**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY**

**Welcome**
The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology provides the flexibility you need to achieve balance in your life while pursuing your educational goals. The degree is available 100% online or you may choose to take a blend of face-to-face and online courses – the decision is yours.

Sociology is the study of social life including the social causes and consequences of human behavior. It looks at groups, organizations, and societies—how they develop and change and how people interact in them. Since so much that humans do is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from crime to religion, from divisions of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, from the sociology of work to the sociology of popular music. Indeed sociology seems to offer something for everyone, and its career potential is becoming increasingly recognized by today's students.

**Studying Online**
Online classes require self-discipline and motivation, especially since you do not have a specific time and place established for class meetings. Familiarizing yourself with what’s required of an online student and the many tools available to support online learners is key!

The Orientation for Online Learners provides guest access to Blackboard, along with helpful information ranging from pre-enrollment through registration. It is designed to walk you through the different processes involved with admissions, financial aid, advising and registration. The Student Resource Portal provides one-click access to academic support and student resources across campus. The link to each area is provided below:

**Orientation for Online Learners:** [www.wku.edu/online/orientation](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation)
**Student Resource Portal:** [www.wku.edu/online/srp](http://www.wku.edu/online/srp)

In addition to online support, which is accessible in these areas, there is also a team of distance learning professionals available to answer questions, listen to your concerns and provide solutions. You can reach us at [learn.online@wku.edu](mailto:learn.online@wku.edu).
Admission Requirements
Prior to taking an online course at WKU, you must be admitted. Online students follow the same process as face-to-face students. The first step is to complete an online application for admission, which is available at http://www.wku.edu/admissions. Next, you will need to submit your supporting materials to the Office of Admissions (requirements for supporting materials are determined by your student classification, please see below for more specific information):

- **Beginning Freshman** (student who has not attended a college or university after high school graduation): An official high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores.
- **Transfer** (student who has attended one or more colleges or universities since high school graduation, but has not attended WKU): An official transcript from each college attended. If fewer than 24 semester hours of college credit has been earned, your high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores are also required. Please note: Transcripts without the official seal or those marked unofficial cannot be used.
- **Readmission** (student who has attended WKU since high school graduation): An official transcript from each college attended, other than WKU
- **Visiting** (student who is seeking a degree from another institution, but wishes to take a class at WKU to fulfill requirements at home school): A letter of good standing from the registrar’s office at your home school is required.

Supporting documentations should be mailed to the following address:

Office of Admissions
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11020
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1020

Admission Application Deadlines:

**Kentucky and Out-of-State Residents**
- Fall Semester: August 1
- Spring Semester: January 1
- Summer Term: May 1

International Students
- Fall Semester: April 1
- Spring Semester: September 1
- Summer Term: March 1

**Please note:** Deadlines are often flexible, depending on the program of study. The Sociology program offers considerable flexibility, including on demand course options.
Degree Program Requirements
A major in sociology (775) leads to a bachelor of arts degree. Students are required to complete a minimum of ten courses (31 semester hours) in sociology, including six required courses, a minor or second major and Colonnade requirements. A total of 120 credit hours are required to earn a bachelor’s degree. More information is available at http://www.wku.edu/online/online-classes.php.

You will work closely with an advisor to develop an individualized program that will fit your personal interests and career goals. Some students choose to sample a variety of topics, while others prefer to focus on a particular area of study. Examples of topical areas include social psychology, research methods and evaluation, criminology and deviance, and environmental sociology.

Please note: Courses are available through WKU Online (www.wku.edu/online), which refers to semester-based web courses, WKU On Demand, which refers to non-semester based on demand courses, face-to-face courses in Bowling Green, Owensboro, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox and Glasgow. Students may choose all online or a combination of any of the above delivery modes.

Major Required Courses (16 hours: courses below are 3 credit hours each, unless otherwise noted)

- **SOCL 100** Introduction to Sociology
- **SOCL 200** 200 Elective from List
- **SOCL 300** Using Statistics in Sociology
- **SOCL 302** Strategies of Social Research
- **SOCL 304** Sociological Theory: Perspectives on Society
- **SOCL 499** Senior Seminar* (1 credit hour)

*Requires Two Meetings

Required Electives (min. 15 Hours required, courses below are 3 credit hrs each)

- **SOCL 210** Interaction with Self and Society
- **SOCL 220** Marriage and Family
- **SOCL 240** Contemporary Social Problems
- **SOCL 309** Social Deviance
- **SOCL 322** Religion in Society
- **SOCL 324** Sociology of Sport
- **SOCL 330** Criminology
Employment Outlook
A Bachelor of Arts in Sociology allows you to:

- Study society and social behavior by examining the groups, cultures, organizations, social institutions and processes that people develop.
- Pursue a variety of careers.
- Obtain many of the skills most desired by today’s employers, including the ability to communicate effectively and promote teamwork, to frame and solve problems realistically, to plan and evaluate projects and programs, to prepare clear and concise reports and manuals, and to speak effectively in varied group situations.

Employment opportunities within the field of sociology are projected to grow 15 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The field of sociology encompasses a broad range of career paths. Positions can be found in customer service organizations (accounting for approximately 48 percent of jobs), Federal, state and local government, advocacy groups, non-profit agencies, hospitals and wellness centers and correctional facilities.

The salary range for those working in the field of sociology can range from $32,000 and $56,000 per year, depending on employer, location and level of experience, according to PayScale. The highest paying jobs will usually be with the federal government, though large municipalities may also pay at the higher end of the salary range.

Career Resources and Additional Information
Resources to aid in finding a major right for you, as well as the most current information regarding average salary, job outlook and the most common positions within the field, may be found on the websites below:

- Find Occupations, Salary Information and Job Outlook: http://www.onetonline.org/find/career
- Major and Career Search: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
Financial Aid

Eligibility
Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose, which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources

- WKU Scholarship Information, including scholarships for transfer students: http://www.wku.edu/scholarship/
- WKU Financial Aid Information: http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/
- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: https://studentaid.ed.gov
- Scholarships: How to find them, how to apply, types of scholarships: https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships

Contact Information

WKU Online
Email: learn.online@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5173
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932