

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

# SOCIOLOGY



## SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of the social life, social change and the social cause and consequences of human behavior. In this major, you will learn technical and analytic skills, gain a global perspective, and explore the complexity of the causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists study a broad array of topics including the intimate family, organized crime, politics, race, gender and social class. You will be prepared to help make a positive difference in the world through investigative research and through identifying social trends. The Sociology major at UNK:

- Gets you out of the classroom
- Provides a background and base for countless job opportunities
- Complements other majors and minors better than any other degree
- Opens the door to graduate school
- Provides both an in-class and online degree path

### Career opportunity areas

- Social services
- Administrative support
- Management
- Education
- Sales and marketing
- Social science research
- Public relations
- Government
- Human resources

### Advantages that UNK has to offer sociology students

- Students can build relationships with faculty members through classes, research and projects
- Majors are encouraged to work with a faculty member in "hands-on training" doing research

**Michelle Obama, a sociology major at Princeton University, said "You treat people with dignity and respect, even if you don't know them, and even if you don't agree with them."**

## Alumni profile

"The Sociology program provided me with the tools to serve my community in the manner I felt drawn to. It has unlocked in me a desire to understand my community fully," said Shana Rutherford, who graduated in May 2015.



**SHANA  
RUTHERFORD**

"The best part about the UNK sociology department is how flexible it is. As a non-traditional student, flexibility was the only realistic way that I was able to complete my degree. I enjoyed various topics that I was able to explore in my sociology courses. It helped me define my career goals. The professors and staff were extremely supportive as well."

"UNK has a reputation for being small enough to feel a sense of community, but large enough to feel like you receive the most from your education. Even as an online student with classmates from all over the United States, I felt a camaraderie with them, a shared goal to persevere through all the circumstances that made a traditional presence on campus improbable."

### Compare sociology and psychology

Both are concerned with attitudes, beliefs, behavior, emotions and interpersonal relationships. However, a sociologist considers the individual within the context of social groups, where a psychologist focuses on the individual level of human behavior.

**SOCIOLOGY**

**FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS OR SCIENCE**

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p><b>Semester 1 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Humanities course                  GS Natural Sciences course                  GS ENG 102 Writing and Research                  GS Portal 188 course (your choice)                  SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology</p>	<p><b>Semester 2 (16 credits)</b></p> <p>GS core Democracy in Perspective                  GS core Oral Communication                  GS Aesthetics course                  GS Natural Sciences course with lab                  SOC 201 Soc. Inequality Or SOC 250 Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Semester 3 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Social Sciences course                  GS Distribution elective                  SOC 225 Global Cultures Or SOC 275 Soc. Psych                  Minor or second major course                  PSY 250 or STAT 235</p>	<p><b>Semester 4 (14 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Social Sciences course                  GS Distribution elective (2 credits)                  SOC 237 Sociological Inquiry                  SOC 300 Sociological Theory                  Minor or second major course</p>
<p><b>Semester 5 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Humanities course                  Sociology elective                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective                  FOR B.A. – Language requirement course                  FOR B.S. – SOC 370 Sociological Rsch.</p>	<p><b>Semester 6 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS core MATH                  Sociology elective                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  FOR B.A. – Language requirement course                  FOR B.S. – Unrestricted elective</p>
<p><b>Semester 7 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Capstone 388 course (your choice)                  SOC 468 Senior Seminar                  Sociology elective                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>	<p><b>Semester 8 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>Sociology elective                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective                  Unrestricted elective</p>

**Sociology Club**

The UNK Sociology Club is a student organization open to anyone with an interest in sociology. Members network with other students and professionals, plan activities, and learn about sociology through hands-on experiences such as:

- Educational trips to rural and urban areas
- Community service activities such as Campus Kitchen, a student-powered hunger relief program
- Educational, social, and cultural presentations for the campus and community

**Skills for Success in Sociology**

- Creativity
- Innovation
- Critical thinking
- Analytic problem-solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Multi-cultural and global understanding
- Strong math and science skills
- Excellent written expression

**Scholarships:**

- Riley and Rodney Oestreicher Scholarship Fund
- Sociological Imagination Scholarship

**For more information, contact:**

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**STUDENT PROFILE – KAYTLYN PREITAUER**



“The sociology program has changed my perspective and made me a critical thinker, especially when it comes to trying to understand other people’s views, cultures and lifestyles,” said Kaytlyn Preitauer, a sociology major and women and gender studies minor from Gothenburg, Nebraska. She plans to graduate in fall 2017.

Preitauer said the plans she has for after she graduates are long and varied but she thinks a career working with juvenile offenders could be in her future. “The counseling aspect and social work areas of sociology have become steadily more intriguing to me,” she said.

She believes that her work at UNK has helped her prepare for her future. “The program has allowed me to open my eyes to the diversity of the people around me and has given me a desire to break down stereotypes in my own life and in society,” Preitauer said.

“The first wisdom of Sociology is this: things are not what they seem.”  
 (from *Invitation to Sociology*, Peter Berger, Sociologist)