Community and environmental sociology explores the communities in which people live and the relationships between people and their natural environments. Using an integrative approach, the major provides students a broad view of the societal factors involved in issues of environment, food systems, health, and community development, as well as strategies for promoting a more just and sustainable world.

Through core courses, students receive foundational knowledge in sociology and select from a wide range of electives covering environmental stewardship, resource conflicts, public health, social change, social justice, agroecology, rural development, labor, science and technology, colonialism, and globalization.

Graduates go on to a wide variety of careers in environmental conservation, community and international development, food systems, law, public policy, sociology, and public health – in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. A Community and Environmental Sociology major also provides excellent preparation for graduate school. Alumni hold positions as directors, managers, administrators, policy makers, data analysts, planners, consultants, researchers, teachers, health care workers, and civil servants.

Learn through hands-on, real-world experience

Students can apply their course learning to real life through internships, field courses, and research projects. During their final year, majors complete a senior capstone course where they work with local community groups to address specific challenges or explore social and environmental problems through case studies.

Build community and networks

Students get to know faculty and instructors through departmental courses and social activities, and they can build their networks by participating in student organizations, internships, and research experiences.

Customize a path of study

In addition to a set of core courses, students choose from a wide array of electives to explore their areas of interest within the major. Many choose to add a certificate or double major to their degree. Common certificate options include global health, food systems, organic agriculture, science and technology policy, and environmental studies. Common second majors include environmental sciences, nutritional sciences, agronomy, biology, and wildlife ecology.

Make a strong start

An introductory course provides an overview of topics such as community organizing, local food systems, energy transitions, environmental justice, resource dependence, and sustainable development.

Gain global perspectives

Majors learn about different cultures, communities, and environments through the classes they take, and many choose to study abroad to further expand their perspectives. Majors can choose semester-long programs or summer opportunities at top universities in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, or shorter faculty-led study abroad experiences. Students can explore studying abroad as a Community and Environmental Sociology major by utilizing the Community and Environmental Sociology Major Advising Page. Students work with their advisor and the CALS study abroad office to identify appropriate programs.

HOW TO GET IN

To declare this major, students must be admitted to UW–Madison and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). For information about becoming a CALS first-year or transfer student, see Entering the College (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#enteringthecollege).

Students who attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the option to declare this major at SOAR. Students may otherwise declare after they have begun their undergraduate studies. For more information, contact the advisor listed in the Contact Box for the major.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduates) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the University General Education Requirements, all undergraduate students in CALS must satisfy a set of college and
major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements (General Education and Breadth) or within college requirements (First-Year Seminar, International Studies, Science, and Capstone), but courses counted toward university requirements may also be used to satisfy a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, courses counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

**COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CALS B.S. DEGREE PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of Work: Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residency: Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW–Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Year Seminar (<a href="http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSFirstYearSeminarCourses">http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSFirstYearSeminarCourses</a>)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Science Fundamentals</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 103 General Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or CHEM 108 Chemistry in Our World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Science (Biological, Physical, or Natural)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science Breadth (Biological, Physical, Natural, or Social)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CALS Capstone Learning Experience: included in the requirements for each CALS major (see &quot;Major Requirements&quot;) (<a href="http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSCapstoneRequirement">http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSCapstoneRequirement</a>)</td>
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**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Core</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 140</td>
<td>Introduction to Community and Environmental Sociology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 475</td>
<td>Classical Sociological Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 357</td>
<td>Methods of Sociological Inquiry</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives within the Major</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 6-9 credits from the Community course set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 6-9 credits from the Environment course set</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC 500</td>
<td>Capstone Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>32-33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We strongly encourage our majors to take C&E SOC/SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I, if they have not already taken a statistics course at time of major declaration. Acceptable statistics courses other than C&E SOC/SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I are: STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods, STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences, ECON 310 Statistics: Measurement in Economics, PSYCH 210 Basic Statistics for Psychology, GEOG 360 Quantitative Methods in Geographical Analysis, and MATH/STAT 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II. Please note that statistics courses taken outside the major do not count toward the credit requirement in the major.

We must complete a total of 15 credits of Community and Environment electives. No more than 6 credits may be 100- or 200-level courses. At least 6 credits must be taken in each course set.

Consult advisor to request permission to use C&E SOC 299 Independent Study, C&E SOC 399 Coordinative Internship/Cooperative Education, or C&E SOC 699 Special Problems toward the Community or Environmental course sets. No more than 4 such credits may be counted toward the major.

**ELECTIVE COURSES WITHIN THE MAJOR**

**COMMUNITY COURSE SET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 210</td>
<td>Survey of Sociology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 211</td>
<td>The Sociological Enterprise</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC 215</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 245</td>
<td>Technology and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/AFOAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/LACIS/POLI SCI/SOC/SPANISH 260</td>
<td>Latin America: An Introduction</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 341</td>
<td>Labor in Global Food Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 365</td>
<td>Data Management for Social Science Research</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC 375</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC 380</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/CURRIC/ENVIR ST 405</td>
<td>Education for Sustainable Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 532</td>
<td>Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 533</td>
<td>Public Health in Rural &amp; Urban Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 540</td>
<td>Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/AGRONOMY/MED HIST/PHILOS 565</td>
<td>The Ethics of Modern Biotechnology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;E SOC/SOC 573</td>
<td>Community Organization and Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C&E SOC/AMER IND/SOC 578 Poverty and Place 3
C&E SOC/SOC/URB R PL 617 Community Development 3
C&E SOC 623 3
C&E SOC/SOC 630 Sociology of Developing Societies/Third World 3
C&E SOC/SOC/URB R PL 645 Modern American Communities 3
C&E SOC/SOC 652 Sociology of Economic Institutions 3
C&E SOC 655 3
C&E SOC/SOC 676 Applied Demography: Planning and Policy 3
C&E SOC/SOC 693 Practicum in Analysis and Research 3

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree
To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency
Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand how social science arguments are constructed and evaluated.
2. Develop ability to assess data quality and understand whether particular data is appropriate to answer specific questions.
3. Learn general theories on basic social processes, especially those related to the relationships between society and the environment and the social organization of communities.
4. Learn communication skills in the social sciences.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Freshman
Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

COMM A or COMM B
2-3
COMM A or COMM B
2-3
Course
Course
C&E SOC/SOC 140
4
CHEM 103, 108, or 109
4-5
First Year Seminar
1
C&E SOC Elective
3
Electives
8
Electives (to reach ~15 credits)
4-6
Total Credits 28-33

Sophomore
Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

C&E SOC/SOC 357
3
C&E SOC/SOC 360
4
C&E SOC Elective
3
C&E SOC Elective
3

Total Credits 28-33
Ethnic Studies  
3 Biological Science Course  

Electives  
6 Humanities Elective  
3 Additional Electives  

Total Credits 30

Junior  
C&E SOC/SOC 475  
3 C&E SOC Elective  
2 International Studies  
3 Additional Science Course  
6 Electives  

Total Credits 30

Senior  
C&E SOC 500  
3 Humanities  
12 Electives  

Total Credits 30

Electives should be chosen in order to satisfy university and CALS requirements. See Requirements tab for details.

C&E SOC electives include the Community course set and the Environmental course set. See Requirements tab for details.

Students may take the capstone course either semester of their senior year. The fall semester and spring semester courses may have different content.

The above plan assumes that a student enters with standard high school preparation (algebra, geometry, third-year math, two years' foreign language).

PEOPLE

PROFESSORS  
Samer Alatout  
Michael Bell  
Katherine Curtis  
Nan Enstad (chair)  
Noah Feinstein  
Josh Garoon  
Michaela Hoffelmeyer  
Malia Jones  
Sarah Rios  
Randy Stoecker  
Monica White

ADVISORS  
Megan Banaszak

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

Internships  
Many students complete internships, including with campus clubs, community groups, and national and international non-profit organizations. Learn more about internship opportunities. (https://dces.wisc.edu/programs/opportunities/possible-internships/)

Research experience  
Community and Environmental Sociology majors can gain research experience by participating in a faculty-led research project or conducting their own project supervised by a faculty member. Students can choose to write thesis papers, and some become authors or co-authors on published research papers.

Global engagement  
Majors are encouraged to participate in study abroad experiences across all continents. Options include a sustainable development course in Uganda, a food systems and health course in South Africa, and many other options.

Community engagement and volunteering  
There are many opportunities to engage in volunteer activities. The Morgridge Center for Public Service (https://morgridge.wisc.edu/) provides resources to help students connect with volunteer opportunities based on their interests and goals.

Student organizations  
There are numerous campus student organizations of interest to majors, including F.H. King Students for Sustainable Agriculture, Campus Food Shed, and REthink Wisconsin. A full list of UW–Madison student organizations is available on the Wisconsin Involvement Network website (https://win.wisc.edu/organizations/).

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships
Students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences receive more than $1.25 million in scholarships annually. Learn more about college scholarships (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/financing-your-education/cals-scholarships/).

The Department of Community and Environmental Sociology awards an average of $15,000 in scholarships each year to undergraduate students in the department. This includes numerous Crowe Scholarships, which are awarded to students to support research, study abroad, conference fees, and professional society memberships. Crowe Scholarships are also awarded for financial need and academic achievement. Learn more about Community and Environmental Sociology scholarships. (https://dces.wisc.edu/programs/scholarships/)