

THE SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES MAJOR

OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

This multi-disciplinary social science major combines coursework from several departments. We offer courses applicable to the major in Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology.

Selected courses in Human Resource Management offered by the Business Department also apply to the major. It is not a “major” in psychology or sociology, although you may include courses from these departments.

Because of Linfield’s strong liberal arts tradition, courses focus on the historical, theoretical and philosophical foundations of each field rather than on application and techniques. You will become conversant with major theoretical approaches and with the methodologies employed by social and behavioral scientists. A strong emphasis is placed on learning how to learn and how to express yourself clearly and accurately.

II. CAREER CHOICES

Some careers allow entry level employment upon completion of a bachelor’s degree. Other careers require graduate work at the master’s or doctoral level.

Human services positions such as parole/probation officer, alcohol and drug counseling associate, Head Start teacher and community police officer generally require a bachelor’s degree for entry level positions. However, they may also require some specialized training beyond the bachelor’s degree. Careers in business and industry are more available to those with only a bachelor’s degree.

Many careers in education, teaching, counseling or government service require a minimum of a master’s degree. An undergraduate major in Social & Behavioral Sciences is preparation for entry into graduate programs such as education, counseling, social work, law, urban studies and criminal justice. For example, several graduates have been accepted into PSU’s highly selective MSW program. This major is not, however, appropriate for students seeking advanced degrees in psychology because those programs generally prefer an undergraduate major in psychology and a background in experimental psychology. Students are encouraged to contact prospective graduate schools for admissions information as early as possible.

III. PLANNING FOR THE MAJOR: CONSULT WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Requirements:

You must complete at least 40 semester credits in two or three social science departments. At least 21 of the 40 must be in Linfield coursework, and at least 15 must be in 300- and 400 level courses. No more than 20 credits from any one department may be counted toward the 40 semester credit minimum. Prior to enrolling in the research methods course, you must complete ENGL 377 Fundamentals of Research Writing and at least 12 Linfield credits in the department chosen for your project.

Selecting the departments:

You must select the two or three academic departments early in your program. This insures that you do enough work in each discipline to gain an understanding of how professionals formulate and answer questions. Your personal interests, career goals and the courses available in your community will help you decide which departments to select.

You may choose courses from the five participating Linfield disciplines. However, the majority of classes offered by DCE come from the departments of Psychology, Sociology/Anthropology (identified as one department at Linfield) and History, plus selected courses in Human Resource Management from the department of Business. If Linfield does not provide an adequate array of courses in your area of interest, we encourage you to augment your program with offerings from community colleges and other four-year institutions.

IV. HIST RESEARCH METHODS AND RESEARCH PROJECT

HIST 285 Introduction to Historical Methods is offered every fall in McMinnville. Students who are interested in the field of history are encouraged to take this class as early as possible.

All other Social & Behavioral Sciences majors will take SOA 308 Social Research Methods or PSY 190 Research Evaluation in their senior year. You must complete the research methods class before beginning the research project. Generally, the project is completed during the spring following the Methods course. You will work independently on the senior project under the supervision of a faculty member. You will communicate with your supervising faculty member through the mail, phone and an occasional face-to-face meeting.

You will find that certain topics in your courses pique your curiosity, yet time constraints limit in-depth study. Keep these areas in mind as a possible foundation for your senior project. Senior research projects have included topics as diverse as cowboy culture, shamanism and teen pregnancy. Please have in mind this type of general topic when you begin the research class. The faculty member will then help you narrow your topic and develop a thesis that can realistically be explored in the allotted time frame.

Courses are scheduled as follows:

Research Course: HIST 285 Introduction to Historical Methods (5 cr.), fall semester.

Project: HIST 490 Research Project (5 cr.), spring semester. (MWI)

Sociology & Anthropology

Research Course: SOAN 308 Social Research Methods (3 cr.), fall semester.

Project: SOAN 490 Research Project (4 cr.), spring semester (MWI).

Projects will be based on a literature search and will include observations, interviews or experimentation by the student.

V. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The research methods class will include information on the interpretation of statistical findings. While not required, a course in statistics (MATH 140 Introduction to Statistics) through Linfield, or an approved transfer course following your intermediate algebra course, would be useful. If you are considering future graduate work, you are strongly advised to consider adding both college algebra and statistics to your bachelor's degree program.

No course is required in computer skills. However, your educational and professional career will be enhanced by learning microcomputer applications.

VI. TRANSFER POLICIES

Linfield will grant transfer credit toward the Social & Behavioral Sciences major for approved courses in anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology and sociology from other accredited institutions.

Coursework from community colleges in such interdisciplinary fields as Women's Studies and Criminal Justice will not apply to Social and Behavioral Sciences major requirements.