

SOCIOLOGY, B.S.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

This university is a very big place. Even the most well-prepared new students will have moments when they say to themselves, “Uh oh. What have I got myself into going to such a big school? Choosing courses at SOAR was stressful, fun, or both, but after SOAR am I on my own?” The answer is no. Every student has at least one assigned advisor. Over the course of their time at the university, students may have several assigned advisors. That is a good thing; L&S advisors are highly networked, and they always communicate with each other about shared students.

When students read their DARS reports—documents that were developed to help them find their way to a timely graduation, they can feel overwhelmed; it looks like they need 500 credits to graduate. How can they get all those requirements done? Do sociology (or Spanish, or English) majors really have to take biology courses?

In the Sociology Department, we take advising very seriously. We encourage our majors to see the advisor at least once every semester. The advisor will help you summarize the DARS and map your completed coursework onto the goals and timeline for graduation, including the sociology major and L&S requirements. The sociology advisor will have departmental or college news about guest speakers, new faculty, new courses, internships, and scholarships. This advisor will also be able to assist in preparation for, and applications to graduate school, and be able to connect students with faculty whose information about various sociology programs is always the most current. The sociology advisor will also see freshmen and sophomores exploring the major in sociology.

See academic advising (<https://sociology.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/academic-advising/>) for more information.

CAREERS

Sociology majors do very well in the job market. The critical, analytic, and quantitative skills they have mastered in the major, along with their commitments to social justice and their understanding of organizations make them desirable job candidates. Every year the department invites sociology alumni to campus for career panels or “speed mentoring.” Current sociology majors get to talk to people only slightly older than themselves who have successfully made the transitions from undergraduate to professional.

Sociology also has an advisor devoted exclusively to careers. This advisor teaches a 1-credit course where students learn the arts of resume building and resume writing, applying for and getting internships, and in which they practice self-reflection activities which lead to insights about what they really want to do after college, and where they learn how to make connections between their academic work and their work in the “real world.” This advisor is also available for one-on-one advising.

Our career advisor also partners with the L&S Career Services office to help you leverage the academic skills learned in your major and liberal arts degree, explore and try out different career paths, participate in internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). See SuccessWorks for more information.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and **apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.**

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/>)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (<http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/>)