Integrated Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degree in Sociology

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master of Arts Degree Program in Sociology provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate Sociology majors to complete both Bachelor and Master of Arts (BA and MA) degrees in five years. Typically, the baccalaureate degree requires four years to complete, and a master's degree requires an additional minimum of two years. The goals of the program are to teach students discipline-specific history, theory, and methods, as well as to develop critical thinking and technical skills in utilizing the sociological perspective for understanding the social world and affecting positive change.

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate Sociology students may apply for admission to the Integrated Baccalaureate and Master of Arts Degree Program (IBMP) after completing 60 semester hours (sh) of undergraduate coursework, of which a minimum of 30 sh must be at Western Illinois University. Applicants for admission to the integrated program in Sociology must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and a major GPA of at least 3.25, or a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA with a 3.3 GPA in the last 30 credit hours earned at WIU.

To apply to the integrated program, students must submit the following documents to the School of Graduate Studies:

- A School of Graduate Studies application form (available at wiu.edu/grad)
- Official transcripts from each college or university previously attended
- A two-three page personal statement that explains larger career goals and how the MA degree will further those objectives
- An academic paper of at least 7-10 pages, demonstrating (1) the use and application of sociological knowledge and analysis; (2) the ability to develop a central theme with a clear, sustained argument; and (3) the ability to write a well-researched thesis or journal length article
- Three confidential letters of recommendation

Applications will not be reviewed until all materials have been received. In addition, an interview may be required. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is highly recommended.

Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Admission must be granted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student will be allowed to enroll in IBMP "bridge" ("B") courses. Students may begin taking bridge courses after the completion of 90 sh. Students in the integrated program may use up to 9 sh of bridge courses to satisfy both the BA and MA degrees. Please see list of courses on the reverse side of this sheet or consult with the graduate advisor.

BA Requirements

The minimum semester-hour requirement for the baccalaureate degree is 120 sh. All students in the IBMP must fulfill the following for the BA degree (for explanation of requirements, please refer to WIU's *Undergraduate Catalog*):

I.   University General Education and College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts curriculum requirements: 60 sh
II. Core Courses: 21 sh
     SOC 232, 323†, 324, 333, 334, 415; ANTH 110
III. Sociology electives: 15 sh; may include up to 6 sh of Anthropology coursework beyond ANTH 110.
IV. Open electives: 4-8 sh
V.   Any minor: Minimum of 16-20 sh
†SOC 323 fulfills the Writing in the Discipline (WID) graduation requirement.

MA Requirements

The minimum semester-hour requirement for the master's degree is 31 sh. In addition to SOC 500 Professional Seminar in Sociology (1 sh), all students seeking the IBMP must fulfill the following for the MA degree:

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Western Illinois University

I. Core courses: 12 sh
  • SOC 518 Classical Sociological Theory (3 sh)
  • SOC 519 Contemporary Sociological Theory (3 sh)
  • SOC 530 Statistical Methods (3 sh)
  • SOC 531 Quantitative Methods (3 sh)

II. Select one of the following exit options: 0-6 sh*
  • *Thesis:* SOC 600 Thesis Research (3 sh) and SOC 601 Thesis (3 sh)
  • *Non-Thesis:* SOC 699 Sociology Non-Thesis Paper (0 sh)
  • *Internship:* SOC 694 Graduate Internship (6 sh) and SOC 698 Internship Presentation (0 sh)
*Note: A presentation is required of all students.

III. Electives: 12-24 sh*
  • *Thesis:* 12 sh
  • *Non-Thesis:* 24 sh
  • *Internship:* 18 sh
*Note: No more than 3 sh may be taken outside the department (6 sh for Peace Corps Fellows) and no more than 3 sh for SOC 501.

Total Program: 31-37 sh

Nine units from the following 3-sh courses may be used to satisfy both BA/MA requirements for the IBMP:
SOC 405G Sociology of Aging in Rural and Urban America
SOC 410G (cross-listed with WS 410G) Women and Poverty
SOC 414G Population
SOC 420G (cross-listed with AAS 420G and WS 420G) Race, Class, and Gender
SOC 424G Sociology of Mental Health
SOC 425G Juvenile Delinquency
SOC 426G Industrial Sociology
SOC 427G Sociology of Sexual Identities and Inequalities
SOC 430G (cross-listed with WS 430G) Sociology of Women's Health
SOC 432G (cross-listed with POLS 432G) Survey Research
SOC 435G (cross-listed with WS 435G) Women and Crime
SOC 445G Sociology of Corporate Crime
SOC 455G Sociology of Corrections
SOC 460G The Family
SOC 461G Educational Sociology
SOC 462G Political Sociology
SOC 463G Sociology of Law
SOC 464G Sociology of Religion
SOC 465G Deviance, Crime, and Control in Socio-Historical Perspective
SOC 471G Urban Sociology
SOC 480G Deviance and Disruption in the American Family

Sample Program: Thesis Option
First Year (undergraduate senior year): 19 sh
Fall
SOC 500 Professional Seminar in Sociology (1 sh)
SOC 518 Classical Sociological Theory (3 sh)
SOC 530 Statistical Methods (3 sh)
SOC 400G/500 and above course (3 sh)

Spring
SOC 519 Contemporary Sociological Theory (3 sh)
SOC 531 Quantitative Methods (3 sh)
SOC 400G/500 and above course (3 sh)

Second Year: 12-18 sh
SOC 400G/500 and above course (3 sh)
SOC 600 Thesis Research (3 sh)
SOC 601 Thesis in Sociology (3 sh)

"I think that if I hadn't become a sociologist, I would have become very anti-intellectual."

— *Pierre Bourdieu, Sociologist*