

SFSU SOC Major Course Requirements and Roadmap, in detail

Compiled by Prof. Karen Hossfeld, Dept. Chair, May 2020

REQUIREMENTS

The SOC major requires 5 core courses – taken in order – plus 23 units of SOC electives, as well as the 12 units of Complementary Studies required in every major. Once you are a junior (i.e., have finished at least 60 units), it typically then takes 4 semesters to complete the major.

1. **5 SOC Core Courses** (all are 4 units each, except for those in v., which are 3 units):

Take this first:

- i. 300 GVAR, Sociological Analysis

Take these next:

- ii. 370 or 371, Classical Theory or Contemporary Theory AND:
- iii. 392, Introduction to Research Methods

Take these last:

- iv. 393 or 394, Quantitative Analysis or Field Methods AND:
- v. 500 or 501/502 or 503/504, Capstone courses: either senior seminar (varying topics), community internships, or research internships.

- a. **Core courses have to be taken in order.** This takes a minimum of three semesters and typically students do not get into the first core course until they are second semester juniors. So that means **it typically takes four semesters: your full junior and senior years.**
- b. **The first core course is SOC 300, our required GVAR course** (Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement. Terrible title. Make Peace, not gWar!):
Again, **most students do not get in until the second semester of their junior year**, so don't worry if you don't get in during the first semester of your junior year. Please note that this course is unique to SFSU and it is very rare for us to allow students to substitute a course taken elsewhere for our SOC 300 GVAR.
You need to pass your SOC 300 GVAR class with a C- or better before taking any of the other four SOC core courses.
- c. After you pass 300, you can then take the next two core courses: 370 or 371, plus 392. You do not have to take both of them in one semester, but you do need to finish them both before taking the last two core courses.
- d. After you pass 370 or 371 plus 392, you can then take the final two core courses: 393 or 394, plus either 500 or 501/502 or 503/504.
- e. 501 and 502 are a package deal, and so are 503 and 504. You need to take both courses in one of the packages to equal the required 3 units. You can only pre-register in one half of the package – either 502 or 504. Then you automatically get a spot in the other half of the package. Note we do not always offer these two sets of courses every semester.
- f. **We typically do NOT offer core courses in Summer or in Winter Sessions.**

2. 23 SOC Elective Units:

- a. Some of our elective classes are 3 units and some are 4, so 23 units means 6-8 classes.
- b. **If you take or have taken any SOC classes elsewhere, they can count towards our major** – almost always as electives, rather than as core courses. But you can't get credit for taking the equivalent course at two places. For example, our SOC 105, Sociological Perspectives, is equivalent to Intro to SOC at other schools. So don't take both.
- c. **Up to 12 of these units can be from Community Colleges and/or be lower division** (numbered in the 100's and 200's on our campus). At least 11 of your SOC elective units need to be from upper division courses, so not from Community Colleges.
- d. **You can start taking SOC electives before you get into core courses and also before you get into the major. You can take lower division SOC electives any time.**
- e. Some upper division SOC electives (numbered in the 300's or higher) are limited to upper division students (i.e., those who have completed at least 60 units before enrolling in the class).
- f. **At least one of your SOC electives has to be from our Area 1, and one from Area 2.** See here: <https://sociology.sfsu.edu/major>
- g. With the permission of your faculty advisor, **you can count one class outside the major** (usually a social science type of course) towards your SOC elective units, if it's "sociological." Check with a SOC faculty advisor if you want to propose such a course. You'll then need to fill out a simple Course Substitution Form when you apply to graduate.
- h. **We typically offer several SOC electives over the Summer and sometimes offer a couple in Winter Session.**

3. 12 Units of Complementary Studies:

- a. **Every SFSU student needs to complete 12 units of Comp. Studies.** See the bottom of this webpage for what counts in the SOC major: <https://sociology.sfsu.edu/major>. If you have questions about what counts, check with your SOC Faculty Advisor.
- b. You can count lower division courses and courses taken elsewhere, as long as they fit the criteria.
- c. Please note that **your Degree Progress Report will NOT automatically check-off that you've done your Complementary Studies courses.** Don't worry about that! In your last semester, your faculty advisor and the dept. chair will ask you what you did to complete your Comp. Studies when you ask them to sign your graduation application. Once we sign off, that's all you need to do to verify you've done your Comp. Studies.

SOC MAJOR COURSE ROADMAP

Here's a suggested road map of what you should take for the SOC major, starting your JUNIOR year (after completing at least 60 units and your). If you have already had SOC electives before your junior year, you can then take fewer of them moving forward. **Note the following is just what you need for the major, not anything else you might need to graduate.**

1st semester of Junior year:

1. SOC Elective: Lower division if you haven't already had at least two: otherwise, either lower or upper division
2. SOC Elective: Ditto to the above
3. 1st Complementary Studies course (courses for a Minor count as Comp. Studies)
4. 2nd Complementary Studies course

2nd semester of Junior year:

1. SOC 300 GWAR (this is a prerequisite for the other core courses)
2. SOC elective, Area 1
3. SOC elective (any)
4. 3rd Complementary Studies course

1st Semester of Senior Year:

1. SOC 370 or 371
2. SOC 392
3. SOC elective Area 2
4. 4th Complementary Studies course, if needed

2nd Semester of Senior Year:

1. SOC 393 or 394
2. SOC 500 or 501/502 or 503/504
3. SOC elective, if needed
4. SOC elective, if needed

And then Happy Graduation!

Hope that helps. It's complicated, which is a metaphor for life.