Prerequisite: SOC 211 or 220. Reciprocal credit: PSY 435.

An in-depth look at the family, life issues, threats and challenges today. Biblical principles related to such issues as parent-child relationships, work and family, divorce and family violence are discussed. Preventive techniques and solutions are considered.

498. Senior Capstone Seminar (3) F

Prerequisites: SOC 211 and permission of instructor; Pre- or corequisites: SOC 417, 422.

The culminating experience for Sociology majors requiring students to successfully demonstrate an ability to apply research methods and sociological theories to an empirical research problem/question of their own choosing. The application will take the form of a written paper and a presentation in a public format.

Available in all prefixes:

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

179PF-279PF-379PF-479PF. External Domestic Study Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

180PF-280PF-380PF-480PF. Study Abroad Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) As Needed

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

499. Seminar (1-3) F As Needed

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.