



Research Brief #69

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Progression in Sociology and Social Science Associates Degrees

Barry C. Gribbons, Ph.D. and Daylene M. Meuschke, Ed.D.,

At the request of the Sociology department chair, the Office of Institutional Development and Technology examined the progress of students through four programs: Associate in Arts Degree Sociology (AA-Sociology), Associate in Arts Degree Sociology for Transfer (AAT-Sociology), Associate in Arts Degree Social Science (AA-Social Science), and the SHARP Certificate. The study was intended to answer two major research questions:

1. To what degree are students progressing through the degree programs?
2. Are there requirements that relatively few students complete?

In conducting the study, new students and new transfer students in 2010/11 were identified. The courses successfully completed with a grade “C” or better or pass were identified. From these data, the number of degree requirements and which degree requirements was determined using SPSS. Table 1 lists the degree requirements for the programs studied.

Table 1. Degree Requirements

Degree Program	Requirements
Associate of Arts, Sociology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOCI-101 or 101(H) 2. SOCI-102 3. SOCI-108 4. Four courses from: SOCI-103, SOCI-103H, SOCI-105, SOCI-110, SOCI-150, SOCI-200, SOCI-200H, SOCI-205, SOCI-207, SOCI-208, SOCI-210, SOCI-230, SOCI-233 5. One course from: SOCI-135, MATH-140, MATH-140H, 6. Recommended elective: SOCI-136
Associate of Arts, Sociology for Transfer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOCI-101 or 101(H) 2. Two courses from: SOCI-102, MATH-140, MATH-140H, PSYCH-104, or SOCI-135 3. Two courses from: PSYCH-109, SOCI-103, SOCI-103H, SOCI-108, SOCI-150, SOCI-200, SOCI-200H, or SOCI-207 4. One course from: PSYCH-109, SOCI-103, SOCI-103H, SOCI-105, SOCI-108, SOCI-110, SOCI-136, SOCI-150, SOCI-200, SOCI-200H, SOCI-207, SOCI-208, SOCI-210, SOCI-230, SOCI-233.
Associate of Arts, Social Science	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One course from: PSYCH-101, PSYCH-101H, PSYCH-172, OR PSYCH-172H 2. One course from: ANTHRO-103, ANTHRO-103H, or ANTHRO-210 3. One course from: SOCI-101, SOCI-101H, or SOCI-207 4. One course from: HIST-101, HIST-102, or HIST-161 5. One course from: POLISC-230, POLISC-250, or POLISC-270. 6. Three courses from: BUS-126, COMS-260, ECON-201, ECON-201H, GEOG-102, HIST-120, HIST-120H, HIST-240, PSYCH-235, PSYCH-240, PSYCH-272, SOCI-103, SOCI-103H, SOCI-105, SOCI-150, SOCI-200, SOCI-200H, or SOCI-233

Degree Program	Requirements
SHARP Certificate of Specialization	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SHARP-1012. SHARP-1023. SHARP-1034. SHARP-1045. Plus a minimum of one unit from: CWE-188

Courses completed by students were tracked from their first course in 2010/11 to Winter 2014. There are two important notes. The analyses included all new students and new transfer students in 2010/11, and did not exclude any students based on stated educational goal. This was done to allow the actual course taking behavior to be analyzed independent of the stated educational goal. The second note is that only local courses successfully completed were included. Courses completed at other colleges and Advanced Placement courses were not available to be included in these analyses.

Degree Completion

As indicated in Tables 2 through 5, more than 2,000 new students or new transfer students completed one or more Sociology courses. With regard to the AA-Sociology, 26 of the 33 students who completed seven or eight of the requirements earned an associate degree. All but one of the degrees was in Sociology. Of the 125 students who completed four to six requirements, 34 earned an associate degree and 12 of the 34 associate degrees were in Sociology.

Table 2. Number of Associate in Arts Degree Sociology Requirements Completed

Number of Requirements	Number of Students	Number of Students Completing Degrees or Certs	Number of Sociology Degrees
0	5064	173	0
1	1500	194	0
2	541	142	0
3	182	59	0
4	65	15	1
5	40	10	4
6	20	9	7
7	18	15	14
8	15	11	11

With regard to the AAT-Sociology Degree requirements, 36 of the 75 students who completed five or six of the degree requirements earned an associate degree related to Sociology. Ten of the 75 students earned degrees other than Sociology. There were 288 students who completed three or four requirements, with 89 completing an associate degree, only one of which was a Sociology degree.

Table 3. Number of Associate in Arts Degree Sociology for Transfer Requirements Completed

Number of Requirements	Number of Students	Number of Students Completing Degrees or Certs	Number of Sociology Degrees
0	5044	165	0
1	1487	180	0
2	551	148	0
3	202	71	0
4	86	18	1
5	37	17	8
6	38	29	28

With regard to the AA-Social Science degree program, 899 students completed three or more requirements. Of the 899 students, 268 completed Associate degrees and only 84 were Social Science degrees.

Table 4. Number of Associate in Arts Degree Social Science Requirements Completed

Number of Requirements	Number of Students	Number of Students Completing Degrees or Certs	Number of Social Science Degrees
0	4082	108	0
1	1506	105	3
2	958	147	14
3	529	138	33
4	237	70	27
5	98	42	12
6	22	10	4
7	8	4	4
8	5	4	4

A total of 26 students in the 2010/11 new student and new transfer student cohort completed one or more SHARP courses. Of the 26 students, four completed all four requirements.

Table 5. Number of SHARP Requirements Completed

Number of Requirements	Number of Students	Number of Students Completing Degrees or Certs
0	7419	622
1	9	2
2	5	0
4	12	4

Completion of Degree Requirements

Tables 6 through 9 indicates the number of students who have completed each of the requirements for the degrees listed. For the AA-Sociology degree, the greatest number of students completed the first (SOC1-101 or 101H) and fifth (SOC1-135, MATH-140, or MATH-140H) requirements. Relatively few students completed the second requirement (SOC1-102) and third requirement (SOC1-108). While 721 students completed one of the courses for the fourth requirement (SOC1-103, SOC1-103H, SOC1-105, SOC1-110, SOC1-150, SOC1-200, SOC1-200H, SOC1-205, SOC1-207, SOC1-208, SOC1-210, SOC1-230, or SOC1-233), 59 students completed all four required courses. Only 3 students completed the elective (SOC1-136).

Table 6. Number Students Completing each Requirement for the Associate in Art Sociology Degree

	Number of Students One Class	Number of Students Two Classes	Number of Students Three Classes	Number of Students Four Classes
Requirement #1	1570			
Requirement #2	95			
Requirement #3	102			
Requirement #4	721	158	49	59
Requirement #5	764			
Elective	3			

With regard to the AAT-Sociology Degree program, the most frequent requirements met was requirement #1 (SOC1-101 or 101H). At least 400 students completed at least one course for each of the requirements.

Only 58 students completed both required courses for Requirement #2 (SOC1-102, MATH-140, MATH-140H, PSYCH-104, or SOC1-135).

Table 7. Number Students Completing each Requirement for the Associate in Art Sociology for Transfer Degree

	Number of Students: Once Class	Number of Students: Two Classes
Requirement #1	1570	
Requirement #2	783	58
Requirement #3	670	198
Requirement #4	417	

For the AA-Social Science Degree program, the most frequent requirements completed were the first (PSYCH-101, PSYCH-101H, PSYCH-172, OR PSYCH-172H) and third requirement (SOC1-101, SOC1-101H, or SOC1-207). Relatively few students completed the fifth (POLISC-230, POLISC-250, or POLISC-270) or all three courses for Requirement #6 (BUS-126, COMS-260, ECON-201, ECON-201H, GEOG-102, HIST-120, HIST-120H, HIST-240, PSYCH-235, PSYCH-240, PSYCH-272, SOC1-103, SOC1-103H, SOC1-105, SOC1-150, SOC1-200, SOC1-200H, or SOC1-233).

Table 8. Number Students Completing each Requirement for the Associate in Art Social Science Degree

	Number of Students: Once Class	Number of Students: Two Classes	Number of Students: Three Classes
Requirement #1	1877		
Requirement #2	516		
Requirement #3	1610		
Requirement #4	385		
Requirement #5	83		
Requirement #6	1151	357	113

As indicated in Table 9, a very similar number of students completed each of the SHARP requirements, ranging from 12 to 25 students. The four requirements were SHARP 101, SHARP 102, SHARP 103, and SHARP 104, respectively.

Table 9. Number Students Completing each Requirement for the SHARP Certificate

	Number of Students
Requirement #1	25
Requirement #2	18
Requirement #3	12
Requirement #4	12

These results of these analyses should be used for program planning. In particular, the department should consider implications for targeted communications with students who have taken several courses, encouraging them to continue to complete the program. The results also can be used in consideration of revisions to the programs, especially relative to similar programs at COC.

For more detailed information on this research brief, stop by the Institutional Research office located in BONH-224, or call Daylene Meuschke, Dean of Institutional Research at 661.362.5329.