The Sociology and Anthropology Department strives to empower students to become engaged learners and agents of social change by developing critical thinking skills, rigorous research methods, and theoretically sound analyses.

Our students have numerous opportunities to apply these skills and to make connections between personal/individual matters and larger social, cultural, economic, and political realities. Our department is committed to using sociological and anthropological knowledge to address social problems and inequalities across interpersonal, institutional, and global social dimensions. We also strive to support our students through personalized academic advising and scholarship opportunities, such as the Geraldine Gamburd Award, which is announced annually.

As a college student, you are also the agent of your own academic success and responsible to keep records of your degree progress. We have created this handbook to help you navigate both major and minor requirements alongside with College and University requirements. Your advisors will ensure that you receive a copy of this handbook and that you sign a department document stating that you received, read, and understood the content therein.

I. Sociology & Anthropology Major

We offer a major in Sociology and Anthropology with two concentrations:

Sociology & Anthropology Major - Sociology Concentration

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. It is also a way of looking at who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. Sociologists seek deeper and subtler understanding on how institutions work and how they frame our everyday lives, posing questions and seeking answers about power, inequality, oppression, and liberation. Sociologists use quantitative and qualitative research techniques as well as interpretative and critical analysis to study communities, institutions, and how they shape who we are.

Sociology & Anthropology Major - Anthropology Concentration

Anthropology is the holistic study of humankind in all its complexity and diversity in time and space. Anthropologists have pioneered the ethnographic method and the gathering of in-depth empirical data. We emphasize the understanding of human socio-cultural, political, economic, and linguistic diversity in a global context. Through a comparative approach, we seek to understand difference across cultures and the formation of hierarchies. Our program offers exposure to ways of life in both western and non-western societies.

Many faculty in our department work with local organizations, on projects aimed at improving our communities, and informing public policy.

Degree Requirements

Admission into the Department

Students intending to major in Sociology and Anthropology must see the chairperson (Lisa Maya Knauer, lknauer@umassd.edu, 508-999-8405) who will discuss the program with them, make the admission decision, and help students arrange for a permanent advisor. They may also see other faculty advisors in the department to discuss the major and initiate the paperwork prior to meeting with the chair. Current UMass Dartmouth students seeking admission into the Sociology & Anthropology major must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.50. Transfer students seeking admission into the Sociology and Anthropology major must also have a minimum overall GPA of 2.50. Students select a concentration in either Sociology or Anthropology.

Students may pursue any of the following degrees:

- B.A. degree in Sociology & Anthropology: Sociology Concentration
- B.A. degree in Sociology & Anthropology: Anthropology Concentration
- Minor in Sociology or Anthropology
To successfully complete the program for graduation, all students must:

• maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 in the major
• maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0
• meet the Departmental requirements for the major and relevant concentration
• complete 30 credits at the 300/400 level
• complete a minimum of 120 credits with at least 45 at UMass D
• complete the University Studies requirements. Please follow the link https://www.umassd.edu/universitystudies/howitworks for more information on university studies requirements.
• complete the College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (BA). Here is a link to the CAS distribution requirements for the BA: https://www.umassd.edu/cas/studentsuccess/collegedistributionrequirements/

Common careers for anthropology & sociology majors

• social work
• law
• politics
• journalism
• teaching and education
• public administration
• public health
• urban planning
• public policy
• social services
• diplomacy
• non-profits
• museums and historical preservation
• government and public service
• environmental assessment
• medicine
• social activism
• policy analysis

Here are some alumni profiles:

Dr. Gloria de Sa (1982), earned her PhD and became a professor at UMass D.
Sigute Melius (2012) is Executive Director of Americans for Transit in Washington, DC.
Danielle Boudreau Miller (2012) is GIS Planner for the City of Gretna, LA.
Corinn Williams (1987), Executive Director of the CEDC in New Bedford.

Study Abroad

The department encourages students to pursue academic credit abroad in areas that are comparable to our course offerings. Discussion of program qualifications and pre-approval of credits need to be submitted to the department chair and follow the university study abroad guidelines for pre-approval of academic credit. For example, Benjamin Resendes (2018) spent a summer conducting fieldwork in Portugal. Matthew Correia (2020) participated in summer study abroad programs in the Azores.

Combining Majors and Minors

We strongly encourage students majoring in the department to consider a double major or adding a minor in related or comparable fields, ranging from history and political science to sustainability or black studies.

II. Mission Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

As sociologists and anthropologists, we are committed to conducting collaborative research and activism to serve diverse, and often marginalized communities, exposing contemporary forms of domination, imperialism, and social oppression. We stand in solidarity against racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of intolerance. We are committed to jointly build a more inclusive and diverse work environment that reflects a shared commitment to understanding the full range of human diversity and experience by:

• Offering courses that examine systems of oppression and domination
• Designing inclusive curriculum that engages a diverse body of sources and knowledge
• Recruiting and retaining a diverse body of faculty and students
• Fostering an environment where students and faculty are respected regardless of background
III. Major Requirements and Sequencing

B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology - Sociology Concentration
Courses counting for the major must be completed with a C- or higher. Remember you are accepted in the major with a 2.5 GPA, but need a 2.75 GPA in the major to graduate (C+/B).

Required Courses

- SOA 101 Introduction to Sociology (freshman year)
- SOA 200 Social Thought (sophomore year)
- SOA 211 Thinking through Writing (sophomore year)
- SOA 316 Research Methods (junior year)
- SOA 450 Internship or SOA 407 Field Inquiry (junior or senior year)
- SOA 420 Senior Seminar (senior year)

Electives: 18 credits total (= 6 courses)
- Includes only courses with SOA prefixes;
- Must include 15 upper-level credits (300 or 400 level)

TOTAL 36 credits

*B. Thesis Research – SOA 492/493, a 2-semester/6 credit sequence may be substituted for the Internship and Senior Seminar requirements. Please see thesis section in this handbook.

B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology - Anthropology Concentration
Courses counting for the major must be completed with a C- or higher. Remember you are accepted in the major with a 2.5 GPA, but need a 2.75 GPA in the major to graduate (C+/B).

Required Courses

- SOA 111 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (freshman year)
- SOA 200 Social Thought (sophomore year)
- SOA 211 Thinking through Writing (sophomore year)
- SOA 316 Research Methods (junior year)
- SOA 450 Internship or SOA 407 Field Inquiry (junior or senior year)
- SOA 420 Senior Seminar (senior year)

Electives: 18 credits total (= 6 courses)
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TOTAL 36 credits

*B. Thesis Research – SOA 492/493, a 2-semester/6 credit sequence may be substituted for the Internship and Senior Seminar requirements. Please see thesis section in this handbook.

IV. Minor Requirements

Minor in Sociology or Anthropology
A student can request a minor in sociology or anthropology after completing at least 45 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and at least a 2.5 grade point average in his/her major.

Requests must be approved by the Chair of the student’s major department and the academic advisor as well as the Chair of the Sociology & Anthropology Department. Students with majors outside the College of Arts and Sciences may complete a minor without meeting the CAS Distribution requirements.

Courses counting for the minor must be completed with a C- or higher.

Requirements for the Sociology minor include:
- an introductory course (SOA 101)
- a theory course (SOA 200; CJS 205 can be substituted)
- a methods course (SOA 316) An equivalent methods course in PSC, PSY or CJS can be substituted
- three upper-division courses (SOA prefix only; 300 or 400 level)

TOTAL: 18 CREDITS

Requirements for the Anthropology minor include:
- an introductory course (SOA 111);
- a theory course (SOA 200; CJS 205 can be substituted);
- a methods course (SOA 316). An equivalent methods course in PSC, PSY or CJS can be substituted
- three upper-division courses (ANT OR SOA prefix only, 300 or 400 level)

TOTAL: 18 CREDITS
**V. Thesis Option**

Majors in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology may opt to do a Senior Thesis, which may range from 20-40 pages. Work on a thesis project typically takes place over two consecutive semesters, beginning in either the second semester of the junior year or first semester of the senior year.

**I. Thesis Registration for 6 credits:**
- SOA 492 Thesis I (for the first semester)
- SOA 493 Thesis II (for the second semester)

**II. Thesis Registration for 9 credits**
If the project is of sufficient scope, a student may also take one independent study SOA 495, with the approval of their thesis advisor and department Chairperson.
- SOA 495 Independent Studies (for the first semester)
- SOA 492 Thesis I (for the second semester)
- SOA 493 Thesis II (for third semester)

Single-semester three credit projects are also possible.
Registration for the thesis is done this way: The faculty thesis advisor (student choice) sends an email to the Registrar's office with the student's name and ID number, requesting that the student is to be registered for either SOA 492 or 493. If the student does an Independent Study (SOA 495) in addition, that is typically done the semester BEFORE the thesis begins with 492, to build the literature review for the topic and develop the research question(s). If the student does an Independent Study, this is done in the usual proposal form for 495.

**III. Thesis fulfilling of other University Requirements**
The 6 thesis credits SOA 492 and 493 satisfy the department's Internship Seminar (SOA 450) and Capstone Seminar (SOA 420) requirements. The student can still opt to take these courses and use them to meet the elective requirements of the major.
SOA 492 will count for University Studies Cluster 5A and SOA 493 will count for University Studies 5B. The Independent Study. SOC 495, counts as one of the required upper-level electives of the major.

Each semester of thesis work should be graded separately so that the student does not lose credits for the first semester's work in case the thesis is not completed in the following semester.

**IV. Thesis Expectations & Requirements**

**Thesis format**
Typically, a thesis will consist of a 20-40 page paper (double spaced), excluding the bibliography. Other formats such as an ethnographic film or a professional research poster are subject to approval by the thesis advisor, and must be accompanied by a written paper that addresses the components below.

Students must engage with off-campus communities as part of their thesis project. They can satisfy this requirement through a research protocol that involves substantial off-campus work, or present the results of their research in a professional, off-campus setting such as the annual University of Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Conference.

The thesis may be based on extensive engagement with secondary material, analysis of primary data collected by the student (e.g. interviews, survey results, observations), and/or a social action or applied research project designed and carried out by the student.

All theses must have a cover page containing:
1. Thesis title and student name
2. Names of the members of thesis committee (at least two faculty members) and their signature
3. Name and signature of department chairperson

**Thesis Structure**
All thesis projects should have the following components:
1. Stated purpose of the project and central research question(s)
2. Theoretical framework of the study
3. Review of relevant research already conducted on the topic
4. Discussion of research methods used
5. Analysis of primary and/or secondary data
6. Discussion of the contributions the project makes to the relevant field
7. Impact and/or policy recommendations the study provides, if relevant
8. Complete and properly formatted works cited list

**Thesis Process**
The student will identify and work closely with a primary faculty advisor who will be responsible for supervising the thesis work and assigning a final grade. To assure continuity, the advisor must be a full-time, tenure-track or tenured member of the Department. The student is encouraged to consult with other faculty with expertise in relevant fields, especially if the project is interdisciplinary in nature. The thesis topic, research design, IRB approval, data collection, analysis and writing will all be closely supervised by the faculty advisor. Communication between student and faculty advisor must be mutually agreed upon and be sufficient to provide adequate support to the student.
The plan for completing the thesis should be agreed upon by the student and faculty advisor. The process should include the following steps:

1. **Declaration of interest and identification of faculty advisor:** Prior to developing a proposal, the student will meet with a faculty member and declare his or her interest in thesis work.

2. **Submission of a preliminary thesis proposal:** This should be submitted to and approved by the faculty advisor no later than the first week of the first semester of thesis work.

3. **Registration for Thesis Credit:** The semester that thesis work is to begin or during the registration period of the prior semester, the faculty advisor contacts the Registrar to get the student registered for thesis credits (SOA492/493 are not regularly listed on COIN). The student is responsible for organizing the submission of any Independent Study credits. This can be done after the regular drop/add period.

4. **Getting IRB approval for any primary data collection:** This MUST be acquired before the actual collection of the data. The faculty advisor is the principal investigator on record and is responsible for making sure this process is followed.

5. **Submission of a more detailed research plan and detailed timetable for completion:** This should be submitted to and approved by the faculty advisor no later than mid-semester of the first semester of thesis work.

6. **Regular communication with faculty advisor:** This includes progress reports, face-to-face meetings along the way, and submission of iterative steps according to guidelines and deadlines laid out by the faculty advisor.

7. **Presentation of the project to an agreed upon thesis committee and if appropriate, at relevant public venues.**

8. **Submitting a hard copy of the finished thesis to keep on file in the department.**

**Expectations of faculty thesis advisor**

Serving as a thesis advisor entails the added responsibility to effectively support the student in completing the thesis in a timely and competent manner. This means:

- Meeting regularly with the student and providing formative feedback throughout the process;
- Making sure she/he has the skills and support needed to carry out a major research project;
- Setting realistic goals and deadlines;
- Ensuring that the student has 2 additional readers. The student may suggest additional readers but it is ultimately the advisor’s responsibility to recruit readers;
- Making sure that IRB expectations are met;
- Ensuring that the appropriate credits are awarded;
- Ensuring that the thesis project complies with the “learning through engagement” requirements. Possibilities include: activist, applied or participatory research protocols (integrating volunteer work in a community-based setting as part of the research, or involving research subjects in designing the research or interpreting the results); presentation of research results in a community-based, non-academic setting.

In addition, the faculty thesis advisor must monitor the student’s work closely so that if the student’s ability or intent is insufficient to complete the thesis, the student will still have time to complete the otherwise required capstone and internship, SOA 420 and 450, respectively.

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**VI. Common Advising Issues to Keep in Mind**

1. If I receive a grade of F, I receive 0 credits for the class. The only way to replace the F is to retake the same class. If I earn a passing grade the second time around, the F is dropped and I earn 3 credits.

2. If I retake a course that I did not fail to improve my grade, the new grade is recalculated in the GPA, but I do not get 3 more credits.

3. I understand that I need a total of 120 credits to graduate. Since each regular class is worth three (3) credits, that in order to graduate in four years, I need to take five classes per semester.

4. If I withdraw from a class, I receive a W on my transcript and the class does not count towards my GPA. A W will not give me academic credit. Please review university policies on withdrawing from courses, since these may change from time to time. For policy updates see the Student Affairs web site: https://www.umassd.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/academicregulationsandprocedures/

5. For every class within the major, I am aware that I must earn at least a C- in order for the class to count towards the major. Classes in the major with grades lower than C- may count towards my free credits.

6. If I receive a grade lower than C- in one of the 6 required classes in the major, I will have to retake that class and earn a minimum grade of C- in order to graduate.

7. I understand that I can be admitted in the major with a 2.5 (C) GPA. However, in order to graduate as a Sociology/Anthropology major I need a 2.75 (B-) GPA. That means only having Cs in my major classes is not enough.

8. My major/minor requirements are explained in the department’s **Student Handbook**, which is available to all students in the secretary’s office. I have been given a copy and I understand its content.

9. In addition to my major or minor requirements, I understand I need to fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and the University Studies Requirements.

10. I need at least 30 credits (a total of 10 courses) of upper level courses, meaning courses numbered 300 or above, in residence at UMD. My major requirements will account for 24 of these credits (five 300-level electives plus three upper-level required classes), but I will need an additional 6 credits of 300/400 level classes.
## VII. Keeping Track of my Major Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOA 101/111 Introduction to Sociology/Anthropology</td>
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<td>SOA 200 Introduction to Social Thought</td>
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<td>1. ELECTIVE (any level)</td>
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<td>6. ELECTIVE (300 level or above)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>My GPA in the Major</th>
<th>My Overall GPA</th>
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<td>End of sophomore year or 60 credits</td>
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<td>End of junior year or 90 credits</td>
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<td>End of first semester senior year or 105 credits</td>
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### Advising & Acknowledgement Form

Please read carefully and sign this document to acknowledge that you have read the Student Handbook.

I (Student name)_______________________________________________________________________

ID#______________________________________________________________ have read this document, The Student Handbook for Sociology & Anthropology Majors and fully understand its content. As a college student, I am entitled to proper advising. Additionally, I have the responsibility to keep track of all College, University Studies, and Major Requirements and to be prepared for advising sessions. Furthermore, as a college student, I am also responsible to know how many credits I need to graduate, and keep track of my progress towards graduation.

Sign:___________________________________________________________ Date:_____________

(student signature)

Please note that a copy of this signed document will be kept in your advising folder in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology.