

Archived: September 9, 2021

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Sociology Honours (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

The BA Sociology (Honours) degree offers qualified students the opportunity to achieve the highest standards of academic excellence coupled with personal growth, and civic engagement in their time at VIU. Students accepted into the program will complete additional training in social theory, social justice and research methods, and will complete a senior research project in an area of their own choosing. The Honours degree is designed to allow students to tailor their degree to match their post-degree aspirations.

The Honours degree in Sociology is an excellent choice for students who want more focus and direction in their degree than is possible in the traditional BA because we offer a wide range of classroom and experiential-learning opportunities. Vancouver Island University excels in undergraduate research, and the Honours degree in Sociology is designed to foster this excellence. Students may work one-on-one with faculty in an area of the student's choosing, or in an area of faculty expertise. Students wishing to do applied community-based research will find our CBAIR (Community Based Applied Interdisciplinary Research) course of particular interest.

Opportunities also exist for experiential learning through field placements (SOC1 499) or field schools (SOC1 391, 392 and 393). Sociology students may also be interested in the Liberal Studies Abroad yearly field school to Florence, Italy. Combined, these practical experiences provide the framework within which students can excel.

Our Honours degree is an excellent preparation for Masters programs in Sociology and a wide range of other areas including (but not limited to) law, education, social policy, mediation, health care administration, social research, and positions in all levels of government. Students will graduate with collegial relationships with faculty members, and with the theoretical and methodological skills to allow them to secure research and analytical jobs in the non-profit, public and private sectors.

For more information, please contact the department Chair.

Program Outline

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. requirements as outlined in the Calendar, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed below:

Years 1 and 2	
SOCI 111* - (Introduction to Sociology)	3
SOCI 209 - (Social Inequality)	3
SOCI 250** - (Introduction to Social Research) or equivalent*	3
Plus <i>two</i> additional lower-level SOCI courses	6

* *Students with credit in INTR 102 are exempt from SOCI 111.*

** *Students with credit in SSID 250, CRIM 220 or PSYC 204 are exempt from SOCI 250.*

Years 3 and 4	
SOCI 310 - (Foundations of Social Theory)	3
SOCI 312 - (Contemporary Sociological Theory)	3
SOCI 350* - (Qualitative Research) or equivalent**	3
SOCI 351** - (Quantitative Research and Analysis) or equivalent	3
SOCI 491 - (Senior Project)	3
A minimum of <i>twenty-seven</i> additional credits of Sociology courses numbered 300 and above. Note: Up to <i>nine</i> of the required <i>twenty-seven</i> minimum credits may be taken as experiential learning options (SOCI 391, SOCI 392, SOCI 393, or SOCI 499). Note: Up to <i>twelve</i> of the required <i>twenty-seven</i> minimum credits may be taken as some combination of experiential learning options or courses in other departments that are defined as suitable, as noted below. Note: Up to <i>nine</i> of the required <i>twenty-seven</i> minimum credits may be taken from course in other departments. Please check the departmental website or the department chair for a current list of courses, or check with the department chair to determine other suitable courses within these areas.	27

* *Students with credit in CRIM 350, PSYC 304, or SSID 350 are exempt from SOCI 350.*

** *Students with credit in CRIM 351 or PSYC 300A are exempt from SOCI 351.*

Note: some courses may not be offered every year. Please see the Sociology Course Schedule for more information.

Recommended Electives

Liberal Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Criminology, Anthropology, Political Studies, Psychology, Geography, Women's Studies, Global Studies, Economics.

Completion Requirements

Honours students need an average GPA of 3.67 ("A-") on all 3rd and 4th year courses taken within the discipline in order to graduate from an Honours program.

Residency Requirement:

Students are expected to complete 50% of their upper level credits at Vancouver Island University, with the approval of the appropriate Dean and under exceptional circumstances.

Admission Requirements

The requirement for admission is a GPA of at least a 3.67 (A-) on the most recent 45 credits of study. There is limited space in the Honours program and not all students

who meet the requirement will be admitted to the Honours program in Sociology.

Start Date and Application Deadline

Students can apply to the Honours program through the Program Chair. There are no application deadlines, but students are encouraged to apply in the first semester of their third year, to facilitate planning of remaining courses. Successful students will be connected with a faculty mentor, who will help guide them through the process, including linking to a senior project advisor.

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