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RICE UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

ADVISING BOOK

CONTENTS

03	Introduction
04	Why Social Sciences?
05	Finding Your Focus
07	Four Year Planning
19	Research
20	The Gateway Program
21	After Graduation
26	Overview of Majors, Programs & Minors
29	Anthropology
38	Economics
45	Mathematical Economic Analysis
50	Managerial Economics & Organizational Sciences
58	Linguistics
67	Political Science
76	Psychology
85	Sociology
94	Sport Management
104	Inter-Departmental Majors
105	Cognitive Sciences
114	Social Policy Analysis
123	Contacts

WHAT IS THIS BOOKLET?

This booklet is designed to give potential Social Sciences majors a sense of direction for their four years at Rice. By no means should this book be used as an end-all, be-all guide; instead, let it help you see possible directions and be used as an “extra” to other resources and conversations. This booklet is meant for all students: those who are undecided, who are considering several different major options, or who are ready to plan their next steps in one major. Please remember that this booklet can in no way capture every experience of every Rice student. It merely provides examples and may point out specifics that may not apply to your aspirations.

The General Announcements (ga.rice.edu) is the absolute final say on all graduation and degree requirements. If there are any discrepancies between this booklet and the General Announcements (GA), the GA is correct.

For other resources, please visit:

- The General Announcements – ga.rice.edu
- The Office of Academic Advising – oaa.rice.edu
- School of the Social Sciences – socialsciences.rice.edu
- Course Catalogue – courses.rice.edu
- Gateway for the Social Sciences – socialsciencesgateway.rice.edu

WHY SOCIAL SCIENCE?

The social sciences examine, from a scientific perspective, the ways in which people think and act. As scientists and engineers seek to understand and find solutions for the natural world, social scientists study problems and design solutions for the social world. If the Humanities is the study of what people create, the Social Sciences is the study of what people do. The questions we ask are relatively slippery, there may not be a simple solution, but one requiring complex perspective and thorough research. The social sciences teach translatable research skills, those that can be applied in many settings. Students and faculty in the Social Sciences are working to improve the world for its inhabitants, and to look for explanations and solutions to problems of societal concern.


A focus on action and behavior is at the center of all the programs of study in the School of Social Sciences. Rice houses 7 departments (with 9 majors and 2 minors) and 2 interdisciplinary majors. Research is at the heart of each of these programs, and Rice has access to a number of research centers based on campus and in Houston.

FINDING YOUR FOCUS

Some majors offered in the School of Social Sciences are quite linear, while others will have fewer course requirements and thus more flexibility. Even the most rigid majors in the Social Sciences, however, allow time for you to explore and take classes in other disciplines. To take advantage of your time at Rice, it is thus vital to look for a broader context, instead of just what it will take to meet your formal requirements.

Some students struggle to define the career path or direction of their coursework and other opportunities in the Social Sciences. Develop one or two longer-term goals unique to you, and use those to guide your choices. What do you want your accomplishments to be? How do you want to set yourself apart, either from your cohort at Rice or from students in your major at comparable universities? It is hard to define your own criteria, but defining and communicating these criteria can be important for your future employer or postgraduate admissions committees, or simply for your own self-reflection.

Additionally, consider how the work will scale as you continue and move to higher-level coursework. Research and work in the Social Sciences varies from highly quantitative and requiring coordination with many people, to highly individualized and requiring focused concentration.



As you take higher level courses, you will be asked to develop your own projects and opinions. It can be helpful to set concrete, long-term goals. You can also use your goals and achievements as metrics to express your progress – either against expectations in your field or to potential employers.

Here are some examples of long-term goals and accomplishments, though this is by no means a comprehensive list:

- Answering a big question about human behavior
- Learning more about a certain culture, group, or phenomenon
- Developing a new skill or knowledge set
- Improving your writing
- Gaining analytic abilities
- Using a language beyond English
- Working or studying abroad
- Researching individually or with others
- Finding internships and careers
- Attending graduate school

These are just some examples, and your goals will likely change over your four years. This is totally fine – but letting your goals guide you will help make course selection and four-year planning easier.

Developing this plan early can help you shape your Rice experience, though it is always important to explore varied interests and try new things. Especially early in your time at Rice, taking new classes in a variety of disciplines can help open up new paths.

FOUR-YEAR PLANNING

Four-Year Planning can be a bit daunting in the Social Sciences, simply because each major varies in its requirements and linearity, leaving spaces where you must decide what classes to take or mandating stricter paths that must be planned more carefully in advanced. Some majors, like Anthropology and Linguistics, require 10 or 12 courses (30- 36 credit hours), whereas others require more – Psychology and Sport Management, for instance, require 15 courses (about 45 credit hours). Some, like Economics and Psychology, have courses with strict prerequisites, whereas others, like Sociology and Anthropology , require fewer prerequisites. However, this still leaves plenty of white space, which you can take advantage of as well.

The next few pages will walk you through how to effectively make a four-year plan by yourself, regardless of major. However, it can still be helpful to talk through your plans with a Major Advisor, Peer Academic Advisor, or an Advisor from the OAA. Here are the five basic steps to consider:

1. Major Requirements
2. Distribution Courses
3. Other University Requirements (LPAP, FWIS)
4. Filling in the “White Space”
5. Considering the Big Picture

STEP 1: GET IN YOUR REQUIREMENTS

The last thing you want is to stumble through your years at Rice only to find out that you missed your requirements and have to haphazardly shove everything into your last semester. Therefore, the first thing to do when making your four-year plan is to fit in the courses required for your major. The latter portion of this booklet is designed to give you more specific guidance about the major you're interested in. To get started, you'll need the General Announcements. The information is nicely packaged in this booklet, but in case of a disagreement in information, the GA is always right. You can pull up your major requirements fairly easily. Some majors require electives that may not reliably be offered – but it will always be feasible to make a plan without necessarily knowing what classes you'll take each semester by number and professor.

Most courses at Rice are 3 credit hours, with some exceptions. This means that they should meet about 3 hours a week. Some classes may be more or fewer credit hours, so pay attention in the course listing! Students take between 12-18 credit hours per semester. Most students take about 15 credit hours, which is about 5 courses per semester. When planning your schedule, you can aim for this number and then add or subtract as you see fit.

Let's say that the major you're interested in has 14 classes. (Remember that this is just an example). Assuming you take some time to explore in your early semesters, here's a potential way of distributing those 14 classes.

SAMPLE FOUR YEAR PLAN

Fall Year 1	Spring Year 1	Fall Year 2	Spring Year 2
Intro Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Fall Year 3	Spring Year 3	Fall Year 4	Spring Year 4
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	

Say, however, you're going through your schedule, and you find you want to add a minor (usually 6 classes) on top of your major, or some other concentration you've decided to pursue. No problem - just lay out both:

Fall Year 1	Spring Year 1	Fall Year 2	Spring Year 2
Intro Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Minor Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
	Minor Req	Minor Req	Minor Req
Fall Year 3	Spring Year 3	Fall Year 4	Spring Year 4
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Minor Req
		Minor Req	

STEP 2: LET'S TALK DISTRIBUTION

Rice requires all its students to take 3 classes (9 credit hours) that fall into three groups. Distribution I (D1) courses are those found in the Humanities, Distribution II (D2) courses are those found in the Social Sciences, and Distribution III (D3) courses are those found in Natural Sciences and Engineering. Not every class in each of the schools will count for distribution, so be sure that when choosing classes, they actually do count for the distribution credit you are hoping for. Being a Social Sciences major, it is likely you will get all your D2 courses from your major requirements. However, the others will require you to select courses outside your comfort zone.

Distribution Requirements can be one of two things: a bite-the-bullet-class you hate, or a class that opens your eyes to a new way of thinking, provides a fantastic break from your normal routine, and lets you apply your analytic skills in a whole new way. Obviously, it's better to look for classes that will fit into the second category, and the easiest way to do this is to look for distribution classes that you actually have an interest in. If you hear the phrase "easy distribution class," beware! The best thing you can do is to ignore what people say about the "easy" classes. We're at Rice University - there are no easy classes. Plus, you're much more likely to want to put in the work to a class you enjoy. If you don't like a class, no matter how "easy" it may be, it will be a lot harder to succeed, and you're much more likely to regret your experience.

So, when picking your distribution courses, think about the following things:

What can this class teach me about the topics I'm passionate about?

For example, students interested in logic or human behavior might get a lot out of a class in Computer Science (D3), which requires a new way of thinking.

What classes did I really like in high school that I haven't been able to take in college?

For example, students that liked Chemistry but don't want to take first-year chemistry might want to try out Chemistry of Cooking, or Chemistry of Art (D3).

What have I never tried before?

For example, not many high schools are teaching Classics or Art History (D1). College is a great time to try new subjects or to revisit subjects that are taught differently between high school and college (i.e., most of them).

How do I want to engage with this material?

If you don't like lecture classes...don't take a lecture class. Alternatively, if you have a lot of seminar classes in your schedule for your major, maybe having a larger, lecture-based class would be a nice change of pace and work type.

People schedule their distribution requirements differently, but this booklet makes the case for spreading them out. Spreading out distribution requirements allows you to regularly have a change of pace from your major requirement classes and electives you take. This way, you aren't cramming in distribution after distribution in your first few semesters to "free up space" later. In addition, your goals and priorities will change. If you take three biology classes and one math class in your first two semesters to cross off your D3 requirements, but in your junior year, you decide to take a computer science course, one of those courses won't count towards your D3. Of course, you are entirely encouraged to take those biology, math, and computer science courses because you want to - but don't feel like you need to cram them in early.

Remember, you have to take 3 of each, but you will likely fulfill D2 requirements just by taking your major requirements. On the next page, you can see what the schedule we drafted in the previous section looks like with distribution courses.

Fall Year 1	Spring Year 1	Fall Year 2	Spring Year 2
Intro Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Minor Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
D1	Minor Req	Minor Req	Minor Req
	D3	D1	D3
Fall Year 3	Spring Year 3	Fall Year 4	Spring Year 4
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Minor Req
D3	D1	Minor Req	

If, one semester, you find yourself really not drawn to a distribution course being offered, there is no harm in shifting these requirements to an open slot. Try not to take distribution classes in your last semester at Rice, as you would like the flexibility to drop the class if necessary. Once again— you still have room to move things around, so long as you plan ahead and understand what your requirements are. Make the remaining white space really and truly yours.

STEP 3: LPAP + FWIS

You will take FWIS either first semester your first year or second semester your first year. If you are obligated to take FWIS 100, this simply means that you will take FWIS both semesters (in most cases, in lieu of a free elective). You can plan your LPAP whenever you would like one. Some students will take LPAP first or second semester to get in the habit of using Rice's fitness resources and develop good habits early on in college. However, a lot of LPAP courses can be difficult to get into. Be careful, once again, about saving your LPAP until your senior year, but otherwise, have fun scheduling it in wherever you see fit. You can take up to four LPAPs for credit (each is 1 credit hour), but you can take more (without receiving credit) if you wish.

Fall Year 1	Spring Year 1	Fall Year 2	Spring Year 2
Intro Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Minor Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
D1	Minor Req	Minor Req	Minor Req
FWIS (?)	D3	D1	D3
FWIS (?)			
Fall Year 3	Spring Year 3	Fall Year 4	Spring Year 4
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Major Req
Major Req	Major Req	Major Req	Minor Req
D3	D1	Minor Req	
		LPAP (?)	

STEP 4: FILLING THE WHITE SPACE


After major requirements, there are a lot of options you still have. You can use your major electives and free electives to tailor your academic plan to your tastes. Here are some considerations to keep in mind when you're selecting classes for a new semester.

First and foremost: Don't take too many hours. Taking a heavy course load doesn't mean you are smarter or more diligent than your peers. Instead, you will be overbooked and too tired to do your best work. Most students find the "sweet spot" to be between 12 and 15 hours. You will get out of a class what you put in. If you're not putting in very much, it's always better to wait and take the class when you have the time to devote more energy to it.

Second, consider that your courses are the core of your college experience. Yes, you will have important experiences outside the classroom, but do not take your courses for granted. Classes can help you learn foundational skills you will use for independent projects and your career, build relationships with peers and professors, and launch projects that may continue past a single semester. Each course you choose should be consciously seen this way: they should either help you move towards your long-term goals or be an exploration of a new path or interest.

Third, think about the long-term possibilities of a course. See if, in choosing a course, you can answer some of these questions:

- Could a paper or project you are writing for this class be expanded and polished enough to be published or function as the basis of a research project?
- Would you want to take a second class or do future research with a professor you are working with?
- Would your professor be able to write you a good letter of recommendation?



Fourth, consider how you are choosing among the disciplines on offer. If you feel you have “done” a subject in high school or have taken an end-all-be-all AP test, tread with caution! High school courses have different formats, expectations, and outcomes than similar-sounding courses you will take at Rice. At the university level, these subjects are no longer assignments to be mastered (although there is technique and data mastery along the way), but rather disciplines to think through. Also, politics weigh heavily on K-12 education, in all countries. The college classroom is a far freer environment for subject matter and debate than high school. For highly politicized subject matter, college-level study is a revelation. At the same time, don’t dismiss disciplines because they are unfamiliar and were not offered in high school.

STEP 5: CONSIDER THE BIG PICTURE

Being at Rice is not just about your classes. There are other aspects to being a Social Sciences student that you can take advantage of – e.g, clubs, co-curricular leadership programs, research, internships, and study abroad.

The next few pages will walk you through some of these co-curricular options, all of which could become central to your Rice experience. It's important to consider, as part of your schedule planning, how much time these extracurricular activities may take up.

When you're done, you'll probably have a 4-Year Plan that looks something like the generalized example below. Remember: in any of the spaces that are opened, you can choose whatever course you would like, or you can elect to not take a course at all.

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Intro Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Minor Req	3	Major Req	3
D1	3	Minor Req	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Minor Req	3	Minor Req	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Major Req	3	Minor Req	3
Minor Req	3	Open	3
LPAP ?	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3


RESEARCH

Research experience sets you apart because research is unique to you. With independent research, or even some research guided by a professor, you are no longer completing an assignment; you are creating the assignment.

In some majors, the most typical form of research project would be something in the form of a scientific experiment followed by a paper. Maybe it takes the form of a senior thesis. You could be working on a concentrated research project, like a lab or survey experiment, in a team. For the most part, since the social sciences focuses on the study of human interactions and behavior, your research question will never truly “solve” a problem or “finish” answering a question. The flexibility of society and human life is that by generation and events of the world, scholarship will continue to provide new commentary on the questions you have to ask and answer.

We suggest you start by thinking about where you would like the project to take you—that is, where you would like to be when the project is complete. Once you decide something like “I want to find out...” or “I want to prove that...” or “I want to use X materials...” then you will have usefully narrowed down your options. When choosing a topic, consider starting with a general problem and context, and then look for a problem or question your research will then seek to solve or answer.

What form can research take? It can be a paper, a poster presentation, a survey, a lab experiment, a multi-media project, or several other possibilities. Ultimately, though, it will often pose and answer some sort of research question. Perhaps this project begins as a regular assignment within a course, or for a summer-long or semester-long independent study course, or as a year-long thesis. A faculty mentor may work with you in the context of a regular course or serve as your research mentor outside of any course. If needed, travel may be an important factor in your research. Ask in your department or in the Social Sciences Gateway Program to find out if you can obtain funding for research travel from Rice. Summer is the best time for travel.



How do you choose a faculty mentor? It is not always obvious which faculty are willing to mentor or invite help on research projects, and the courses faculty teach may not be indicative of the range of topics for which they are willing to serve as mentor. Look at their departmental webpages. You simply have to take the initiative and start asking around and approaching faculty members. They may or may not agree to mentor you for an independent research project, but they never mind being asked! If it is the right fit, they will be happy to mentor you; if it isn't, they won't be hurt if you go elsewhere. Realize that faculty need lead time. Most faculty are already booked for the next semester, but can easily plan for the next academic year.

THE GATEWAY PROGRAM

Students may often wonder, 'what can I do with a social sciences degree?' and the Gateway Program is here to help social sciences students understand various career paths and graduate school options for life after Rice.

The Gateway Program offers a wide variety of opportunities in the form of practica, research travel stipends and alumni Owl-Connect events. The practica are industry-specific semester or year-long opportunities to work with an employer in finance and banking, consulting, or the legal field while earning course credit from a Rice faculty member.

Specific program information on the Gateway website - socialsciencesgateway.rice.edu/.

For additional internship and job search assistance you can start in a number of places. The Center for Career Development – either in person or through Handshake, the online portal – can present to you a number of options. You can also find internships through external research on employer websites and through contacts you've already made.

Remember when choosing to take part in an internship opportunity, particularly in the school year, that an internship or practicum may take up more time than just the hours you spend there – transportation costs, external work, and any sort of report required by the program, may also be a strain on your time.

AFTER GRADUATION

Some majors in the Social Sciences prepare graduates in obvious ways for a future careers – Sports Management majors are given connections in sports industry, Economics majors may be interested in finance or economic research, etcetera. However, most majors are not vocational preparation and instead can lead to a wide array of jobs and careers. Since there are so many more jobs out there than there are majors and minors at a university, it can be difficult, regardless of major, to identify and prepare for careers after graduation. One encouraging resource is at studentachievement.rice.edu/employment, which is an online tool that allows you to filter recent Rice graduate careers by major.

The vast majority of jobs do not require highly specific technical skills, or if they do, those skills are easily learned right before or after you are hired. The first thing a new employee of a large firm who has sixteen years of high-quality education does is to...be trained! The following are examples of marketable professional skills that your social sciences coursework gives you. Here are a few examples of these vague, but vital skills:

- Ability to analyze problems.
- Qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis skills
- Sophisticated breadth of reference and worldly basis for understanding.
- Ability to develop and test reasonable theories and analyze information about the existing world
- Appreciation of contestation and diversity of opinion
- Ability to express oneself clearly when writing or speaking.

All of these skills will always be valuable, in any field of training and in any kind of organization. If you have done well in social sciences courses, you have these skills (and this is not an exhaustive list). However, you must turn some attention to showing these skills to employers when you apply for jobs and other opportunities.

A job search is a pretty substantial undertaking in itself. However, the things you practice in a good job search come in handy again and again, so it is worth it. Talk to people in the Center for Career Development. Ask your professors, family members, friends' families etc. for contacts in the field you think you are interested in, and when you find appropriate contacts, ask them a set of questions you've developed and refined.

Graduate or Professional School

If you are considering a degree after the BA, plan on having multiple conversations with people in the specific discipline and subfield that interests you. It's fine to talk about graduate school plans and then change your mind about going completely, so don't hesitate to ask! Here are some other considerations:

PhD Programs

You may apply right after receiving your BA, or you may wait a year or more. Either is fine. However, if you do the latter, be aware that those reading your application will want to know why you did so, and what you gained from it. Avoid thinking of such gap-year time as a break. Think of it as doing something else.

You should not have to pay to attend a PhD program; the program should pay you, with a fellowship stipend over all or most of the years you will require. You won't be wealthy, but you should be able to cover your basic housing and food costs with the stipend. A PhD will usually take between 5 and 7 years to complete. Apply to multiple programs and remember to ask what conditions (length of stipend support, teaching obligations, etc.) are attached to the fellowship package that is offered. These general tips can be used to apply to other higher education options, such as Master's degrees.


Professional Master's Degrees

You may also consider some of the Professional Master's Degrees available in the School of Social Sciences. Each of these programs offers unique, in-depth, graduate-level studies into a specific field. Students considering finishing their undergraduate studies early may find staying for a master's degree a worthwhile endeavor for their future career.

- Master of Energy Economics
- Master of Global Affairs
- Master of Human Factors and Human Computer Interaction
- Master of Social Policy Evaluation

Law Programs

Law schools are typically not critical of the type of classes a student has taken, as long as they demonstrate critical thinking and a robust sense of vigor and interest. Students are generally considered based on GPA and how they score on the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), which most students take after their junior year.



Students interested in law generally don't have to make any changes to their four-year plan, although many pre-law students find interests in classes more geared towards law – examples include ECON 239: Economics of Law, POLI 321: American Constitutional Law, SMGT 364: Sport Law, and so on. The Sport Management major specifically offers a concentration in sport law.

Many classes about law also exist in the Humanities and may make good Distribution I requirements, including PHIL 316: Philosophy of Law, or RELI 118: Religion, Morality, and Law. For instance, many students find interdisciplinary minors such as Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities (PJHC) or Politics, Law, and Social Thought (PLST) relevant to their Rice career. Take these sorts of classes to ensure that you are actually interested in pursuing a career in law.

Business Programs

Students with an interest in business may consider the new Managerial Economics and Organizational Sciences major or the Sport Management major in the School of Social Sciences. The Jones School of Business offers a Business major and a Business Minor.

Medical Programs

Many students interested in medical school major in the Social Sciences. In fact, many medical schools are increasingly looking for Social Sciences students to admit to their programs, as students in the social sciences have both the analytic skills as well as creative thinking, and a nuanced understanding of people required to be a good doctor that may not be completely explored in the more common STEM track.

If you are interested in being a Social Sciences and premed student, it is possible to manage all your requirements. The most important thing to consider is where you should place your pre-med requirements, as they will be less flexible than your major requirements in most cases. Here is a suggested four-year plan for a student without AP credit majoring in the Social Sciences, with a 14-course major plan. A more detailed explanation of requirements for Medical Programs can be located in the OAA's Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Guide, at <https://oaa.rice.edu/pre-health-professions>.

EXAMPLE PRE-MED SCHEDULE

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
CHEM 121	3	CHEM 122	3
CHEM 123	3	CHEM 124	3
BIOC 201	3	BIOC 211/ EBIO 213	3
PSYC/SOCI	3	FWIS/Major Req	3
FWIS/Maj Req	3	Major Req	3
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PHYS 125	3	PHYS 126	3
CHEM 211	3	CHEM 212	3
PSYC/SOCI	3	CHEM 215	3
Major Req	3	EBIO 202	3
Major Req	3	Major Req	3

EXAMPLE PRE-MED SCHEDULE (CONT)

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
BIOC 301	3	PHYS 126	3
MATH 101	3	Approved STAT	3
BIO Elective	3	BIO Elective	3
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Open	3	Open	3
Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
Major req	3	Major Req	3
Major Req	3	Major Req	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL MAJORS & PROGRAMS

Departments with Majors (and in some cases, Minors)


Anthropology is the study of the cultural roots of our world through in-depth study either of either socio-cultural anthropology, focusing particularly on elites, gender, art, science, and medicine, or in archaeology, looking at the human past. The department offers both a major and a minor.

Economics studies how the behavior of individuals, businesses, and governments determines the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in an economy. In addition to its standard Economics (ECON) major, the department offers a much more mathematically-intensive major in **Mathematical Economic Analysis** (MTEC).

The department also offers a new major, **Managerial Economics and Organizational Sciences (MEOS)**. The latter combines classes across the school to train students in the underlying science that informs management (economics, psychology, political science).

Linguistics is the study of language, its structure, and how people use it. We offer a major that analyzes language as it relates to: social identities, diversity, and inequities; cognitive sciences and neuroscience; speech perception and vocal physiology; language history, evolution, and development; and the endangerment and revitalization of indigenous languages. Majors are encouraged to work with faculty on research projects, and can develop their own projects in our Honors Program.

Political Science is the scientific study of political institutions, political behavior, and public policy. The major has three main areas of study: American Politics (the study of politics in the United States), International Relations (the study of how countries interact with one another), and Comparative Politics (the study of domestic politics in countries outside the United States).



Psychology is the study of the brain and behavior. The major requires core classes in social psychology, cognitive psychology, research methods, and statistics. It also allows students to focus on specific fields such as cognitive and affective neuroscience; human factors; industrial-organizational psychology, and psychometrics.

Sociology is the study of how people interact in groups and societies, focusing on understanding the underlying structures and phenomena at work. The department offers both a major and a minor, both of which examine the issues at the hearts of cities and communities.

Sport Management explores business and law as it relates to the sport industry. Majors specialize in either analytics, law, or leadership, but get a broad set of skills relating to finance, management, legal and statistical analysis, and public relations.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL MAJORS

Cognitive Sciences is an interdisciplinary major drawing on linguistics and psychology in the School of Social Sciences as well as departments in the Humanities, Natural Sciences and in Engineering. The goal of the major is to understand interdisciplinary perspectives on the question of how the mind works, including questions about perception, thought, memory, language, concept formation, and consciousness.

Social Policy Analysis focuses on analyzing the policy that has been made to improve human well-being. Students are trained both to critique and understand existing policies and design and propose solutions to social problems.

DEPARTMENT MAJORS

30	ANTHROPOLOGY
38	ECONOMICS
45	MATHEMATICAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
50	MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS & ORGANIZATIONAL SCIENCES
58	LINGUISTICS
67	POLITICAL SCIENCE
76	PSYCHOLOGY
85	SOCIOLOGY
94	SPORT MANAGEMENT

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology stands at the crossroads of the humanities and social sciences. It is the comparative science of human thought, experience and behavior in all its social forms. Blending core commitments to deep empirical analysis, to field and archival research techniques and to advancing social theory, anthropology is one of the most vibrant and diverse fields of research in the human sciences today. It is also one of the most flexible and well-rounded undergraduate majors in the liberal arts, preparing students for careers in fields like journalism, community organizing, humanitarian aid, and historic preservation. In an increasingly global era, anthropological thinking has become part of the equipment of modern life. Rice offers two possible concentrations for the major: Social/Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology, as well as an Anthropology minor.



*Rice Anthropology Field School in Basanga, Zambia
Students with Anthropology Professor Jeff Fleisher*

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 10 (30+ credit hours)
- **How many courses at the upper (300+) level?** 6 (18 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** ANTH 201, 203, or 205
- **What's the methods course?** ANTH 362, 398
- **Are there honors?** Students must complete a re-search capstone, but they may apply for honors
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** Complete research either with professors or as an independent study, and take other subjects, such as history.
- **What should I look out for?** Be aware that Anthropology research methods and class styles vary, so be ready to learn a lot of different skills.

Considerations

- Anthropology does have two tracks: one socio-cultural, the other archaeological. These tracks provide some focus for undergraduates but students can take classes across the department in either track. It will be up to you to work with Major Advisors to find the best way to meet the departmental requirements for one of these two foci.
- There are very often other events held by the Anthropology department, which are sometimes listed on the homepage of the department's website. Take advantage of getting to know faculty and graduate students in the department, who are doing their own rather specific research and can be good resources for your own career, research, or personal interests.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Degree Requirements

Major Requirements

- 2 introductory courses
 - ANTH 201: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
 - ANTH 203: Human Antiquity – An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Prehistory
 - ANTH 205: Introduction to Archaeology
- 1 Methods Course
 - ANTH 362: Archaeological Field Techniques
 - ANTH 398: Ethnographic Research Methods
- 1 Theory Course
 - ANTH 302: Anthropological Theory – A Survey
 - ANTH 460: Advanced Archaeological Theory
- Completion of 1 Research Sequence
 - Capstone: ANTH 493 followed by ANTH 495: Anthropology Capstone
 - Honors Research: ANTH 493 plus ANTH 490/491: Directed Honors Research

Major Electives

Students need 6 courses at the upper division (300+) level. A student may choose from any ANTH course offerings at the 300-level or above. Courses taken to satisfy the research sequence (described above) may be applied here too. Additionally, students can petition the major advisor to have up to two relevant courses from outside of the department counted toward these electives.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Additional Notes

The Anthropology introductory courses are meant to be survey courses that form the foundation of the rest of your experience as an Anthropology major, but they do not need to be taken in a particular order. ANTH also has its own sequence of courses in terms of theory and methods, and these classes can be informative in your electives and research courses.

Even if you're unsure if you would like to major or simply minor in Anthropology, several of the courses overlap; you can choose to start with these classes first or fit them later into your schedule.

As requirements are flexible (except for the senior research sequence), you can rearrange classes however they make sense.

On occasion, courses from other departments and from study abroad can be transferred as Anthropology credit, but even if not, Anthropology benefits from being a department in which there are a lot of disciplines coming together. You can get more out of your classes by exploring other perspectives and disciplines. Courses in the Humanities as well as the Social Sciences can teach you more about your specific research areas as well as help guide you to find what it is you would like to continue and learn.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Sample Four-Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ANTH Intro	3	ANTH Theory	3
D1	3	ANTH Elective	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ANTH Methods	3	ANTH Intro	3
D1	3	ANTH Elective	3
Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ANTHROPOLOGY

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ANTH Elective	3	ANTH Elective	3
ANTH Elective	3	ANTH Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ANTH 493	1	ANTH 495	3
Open	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ANTHROPOLOGY

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- ANTH 212/ASIA 212: Perspectives on Modern Asia
- ANTH 308/SWGS 336: The Anthropology of the Historical Imagination
- ANTH 310: Contemporary Chinese Culture
- ANTH 311/SWGS 333: Masculinities
- ANTH 312: African Prehistory
- ANTH 317: Revolutions and Utopias
- ANTH 319: Symbolism and Power
- ANTH 324/FILM 327/ARTS 327: Documentary Production
- ANTH 326: Law, Power, and Culture
- ANTH 327/SWGS 350: Gender and Symbolism
- ANTH 330/ESCI 330: Geoarchaeology
- ANTH 332/ENST 332: Social Life of Clean Energy
- ANTH 334: Culture and Identity in Brazil
- ANTH 336: Becoming a Doctor
- ANTH 337: Japanese Popular Culture
- ANTH 340: Neoliberalism and Globalization
- ANTH 342: Ethnographies Of Care
- ANTH 345: Archaeology in Social Context
- ANTH 347: The US As a Foreign Country
- ANTH 365/SOCI 365: Politics of Representation
- ANTH 371: Money and Everyday Life
- ANTH 376/SOCI 376: Art and Activism
- ANTH 389: Archaeology of Food
- ANTH 400: Global Urban Lab

Additional Information

Study Abroad

For students interested in archaeology, the Anthropology department offers a six-week field school during the summer in sub-Saharan Africa. The course is offered as six credits (2 courses) and will engage students in active field research, typically in eastern and southern Africa. Students can also take advantage of other more traditional semester, year, or summer study abroad programs to gain new experiences.

Honors/Thesis Option

Students can earn honors in two ways. One option is to apply for distinction on their research papers. The other option is through the Honors Track in the research sequence (see Major requirements above for more details).

Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology

- 2 Introductory Courses
 - ANTH 200/LING 200: Introduction to the Scientific Study of Language
 - ANTH 201: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
 - ANTH 203: Human Antiquity- An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Prehistory
 - ANTH 205: Introduction to Archaeology
- 4 Electives, 3 of which are at the 300-level or above from the ANTH course options.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Contact Information

Major Advisor

Gökçe Günel (gg15@rice.edu)

Assistant Professor in Anthropology

<http://anth.rice.edu>

ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics is a center of excellence for research and teaching in economics. Its faculty, engaged in cutting-edge research and effective teaching, is committed to the advancement of knowledge in all areas of economics and to foster a better understanding of the importance of economic research in the formulation and assessment of public policy. Following the launch of the Rice Initiative for the Study of Economics (RISE), and the ensuing expansion of its faculty, the department has established itself as a world-leading institution for structural empirical microeconomics. The structural approach to empirical economics emphasizes the importance of a rigorous combination of economic theory, econometrics and data analysis to address substantively important issues in all areas of economics.



ECONOMICS

This section addresses the Economics (ECON), Mathematical Economic Analysis (MTEC), and Managerial Economics and Organizational Sciences (MEOS) majors.

The Basics

Major Breakdown Economics (ECON)

- **How many courses?** 14 (44 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** ECON 100
- **Are there honors?** Yes – eligible students can enroll in a two-semester research course (ECON 498/499)
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** It is best to choose the MTEC major and take additional math courses and ECON electives. The best resources available to you will be professors in your field of interest. It is also strongly recommended to consider participating in the honors program.
- **What should I look out for?** As early as possible, take the prerequisites for upper-level courses you may want to take later.

Major Breakdown Mathematical Economic Analysis (MTEC)

- **How many courses?** 16 (52 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** ECON 100
- **Are there honors?** Yes -- eligible students can enroll in a two-semester research course (ECON 498/499)
- **What should I look out for?** As early as possible, take the prerequisites for upper-level courses you may want to take later.

The Basics (cont.)

Major Breakdown Managerial Economics & Organizational Sciences (MEOS)

- **How many courses?** 15 (46 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** ECON 100 and PSYC 100
- **Are there honors?** No
- **What should I look out for?** As early as possible, take the pre-requisites for upper-level courses you may want to take later.

ECONOMICS

Degree Requirements Economics (ECON)

Mathematics & Statistics Courses

- MATH 101: Single Variable Calculus I
 - Can be replaced with MATH 111 and MATH 112, which are similar-content classes that do not go into as much detail as MATH 101.
- MATH 102: Single Variable Calculus II
- ECON 307/STAT 310: Probability and Statistics or STAT 315: Probability and Statistics for Data Science
 - Please note that the Social Sciences statistics class (SOSC 302) will not fill this requirement

Economics & Econometrics Courses

- ECON 100: Principles of Economics
- ECON 200: Microeconomics
- ECON 203: Macroeconomics
- ECON 209: Applied Econometrics
- ECON 300: Game Theory and Other Micro Topics for ECON Majors

Major Electives

The additional 6 courses required for Economics may be taken from any electives at the 200-level or above in the ECON course offerings. These must include at least 3 400-level courses.

Additional Notes for ECON Majors

Consider well in advance which courses you mean to take because many electives require high levels of math or advanced economics knowledge. In addition, not all electives are offered every semester, so consider a wide range of options.

In the first semester, you are advised to take ECON 100 and begin with the Math sequence, even if you are relatively undecided regarding your major. These courses can apply to many other majors as well, so they are good first-semester courses if you have any interest in Economics. In addition, prioritizing completion of MATH and STAT courses will be helpful for providing flexibility in choosing electives later on.

Because ECON requires MATH 101, MATH 102, and STAT 310 or STAT 315, you will not have to work a D3 course into your schedule. However, it's important not to forget about distribution courses. If you want to participate in the Honors Program, you will have to schedule your courses carefully and in particular you should take more of the required ECON courses earlier in your career.

Remember that ECON 498, the first of the two honors courses, receives departmental major credit taken as an elective, but the second semester, ECON 499, provides only university credit.

ECONOMICS

Sample Four Year Plan (ECON)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 100	3	ECON 200	3
MATH 101	3	MATH 102	3
FWIS/Open	3	Open	3
D1	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 203	3	ECON 209	3
STAT 310/STAT 315	3	ECON 200	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ECONOMICS

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 200+	3	ECON 400+	3
ECON 200+	3	ECON 400+	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 400+	1	ECON 400+	3
Open	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Degree Requirements

Mathematical Economic Analysis (MTEC)

Mathematics & Statistics Courses

- MATH 101: Single Variable Calculus I
 - Can be replaced with MATH 111 and MATH 112, which are similar-content classes that do not go into as much detail as MATH 101.
- MATH 102: Single Variable Calculus II
- MATH 212: Multivariable Calculus
 - Can be replaced by MATH 221: Honors Calculus III and MATH 222: Honors Calculus IV
- ECON 307/STAT 310: Probability and Statistics or STAT 315: Probability and Statistics for Data Science
 - Please note that the Social Sciences statistics class (SOSC 302) will not fill this requirement

Economics & Econometrics Courses

- ECON 100: Principles of Economics
- ECON 200: Microeconomics
- ECON 203: Macroeconomics
- ECON 209: Applied Econometrics
- ECON 305: Game Theory and Other Micro Topics for MTEC Majors
- ECON 308: Mathematical Economics
- ECON 310/STAT 376: Econometrics
- 1 Capstone Research Course, depending on interest
 - ECON 496: Research in Economic Theory
 - ECON 497: Research in Econometrics
- 4 Electives taken from the ECON course listing at 200-level or above
 - Of these, 3 must be at the 400-level

Additional Notes for MTEC Majors

In the first semester, you are particularly advised to take ECON 100 and begin with the Math sequence right away, even if you are while relatively undecided regarding your major. These courses can apply to many other majors as well, so they are good first-semester courses if you have any interest in Economics.

In addition, prioritizing completion of MATH and STAT courses will be helpful for providing additional flexibility in choosing electives later on. You should try to complete the mathematical and statistics requirements for the MTEC major as soon as possible to allow maximum flexibility in choosing electives later on in your career at Rice.

Because all your D3 courses are covered by the MATH and STAT requirements, your D1 courses can also be spread out. If you want to participate in the Honors Program, you will have to schedule your courses carefully and in particular you should take more of the required ECON courses earlier in your career.

Remember Consider as well that ECON 498, the first of the two honors courses, receives departmental major credit can be taken as an elective for credit, but the second semester, ECON 499, provides only university credit cannot.

ECONOMICS

Sample Four Year Plan (MTEC)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 100	3	ECON 200	3
MATH 101	3	MATH 102	3
FWIS/Open	3	Open	3
D1	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 203	3	ECON 209	3
STAT 310/STAT 315	3	ECON 308	3
D1	3	Open	3
MATH 212	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ECONOMICS

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 305	3	ECON 400+	3
ECON 310	3	ECON 200+	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 496/400+	1	ECON 496/400+	3
ECON 400+	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ECONOMICS

Sample Elective Courses (ECON & MTEC)

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- ECON 210: Behavioral Economics
- ECON 239: Law and Economics
- ECON 265: Microeconomics and Public Policy Towards Business
- ECON 275: International Macroeconomics and Public Policy
- ECON 307: Probability and Statistics
- ECON 343: Corporate Finance
- ECON 355: Financial Markets
- ECON 365: World Economic History
- ECON 415: Labor Economics
- ECON 418: Economic Forecasting
- ECON 420: International Trade
- ECON 421: International Finance
- ECON 432: Political Economy
- ECON 435: Industrial Organization
- ECON 437: Energy Economics
- ECON 443: Financial Economics
- ECON 445: Managerial Economics
- ECON 449: Financial Engineering
- ECON 450: Economic Development
- ECON 452: Religion, Ethics, and Economics
- ECON 455: Money and Banking
- ECON 462: Economics of Human Capital
- ECON 470: Market Design
- ECON 480: Environmental Economics
- ECON 481: Health Economics
- ECON 483: Public Finance
- ECON 484: Public Economics

Degree Requirements Managerial Economics & Organizational Sciences (MEOS)

Mathematics & Statistics Courses

- MATH 101: Single Variable Calculus I
- MATH 102: Single Variable Calculus II
- STAT 305: Introduction to Statistics for Biosciences
 - or ECON 307/STAT 310: Probability and Statistics
 - or STAT 315: Probability and Statistics for Data Science
 - or SOSC 302: Quantitative Methods

Core Requirements

- ECON 100: Principles of Economics
- ECON 200: Microeconomics
- PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 231: Industrial & Organization Psychology
- SOSC 444 Consulting Practicum or SOSC 445 Finance Practicum

Electives

Additional 6 courses required (see list below). Of these 4 must be from Group A (Management, Economics and Analytical Methods Electives) and 2 from Group B (Social Science Electives).

Capstone Course (1 course, 3 hours)

- MEOS 404: Management Communications in a Consulting Simulation

Additional Notes for MEOS Majors

Note that you can only declare one of the 3 economics majors (i.e., ECON, MTEC, MEOS). Even if you're undecided between the 3 majors (and/or others), you are advised to take ECON 100 and the math courses right away. These courses can apply to many other majors as well, so they are good first year courses if you have any interest in economics.

In addition, prioritizing completion of Math and Stat courses will be helpful for providing additional flexibility in choosing electives later. Note that while STAT 305 and SOSOC 302 are accepted towards the Foundations requirement, they will limit your flexibility in the electives (some of the STAT and ECON courses in the elective list have STAT 310/ 315 as a prerequisite).

Because all your D3 courses are covered by the MATH and STAT requirements, your D1 courses can be spread out.

ECONOMICS

Sample Elective Courses (MEOS)

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

Management, Economics and Analytical Methods Electives (select 4 courses (at least 12 hours) from the following list)

- CAAM 378 Intro to OR and Optimization
- ECON 209 Applied Econometrics
- ECON 300 Game Theory
- ECON 343 Corporate Finance
- ECON 355 Financial Markets
- ECON 422 International Economics and Finance
- ECON 435 Industrial Organization
- ECON 437 Energy Economics
- ECON 445 Managerial Economics
- ECON 449 Financial Engineering
- SOCI 381 Research Methods
- STAT 376/ECON 310 Econometrics
- STAT 405 R for Data Science
- STAT 421 Applied Time Series/Forecasting

Social Science Electives (select 2 courses (at least 6 hours) from the following list):

- ECON 239 Law and Economics
- POLI 210 American Government and Politics
- POLI 335 Political Environment of Business
- POLI 336 Politics of Regulation
- POLI 337 Public Policy
- POLI 338 Policy Analysis
- POLI 436 Politics of Regulation
- PSYC 333 Multicultural Psychology
- PSYC 431 Advanced Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- SOSOC 464 Social Entrepreneurship

ECONOMICS

Sample Four Year Plan (MEOS)

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 100	3	PSCY 101	3
MATH 101	3	MATH 102	3
FWIS/Open	3	Open	3
D1	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PSCY 231	3	ECON 343	3
STAT 310/STAT 315	3	ECON 200	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

ECONOMICS

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 300	3	PSYC 431	3
POLI 337	3	ECON 355	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOCI 381	1	MEOS 404	3
Open	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Research Opportunities (ECON & MTEC)

Several avenues are available for students to pursue research in economics, although most of these are suited primarily for advanced-year students. The most widely-used approach is to take a course that involves a research project. Many 400-level courses include either a required or an optional research paper. In addition, the following courses are designed to foster undergraduate research:

- ECON 399: Independent Research
 - Students taking this one-semester course will write a research paper on a topic of their choosing under the direct supervision of a faculty member.
- ECON 496: Research in Economic Theory
- ECON 497: Research in Econometrics
- ECON 496 and ECON 497 are the MTEC Capstone Course options and are chosen based on student interest.
- ECON 498/ECON 499: Honors Program in Economics
- Students who take the two-semester honors sequence will, under the guidance of the course instructor and perhaps another faculty member specializing in the topic being addressed, conduct a research project in a workshop setting. Students will develop a research idea, construct an economic model with testable hypotheses, test those hypotheses, and write and present an academic quality research paper.

Students are also sometimes hired as research assistants by individual faculty members. Such appointments are arranged on an individual basis. Students can consult with a faculty member whose research interests match their own.

Additional Information

Study Abroad

Economics students have a wide variety of study abroad opportunities available to them. Those interested should talk to the Study Abroad office and the Economics Department Transfer Credit Advisor to figure out which courses taken abroad will transfer to Rice.

Honors/Thesis Option

Students should identify a research topic that would be appropriate for a two-semester research project and consult with the director of the Honors Program (ECON 498/499). This program, which provides for 3 hours of economics credit and an additional 3 hours of university credit, is supervised by the director of the program, who meets with all students during the semester, leads discussions, makes assignments, guides research, observes and critiques presentations, and grades final papers – in some cases with input from other faculty members who are also providing guidance and supervision for individual student research projects. Note that to enter the Honors Program, students must have a GPA > 3.67 in all courses taken toward fulfilling their departmental requirements, must have completed all of core requirements, must have completed the 400-level course or courses most closely related to their area of research, and must receive the approval of the instructor.

ECONOMICS

Contact Information

Major Advisor

A complete list of Economics advisors can be found here: <https://economics.rice.edu/undergraduate-program/advising-and-contactinformation>

One of the members of the department's undergraduate committee holds office hours every day of the week (Monday through Friday) during the academic year.

<http://economics.rice.edu>

LINGUISTICS

The Rice Linguistics Department is the home of an active community of scholars with a wide range of interests. Broadly defined, the department adopts a functional, usage-based approach to language and linguistic theory. A number of recurrent themes emerge in faculty research and the degree programs offered: in-depth investigation of languages, coupled with the search for cross-linguistic generalization; the effects of semantics, language-in-use, sociocultural factors, and other functional influences that motivate and constrain linguistic form; grounding of theories in solid empirical data of many sorts; an interest in the relation between language and mind; and interest in discourse and social/communicative interaction more generally. Because human language is a multifaceted object of study, Linguistics is, by its nature, an interdisciplinary field. The undergraduate major provides both an in-depth grounding in the field as well as cross-disciplinary breadth.

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 12 (36 credit hours)
- **How many upper-level courses?** 9 (27 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** LING 200
- **What's the theory/methods course?** LING 300
- **Are there honors?** Yes, students can apply for honors before the end of their junior year.
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** Try to do research in the department. Also, it can be helpful to take classes beyond your major requirements to cover the several different topics graduate schools may be looking for.
- **What should I look out for?** The Linguistics major requires a student to achieve competency in at least one foreign language. Getting involved in language learning early can continually enhance your understanding of linguistics and the languages.

Considerations

Linguistics majors must also become proficient in a foreign language, meaning they must take 2 courses in a foreign language at the 200-level or above for European languages or 2 courses at the 100-level or above for non-European languages. Pay attention when planning that completing the 200-level will require four semesters total of a language. It may factor into your planning, therefore, which language you are interested and planning to take.

LINGUISTICS

Degree Requirements

Major Requirements

- LING 200/ANTH 200: Introduction the the Scientific Study of Language

Core Courses

- LING 300: Linguistic Analysis
- LING 301: Phonetics
- LING 400: Linguistic Analysis II
- LING 401: Analysis of Sound Patterns
- LING 499: Research Seminar

Language Requirement

- Select 2 courses in a foreign language
 - for European languages, 2 courses at the 200-level or above
 - for non-European languages, 2 courses at the 100-level or above

Major Electives

Students must then complete an additional 4 courses from the departmental offerings at the 300-level or above.

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
LING 200	3	LING 301	3
Language 141	3	Language 142	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
LING 300	3	LING 400	3
Language 263	3	Language 264	3
Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

LINGUISTICS

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
LING 401	3	LING Elective	3
LING Elective	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
LING 499	1	LING Elective	3
LING Elective	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Additional Notes for LING Majors

This sample schedule assumes that a student is interested in taking a European language without prior experience, which will mean taking 4 courses in the language overall. Most languages count for Distribution I credit, so a student taking a European language will not need to seek additional D1 courses. However, keep in mind that if you choose instead to pursue a non-European language and only complete 2 courses, you will need 1 additional D1 course.

Many of the core courses in Linguistics will be offered every semester or once a year – LING 200 is offered in at least one section every semester. LING 300, however, is usually only offered in the fall.

It's recommended that majors take most of the core courses before engaging in higher level electives, as these classes will go over fundamentals. LING 300 and LING 301 are important to take as soon as you possibly can, as they are more introductory and will give you a great foundation. You can also use these courses to find what about Linguistics is interesting to you. Most of the core courses are only offered once a year, so be prepared to move them around.

Electives in the Linguistics department are not offered every year, so it may be some time before the course you're interested in is offered again. When you find an elective that appeals to you, take it as soon as you see it offered.

LINGUISTICS

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- LING 303: Language and Gender
- LING 305: Historical Linguistics
- LING 306: Language, Thought, and Mind
- LING 309: Psychology of Language
- LING 315: Semantics
- LING 320: Origin and Evolution of Human Language
- LING 321: Language and Law
- LING 322: Language and Ethnicity
- LING 325: Language Acquisition
- LING 336: Introduction to Indo-European
- LING 393: Structure of English
- LING 397: Speech and Hearing Science
- LING 411: Neurolinguistics
- LING 415: Sociolinguistics
- LING 419: Multilingualism

Additional Information

Study Abroad

Study Abroad will be useful to Linguistics majors who are interested in grasping more of one language, trying to learn a second foreign language, or understanding and experiencing culture and language for yourself. There are several study abroad programs geared towards cultural and linguistic immersion. Meet with study abroad advisors once you know you would like to study abroad, as they can help you find the best fitting options.

Clubs and Organizations

The Rice Linguistics Student Association is the undergraduate consortium for anyone interested in Linguistics. The undergraduate association is meant to connect students to one another and will offer several social and academic events during the year.

Honors & Thesis Option

The Honors program in Linguistics gives students the option to do dedicated research of their interests while in their senior year. The focus of the course is on developing your own project, but also on establishing and furthering a relationship with your faculty mentor. It's strongly encouraged to engage in honors research if you are interested in attending graduate school.

LINGUISTICS

Contact Information

Major Advisor

Robert Englebretson (reng@rice.edu)

linguistics.rice.edu

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science aims to provide undergraduate students with a strong, substantive and theoretical understanding of political science and its subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations), to help students develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply political science theories to understand the political world, to teach students how to conduct empirical research, to help students develop and improve their communication skills, and to encourage students to be informed and responsible citizens. The major works to prepare students for professional careers in government, international affairs, business, journalism, non-governmental organizations, education, and advanced studies in law, public administration, political science and other fields.

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 13 (41 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** POLI 210, 211, and/or 212
- **What's the theory/methods course?** SOSC 302 & POLI 395
- **Are there honors?** Yes, students can choose to apply for the honors program before the end of their junior year. Honors involves writing and presenting an original research project (i.e., thesis).
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** Engage in research early, get to know professors, and let them know of your interest in graduate school, work with professors on research, and find a focus that may match what you would study in graduate school.
- **What should I look out for?** Try to take the required introductory courses in your first year. In your second year, try to take the methods sequence (SOSC 302 and POLI 395). Since POLI 395 is a prerequisite for all 400-level seminars, you want to try to take it early so you can choose from a larger selection of seminars in your final two years.

Considerations

Many people ask about differences between Political Science and Social Policy Analysis. Political Science covers a wider range of topics than Social Policy Analysis because it focuses on the functions and structures of political systems and political behavior in addition to policy. Political Science studies the U.S. and the international world whereas Social Policy Analysis focuses specifically on policy in the United States. Political Science also includes a wide range of policy issues (economic and fiscal policy, environmental policy, international policies) whereas Social Policy Analysis has a more narrow focus on social policies.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Degree Requirements

Core Courses

- 2 200-level introductory courses chosen from among:
 - POLI 210 – Introduction to American Politics
 - POLI 211 – Introduction to International Relations
 - POLI 212 – Introduction to Comparative Politics
- 2 300-level research methods courses, specifically:
 - SOSC 302 – Quantitative Analysis for the Social Sciences (4 credit hours)
 - POLI 395 – Applied Research Methods in Political Science (4 credit hours)
- 2 400-level research seminars taught by different instructors
- 4 300-level POLI courses (in addition to the research methods courses)
- 3 elective POLI courses at any level (except POLI 110, POLI 111 and 112)

Restrictions

- POLI 305/306 – Directed Readings I/II count only toward the 3 elective POLI courses
- POLI 3xx courses count only toward the 3 elective POLI courses and no more than 2 POLI 3xx courses are eligible
- Students may only count 4 transfer courses toward the political science major
- Exceptions to the major requirements and restrictions will be rare. Any exception must be in writing and signed by the Major Advisor

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
POLI 210	3	POLI 212/211	3
D1	3	POLI Elective	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOSC 302	4	POLI 395	4
POLI 300+	3	POLI Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
POLI 300+	3	POLI Seminar	3
POLI 300+	3	POLI Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
POLI Seminar	3	POLI 300+	3
Open	3	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Additional Notes for POLI Majors

This sample schedule shows flexibility of the major. Try to take the introductory courses in your first year, so that you can focus on methods courses and electives in the years that follow. Most students will take the 400-level seminars in their third and/or fourth years at Rice.

Political Science students may want to consider study abroad for credit. Study abroad provides a great opportunity to explore political science concepts up close in a foreign country. Students must get prior approval from the major advisor to transfer courses with POLI credit, and they can count up to two of those courses toward their political science major requirements.

Students interested in graduate school or post-graduate research careers should consider the honors program/thesis option. The department supports a number of undergraduate research options and has some funding opportunities for student research and study.

Consider applying for the political science national honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, in your sophomore/junior year.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- POLI 315: Elections and Voting Behavior
- POLI 321: American Constitutional Law
- POLI 330: Minority Politics
- POLI 317: The Congress
- POLI 432: Urban Politics
- POLI 435: Seminar on Money and Politics
- POLI 429: Biological Foundations of Politics
- POLI 371: Civil War
- POLI 372: American Foreign Policy
- POLI 375: International Organization
- POLI 378: Politics of American National Security
- POLI 475: International Cooperation
- POLI 469: Civil War and Terrorism
- POLI 478: US-China: Conflict and Cooperation
- POLI 333: Legislatures around the World
- POLI 354: Latin American Politics
- POLI 356: Representation and Policy Making
- POLI 360: Western European Democracies
- POLI 362: Comparative Urban Politics & Policy
- POLI 450: Elections in the Americas
- POLI 457: Conditions of Democracy
- POLI 459: Gender and Representation in Latin America

Additional Information

Research Opportunities & Honors

Research for Political Science majors is often easily found by talking to your professors and finding projects that you can help them with. Sometimes, professors may only hire students who have taken POLI 395, but others may be open to all help. The department Honors Program also offers opportunities for independent research as do the 400-level research seminars. For more information on research opportunities and honors, see the Political Science website, <https://politicalscience.rice.edu/undergraduate-studies>.

Clubs and Organizations

There are many political organizations on campus that people interested in politics can get involved with; however, not every Political Science major will. Popular options include the Young Democrats or Young Republicans and the Baker Institute Student Forum. Political Science majors should also consider becoming members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. You don't have to be a political science major to apply, but applications are due in the spring and are based on academic standing and interest. Pi Sigma Alpha hosts both academic and more casual events throughout the year.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Contact Information

Major and Transfer Credit Advisor

Ric Stoll (stoll@rice.edu)

politicalscience.rice.edu

PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychological Sciences Department at Rice University is a unique blend of basic and applied psychology. The breadth of research interests creates a unique learning and research environment. The primary emphasis in the department is on research in both the laboratory and applied settings.

The undergraduate major is among the most popular majors at Rice. Psychology majors often go on to graduate school, medical school, or law school. Many majors have experience in the workplace as well and find themselves with excellent preparation for any career path they choose.

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 15 (47 credit hours)
- **How many upper-level courses?** 9 (29 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** PSYC 101
- **What's the theory/methods course?** SOSC 302
- **Are there honors?** Students can write an honors thesis under supervision of a faculty member.
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** Writing a thesis is highly desired, but it is also important to look at the specifics of a grad school program to see their specific requirements. Engaging in research early and developing relationships with faculty members will help a student interested in graduate school.

Considerations

- The Psychology major requires 15 courses, which is about 2 courses per semester towards the major. This gives a student plenty of time to explore their other interests and tailor their experience. The introductory courses – PSYC 101, 202, and 203 – are good ways to check if you're really interested in psychology before committing to the major.
- Since Rice does not have a clinical psychology graduate class, classes with a clinical focus are limited. Students interested in these fields should be proactive about searching for these experiences.

PSYCHOLOGY

Degree Requirements

Core Courses

- PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 202: Introduction to Social Psychology
- PSYC 203: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- SOSC 302: Quantitative Analysis for the Social Sciences (4 credit hours)
- PSYC 340: Research Methods Psychology (4 credit hours)

Major Electives

- For the additional 10 courses required for the major, a student may choose from any PSYC course offerings. Students should keep in mind that at least 9 courses must be taken at the 300-level or above. SOSC 302 and PSYC 340 do count for this upper-level requirement.
- Of the electives offered, up to 12 credit hours (the equivalence of 4 classes) can be done from PSYC 485: Undergraduate Research and PSYC 488: Undergraduate Reading, of which only 3 of the credit hours may be from PSYC 488.
- Students should be additionally aware that most upper-level electives have prerequisites. This should be kept in mind when planning for courses.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PSYC 101	3	PSYC 202	3
D1	3	PSYC 203	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOSC 302	4	PSYC 340	4
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

PSYCHOLOGY

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Additional Notes for PSYC Majors

All core classes for Psychology are taught every semester, but electives may or may not be offered every semester. If interested in a class, it may be a good idea to check with the professor to see how often it is offered.

The psychology department recommends that you complete SOSC 302 and PSYC 340 by the end of your sophomore year. For many upper-level electives, these courses will be important for understanding research that is being studied. There are electives that don't require such a knowledge of statistics, which can be taken alongside during the sophomore year if possible. SOSC 302 and PSYC 340 should be taken in back-to-back semesters.

For some classes, spots will be given first to Psychology majors, so if you are relatively sure you want to major in Psychology, it makes sense to declare early. This way, you will be given preference to get into classes that are required for the major.

If considering a thesis, it's important to start planning early, as students must apply to the honors program during the spring of their junior year. The best way to prepare for a thesis is to do research in the department early on, and to develop relationships with faculty members, particularly early in junior year. If you're interested in writing a thesis, you should discuss a possible honors project with potential faculty supervisors before the end of junior year.

PSYCHOLOGY

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- PSYC 231: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- PSYC 308: Memory
- PSYC 315/LING 315: Introduction to Semantics
- PSYC 321: Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 325: Language Acquisition
- PSYC 329: Psychological Testing
- PSYC 330: Personality Theory and Research
- PSYC 331/SWGS 331: Psychology of Gender
- PSYC 333: Multicultural Psychology
- PSYC 341: Human-Computer Interaction
- PSYC 345: Health Psychology
- PSYC 346: Stress and Health across the Lifespan
- PSYC 351: Perception
- PSYC 353: Psychology of Emotion and Motivation
- PSYC 354: Introduction to Social/Affective Neuroscience
- PSYC 362: Cognitive Neuroscience
- PSYC 370: Introduction to Human Factors and Ergonomics
- PSYC 375: Neuropsychology of Language and Memory
- PSYC 380/NEUR 380: Neurosystems
- PSYC 420/POLI 420/COMP 435: Election Systems
- PSYC 431: Advanced Industrial/Organizational Psychology
- PSYC 441: Human-Computer Interaction
- PSYC 445: Advanced Seminar in Health Psychology
- PSYC 452: Emotion Regulation
- PSYC 463: Medical Human Factors

Additional Information

Study Abroad

There are many study abroad possibilities for students studying psychology, though the department does not promote any specific programs. Students interested in study abroad should begin by speaking with a Study Abroad advisor as soon as they think they are interested, so they can start the planning process. It is also important to discuss transfer credits with the Department of Psychological Sciences before leaving for a study abroad program, as not all credits transfer into the major.

Research Opportunities

Students should check the psychology website for Supervised Research Opportunities and consider getting involved in research early in their time as a psychology major. This increases their likelihood of being a meaningful part of a product (poster, presentation, publication). Their lab also becomes a good support system for developing an honor's thesis that they would do their senior year.

Honors and Thesis Option

Students interested in writing an honors thesis will apply to the honors program in pre-registration at the end of the spring of their junior year. A proposal, approved by a faculty advisor, will be submitted during the first week of senior year. Students will be enrolled in PSYC 499: Honors Thesis for 2 semesters, submit a progress report at the end of first semester, and deliver a finished paper along with a public presentation at the end of the second semester. Students interested should consult the department website for more details.

PSYCHOLOGY

Contact Information

Major Advisors

- Sandy Parsons, (svp2@rice.edu)
- Carissa Zimmerman, (caz3@rice.edu)

Advisor (Honors)

- Eden King (eden.b.king@rice.edu)

psychology.rice.edu

SOCIOLOGY

The vision of the Department of Sociology at Rice University is to advance knowledge of social processes and patterns, mentor a diverse set of scholars and students, and teach the state of the art in the field, engaging in service to the university, the discipline, and the larger community. In particular, members of our department primarily focus on the causes and consequences of social inequality and the patterns and processes of culture.

The undergraduate program allows considerable latitude in pursuing personal interests while ensuring familiarity with core sociological theories and research methods. Faculty members often collaborate on research projects with students. The department of Sociology offers both a major and a minor to undergraduates.

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 11 (33-34 credit hours)
- **How many upper-level courses?** 10 (30 credit hours)
- **What's the intro course?** SOCI 101
- **What's the theory/methods course?** SOCI 380, SOCI 381, SOCI 382 or SOSC 302
- **re there honors?** Students may complete an honors research project with a faculty advisor.
- **What if I want to go to graduate school?** Completing a research project (or several) is highly recommended. In addition, talking to professors who do work in your interest areas will be helpful.
- **What should I look out for?** Think about when to take your theory and methods courses. These will be courses that require more statistical thinking than you are probably used to, but they'll be helpful for seminar and upper-level coursework later.

Considerations

- Sociology seminars (400-level) are generally taught differently from 300-level classes. They will surround a central issue or project and be discussed in a small setting. Often, they will require research projects. This can be true of classes throughout the department, too. Think about what sort of classes you would like to take, including course-work and teaching style in the decisions you are making.
- Students in Sociology go into many fields; recent graduates have gone into law, medicine, politics, social work, education, real estate, and more.

SOCIOLOGY

Degree Requirements

Core Courses

- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology or SOCI 231- Social Problems
- SOCI 380: Social Theory
- SOCI 381: Research Methods
- SOCI 382: Social Statistics OR SOSC 302: Quantitative Analysis for the Social Sciences

Major Electives

- For the additional 7 courses required for the major, a student may choose from any SOCI course offerings at the 300-level or above.

Requirements for the Minor in Sociology

- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology or SOCI 231- Social Problems
- SOCI 380: Social Theory
 - or SOCI 381: Research Methods
- 4 electives from the SOCI course offerings, 200-level or above.
 - Of these, 1 must be taken at the 400-level.

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOCI 101	3	SOCI 380	3
D1	3	SOCI Elective	3
FWIS/Open	3	D3	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOCI 381	3	SOCI 382/SOSC 302	4
Open	3	Open	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

SOCIOLOGY

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3
SOCI Elective	3	Open	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOCI Elective	3	SOCI Elective	3
SOCI Elective	3	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Additional Notes for SOCI Majors

The core course sequence for Sociology will equip you with the methods and theoretical framework to conduct a sociological study such as a senior honors thesis. Therefore, it's probably best to take these courses relatively early in your time at Rice. SOCI 101 in particular is a great introductory course to let you develop your interests. While distributing them early, you may also want take an elective or two early as well, to take advantage of your interests. It's best to have a strong sense of interest in the major and its classwork before committing.

Overall, SOCI 380, 381, and SOCI 382/SOSC 302 are recommended to be taken in this order. They will be foundational for giving you research practice.

Sociology is a field that can be informed by anything, so take advantage of the white space and your D1 courses in particular to engage in other fields and disciplines that can enhance your understanding of people and your surroundings. Taking a class in something like Philosophy, English, History, or Religion, for instance, may help give you an idea of the problems and logics at work in the world. Taking other courses in the social sciences as well can bolster your understanding of your course material.

SOCIOLOGY

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- SOCI 231: Social Problems
- SOCI 304: Environmental Issues – Rice into the Future
- SOCI 309: Race & Ethnic Relations
- SOCI 314: Science At Risk? Out of the Lab and Into the Public Sphere
- SOCI 316/ENST 316: Environmental Film
- SOCI 321: Criminology
- SOCI 325: Sociology of Law
- SOCI 334/SWGS 325: Sociology of the Family
- SOCI 340: Sociology of Immigration
- SOCI 344: Sociology of Mental Health
- SOCI 349: Deviance and Popular Culture
- SOCI 350: Urban Transportation
- SOCI 363: African American-Jewish Relations
- SOCI 364: Muslims in American Society
- SOCI 365/ANTH 365: Politics of Representation
- SOCI 368: Sociology of Disaster
- SOCI 376: Art and Activism – Critical Study of Hope in Times of Crisis
- SOCI 379/RELI 379: Race, Nation, and Diaspora – Contested Geographies
- SOCI 412: Perspectives on Religious Tolerance in an Intolerant Age
- SOCI 423: Sociology of Food
- SOCI 425: Population Health Seminar

Additional Information

Study Abroad

Many students study abroad with relatively little difficulty, as transfer credits are usually accommodated by the department. Students should consult the study abroad office at their earliest decision to study abroad, to get a list of relevant programs, and open the conversation.

Research Opportunities

There are a variety of ways to get involved in research as an undergraduate in sociology. Many students begin by reaching out to their professors and asking them to get involved with research centers and with professors' independent research.

Some students later complete independent study projects. For instance, professors in Sociology are involved with the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, the Religion and Public Life Program, and the Houston Education Research Consortium and may help students involved in their work in the centers.

The sociology department also runs several working research groups such as the Racism and Racial Experiences (RARE), Sociologists Talking about Population Health (STAPH), and Spatial Processes and City Environments (SPACE).

Honors and Thesis Option

The honors option in Sociology takes the form of a self-driven research project that will entail a final thesis paper and a short presentation on the thesis delivered to faculty. This project will take the entire year and is thus applied for in a student's junior year. This is a spectacular opportunity for students considering ways to do research at a high level or graduate school.

SOCIOLOGY

Contact Information

Major Advisor

- Sergio Chávez (sergio.chavez@rice.edu)

sociology.rice.edu

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Sport Management is an interdisciplinary field of study that draws from a wide range of academic disciplines, including business, management, law, and communication.

Career preparation for leadership and entrepreneurial positions is the ultimate goal of the sport management major at Rice. Students will acquire a solid academic and practical foundation and thus will be competitive for opportunities that include entering the sport business industry or applying to the country's best law and business schools. In addition, all students complete an internship, a critical part of the learning experience for sport management majors. Rice has partnerships with the Houston area professional teams, as well as companies all over the country, which allows for extraordinary access to internships with these organizations. The full-time faculty members in the department combine for over 70 years working in the sport industry which allows students to receive unprecedented theoretical and practical experience.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 15 (49-50 credit hours, depending on concentration)
- **What's the intro course?** SMGT 260 (Introduction to Sport Management)
- **Is there a research/thesis option?** SMGT 495 (Independent Study).
- **What should I look out for?** You should enroll in SMGT 276 (Sport Management Practicum) during your second semester. This will provide you your initial experience working in the sport industry.

Considerations

- Sport Management majors get the option to choose between three different tracks (concentrations): Sport Analytics, Sport Law, and Sport Leadership. As the major is relatively rigid in terms of which classes should be taken in what order, it is important to use the core courses as a way to help you find which track is most appealing to you.
- The internships provided additional training in networking which will help you establish early connections in the sport industry. This is the first step towards making a career in sports management, analytics, law, etc. Many of sport management graduates decide to enroll in either business or law school, but many pursue careers in other industries as well.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Degree Requirements

Core Courses (34 credit hours)

- BUSI 296: Business Communication
- DSCI: Introduction to Data Science
- DSCI 301/STAT 315: Probability and Statistics for Data Science or
 - BUSI 395: Data Analytics
- ECON 100: Principles of Economics
- SMGT 260: Introduction to Sport Management
- SMGT 266: Leading with Service
- SMGT 276: Sport Management Practicum
- SMGT 350: Sport Ethics
- SMGT 362: Sport Marketing
- SMGT 376: Sport Management Internship I
- SMGT 440: Sport Business Analytics

Major Requirements

- Each student must also complete a major concentration, which requires additional core courses and their choice (for Sport Law and Sport Leadership) of elective courses. The three major concentrations are:
 - Sport Analytics: Designed to prepare graduates in to how to properly use big data to make educated decisions in the sport industry.
 - Sport Law: Designed to prepare graduates for law school.
 - Sport Leadership: Designed to prepare graduates for management, leadership, and entrepreneurial roles within the sport industry.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Concentration Requirements

Sports Analytics Concentration (16 hours)

- COMP 140: Computational Thinking (4 credit hours)
- DSCI 302: Data Science Tools and Models
- STAT 405: R for Data Science
- SMGT 431: Advanced Sport Analytics
- SMGT 490: Seminar in Sport Analytics (capstone course)

Sports Law Concentration (15 hours)

- SMGT 364: Sport Law
- 4 of the following elective courses:
 - ECON 239: Law and Economics
 - HUMA 309: Argumentation and Debate
 - HUMA 315: Communication Law
 - PHIL 373: Philosophy of Law
 - SOCI 325: Sociology of Law
 - PLST 305: Introduction to Law
 - PLST 401: Law Practicum
 - PLST 402: Judicial Practicum

Sports Leadership Concentration (15 hours)

- SMGT 360: Sales & Revenue Generation in Sport (Req)
- SMGT 366: Event Management (Req)
- SMGT 450: Leadership in Sport Management (Req)
- BUSI 310: Leading People in Organizations
- BUSI 390: Strategic Management
- BUSI 421: Power, Influence, and Organizational Change

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Concentration Requirements (Cont)

- SMGT 320: Business of College Athletics
- SMGT 361: Sport Finance/Community Engagement
- SMGT 377: Sport Management Internship II
- SMGT 396: The Business and History of the Olympic Games
- SMGT 400: Houston Texans Seminar
- SMGT 415: Theories of High Level Performance
- SMGT 466: Sport Public Relations
- SMGT 470: Sport Management Seminar
- SOSOC 444: Consulting Practicum

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SMGT 260	3	SMGT 266	3
ECON 100	3	BUSI 296	3
FWIS/Open	3	STAT 280	4
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SMGT 276	3	ECON 239	4
SMGT 362	3	Concentration	3
D3	3	D1	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SMGT 376	3	SMGT 366	3
Concentration	3	Concentration	3-4
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Concentration	3	Concentration	3
D1	3	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Additional Notes for SMGT Majors

Because the Sport Management major requires statistics courses, depending on your choices, you will satisfy at least some of your D3 requirements simply by completing the major. The same can be said of D2 courses.

Depending on your concentration, courses you may be interested in may not be offered every semester, and you will have to move some things around. This sample scheduling is only to show when you should be thinking about taking classes and how many to enroll in per semester.

Because the course plans for Sport Management majors can be a bit more rigid than others in the Social Sciences, it's important to take advantage of your relationship with the Major Advisor as soon as possible. However, there is still a great deal of open space to use for your own devices. Remember that as part of your course requirements and personal growth, you will be fairly deeply involved in your internship for the semester or semesters you're working it.

The internship will also be an avenue for you to get to know the members of the faculty in Sport Management, as they, along with the professionals you'll work with, have much-desired connections in the world of business, sports, and entertainment.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Additional Information

Study Abroad

Students should meet with the Department Chair to discuss transferable credits as early as they think they may want to study abroad.

Clubs & Organizations

The Rice Sport Business Society (RSBS) is a student-run organization whose mission is to create or improve awareness about the Sport Management major and connect Rice students with valuable opportunities in the sport industry. Led through the department, this club involves several projects and a lecture series for majors and non-majors to take advantage of.

Honors and Awards

The department has two prestigious awards given yearly to a graduating senior for outstanding achievement in the department. A third award, specific to the Sport Law class, is also available to majors. A complete list of awards can be seen on the department website, with qualifications. Notably, students can also apply for distinction in their research projects and creative works.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Contact Information

Major Advisor

- Clark Haptonstall (hapton@rice.edu)

sport.rice.edu

INTER DEPARTMENT MAJORS

105 COGNITIVE SCIENCES

114 SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Researchers in this interdisciplinary field seek to understand such mental phenomena as perception, thought, memory, the acquisition and use of language, learning, conceptformation, and consciousness. Some investigators focus on relationships between brain structures and behavior, some work with computer simulation, and others work at more abstract philosophical levels. The major includes courses from Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychological Sciences, Neuroscience, and Computation, overlapping different approaches to studying the brain to create a base of knowledge that prepares students to do research on Cognition from a number of perspectives.

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 15 (45-49 hours)
- **What's the intro course?** PHIL 130: The Sciences of the Mind provides the broadest overview of the interdisciplinary nature of Cognitive Sciences, but PSYC 203, and LING 200 are also considered "intro."
- **What's the theory/methods course?** There is also a required methods course (CSCI 340) that provides an overview of different methods used in the cognitive sciences.
- **Are there honors?** Students may complete a re- search project independently for honors
- **What if I want to go to grad school?** Engaging in research will be helpful. Additionally, you may want to focus more explicitly on your specialization within Cognitive Sciences.
- **What should I look out for?** Higher-level courses may have prerequisites, so look for those requirements in advance.

Considerations

- Instead of being an explicitly single-track major, students can tailor their program to their own interests; the core courses are actually core groups, and in each group, there are about 3-5 classes to choose from. These classes span a variety of angles of Cognitive Sciences and their respective disciplines, and most are often fairly frequently.
- Many students consider Cognitive Sciences a good choice for going into more interdisciplinary fields and filling their interests; Cognitive Sciences can be good as a background for medicine, business, graduate school, and artificial intelligence, to name a few ideas.

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Degree Requirements

Major Requirements

- PSYC 203: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- CSCI 340: Methods of Cognitive Science
- 1 Introductory Computer Science core course
- 1 Advanced Computing core course
- 1 Linguistics core course
- 1 Neuroscience core course
- 1 Philosophy core course
- 1 advanced Psychological Sciences course
- 1 statistics core course
- Completion of 1 area of specialization
 - Linguistics
 - Neuroscience
 - Philosophy
 - Psychological Sciences
 - Computation
- For all of the core courses, multiple options are available, and they are listed concisely on the General Announcements page.

Major Electives

- Students must then complete at least 3 courses, and no more than 4 courses, in one area of specialization from the 4 programs offered. The electives that can fulfill these requirements is similarly large.
- For the additional 2-3 courses (depending on the number of courses taken in the Area of Specialization), a student will complete electives from those of other areas of specialization or a smaller list of courses in fields such as Computer Science.

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Sample Four-Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
PHIL 130	3	PSYC 203	3
COMP Core	3	LING 200	3
FWIS/Open	3	Open	3
Open (PSYC 101?)	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
D1	3	NEUR Core	3
Concentration	3	Breadth Elective	3
Open	3	CSCI 340	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Advanced PSYC	3	Advanced COMP	3
Concentration	3	Breadth Elective	3
D1	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Concentration	1	Concentration	3
Open	1	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Additional Notes for CGSI Majors

Unlike many majors, Cognitive Sciences automatically provides students with distribution credit in all three divisions at some point. Therefore, there are only a few slots slated for D1 and D3 classes in this schedule, as Philosophy and Computer Science classes are usually counted as distribution requirements. However, you should still make sure.

Students should begin in Cognitive Sciences by taking LING 200, PHIL 130, and PSYC 203 within the first year or two at Rice. These classes are meant to be surveys and are seen as fairly introductory and fundamental for taking higher-level coursework.

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from.

- Linguistics Area of Specialization Electives
 - LING 300: Linguistic Analysis
 - LING 301: Phonetics
 - LING 325/PSYC 325: Language Acquisition
 - LING 401: Analysis of Sound Patterns
 - LING 419: Multilingualism

- Neuroscience Area of Specialization Electives
 - NEUR 385/BIOC 385: Fundamentals of Neuroscience
 - PSYC 362/NEUR 362: Cognitive Neuroscience
 - LING 411/ANTH 411: Neurolinguistics
 - PSYC 380/NEUR 380: Neurosystems
 - PSYC 375: Neuropsychology of Language & Memory

- Philosophy Area of Specialization Electives
 - PHIL 231: Animal Minds
 - PHIL 310: Mathematical Logic
 - PHIL 330: Philosophy of Mind
 - PHIL 345: Theory of Knowledge
 - PHIL 431: Advanced Sciences of the Mind

- Psychology Area of Specialization Electives
 - PSYC 308: Memory
 - PSYC 321: Developmental Psychology
 - PSYC 351: Psychology of Perception
 - PSYC 370: Introduction of Human Factors
 - PSYC 461: Reasoning, Decision-Making, and Problem-Solving
 - 103

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

- Computation Area of Specialization Electives
 - CAAM 416/ELEC 489/NEUR 416: Neural Computation
 - ELEC 382/NEUR 382: Intro to Computational Neuroscience
 - PSYC 430: Computational Models of Cognitive Processes
 - PHIL 357: Incompleteness, Undecidability, and Computability
 - STAT 413: Introduction to Statistical Machine Learning

Additional Information

Study Abroad

Because Cognitive Sciences is particularly interdisciplinary, there are usually courses at other institutions and on abroad programs that can accommodate or offer similar classes that will be of interest to you. Make an appointment with the Study Abroad office soon after arriving at Rice to start to make a plan for the best time and locations for study abroad.

Research Opportunities

Majors interested in doing research in Cognitive Sciences can either apply for the Honor Track or participate in independent research through CSCI 390, which is a class aimed to help students design and implement their own projects. Many Cognitive Sciences majors also get involved in research by assisting faculty in one of the related disciplines, or getting involved in cognitive science research at the Texas Medical Center.

Honors Program

The Honors program operates similarly to CSCI 390, except that it must be applied for and sought through a different process, typically at the end of a student's junior year and completed in your senior year. Similar to a thesis in other departments, this option will produce a final paper and an oral presentation, to be delivered at the end of the second (spring) semester.

COGNITIVE SCIENCES

Contact Information

Major Advisor

- Mike Byrne (byrne@rice.edu)
- Simon Fischer-Baum (sjf2@rice.edu)
- Özge Gürcanli (og3@rice.edu)
- Suzanne Kemmer (kemmer@rice.edu)
- Bart Moore (brt4@rice.edu)
- Carissa Zimmerman (caz3@rice.edu)

cogsci.rice.edu

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

The Social and Policy Analysis major is an interdisciplinary major which focuses on evaluating and analyzing policies that are made to improve human wellbeing. Spanning a wide variety of issues, including health, education, criminal, and urban policy, majors will be trained to ask questions about existing policy proposals and propose their own solutions to large-scale problems. Students are trained to become leaders in a time where limited resources and rising demands make having a concrete understanding of policy and its effects essential. While combining the goals of existing programs at Rice, the new major stands on its own as a data-driven, analytic approach to the questions around formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy solutions.

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

The Basics

Major Breakdown

- **How many courses?** 14 (43 hours)
- **What's the intro course?** SOPA 200
- **What's the methods/theory course?** POLI 338, as well as your course in Statistics, which can be taken among statistics courses in multiple departments.
- **Are there honors?** No separate honors program
- **What should I look out for?** Some courses that are offered as higher-level electives will have prerequisites, so if you are interested in any of these classes, ensure that you plan to take the courses that are prerequisites as well.

Considerations

- The central focus of the SOPA major is policy design, analysis, and communication. The major offers students an interdisciplinary orientation to its structured curriculum and emphasizes integrating rigorous instruction in theory and method with hands-on, skills-based instruction by social sciences faculty.
- The SOPA major includes a required, two-semester capstone course, typically taken in the senior year. Students work in teams of 3-4 under the leadership of a faculty member. The course provides students with hands-on experience in conducting research on social policy design, evaluation, and implementation.

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Degree Requirements

- MATH 101: Single Variable Calculus I (or MATH 105: AP Credit)
- MATH 102: Single Variable Calculus II (or MATH 106: AP Credit)
- ECON 100: Principles of Economics
- POLI 210: Introduction to American Government
- SOPA 200: Approaches to Social Policy
- POLI 338/SOSC 301: Policy Analysis
- One of the following courses in statistics:
 - ECON 209: Applied Econometrics
 - SOSC 302: Quantitative Analysis for the Social Sciences
- SOPA 400: Capstone Research Seminar I
- SOPA 401: Capstone Research Seminar II

Major Electives

The remaining 5 courses for the Social Policy Analysis major come from three areas of specialization. At least one course must be taken in each of the following areas. For a full list of courses in each area of specialization, see the GA.

- Groups and Identities
- Institutions
- Policies, Processes, and Outcomes

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Sample Four Year Plan

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
MATH 101	3	MATH 102	3
POLI 210	3	SOPA 200	3
FWIS/Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	FWIS/Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 3		Semester 4	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
ECON 100	3	POLI 338	3
Core Statistics	4	Groups & Identities	3
D1	3	D1	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Semester 5		Semester 6	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
Instituitions	3	Policy Outcomes	3
SOPA Elective	3	SOPA Elective	3
D1	3	D3	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

Semester 7		Semester 8	
Class	Credit Hours	Class	Credit Hours
SOPA 400	3	SOPA 401	3
Open	3	Open	3
LPAP	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3
Open	3	Open	3

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Additional Notes for SOPA Majors

As the SOPA major requires MATH 101 and MATH 102, both of which are considered Distribution III credit, you will only have to complete one additional D3 course.

Some requirements for SOPA, particularly high-level requirements, will require pre-requisites. For instance, many POLI 400-level courses require POLI 395 or an equivalent statistics course, and many high-level Economics courses may require other economics courses beyond ECON 100.

SOPA majors are encouraged to take the statistics course and the policy analysis course (POLI 338/SOSC 301) by the end of the sophomore year. For many upper-level electives, these courses will be important for understanding research that is being studied. There are electives that don't require such a knowledge of statistics, which can be taken alongside during the sophomore year if possible. SOSC 302 and POLI 338/SOSC 301 should be taken in back-to-back semesters.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the SOPA major and the scaffolding of the curriculum, we encourage students to begin meeting with the Major Advisor early and to check in regularly.

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Sample Elective Courses

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and is solely to give a snapshot of the courses available for students to choose from. The full list of elective courses is available at: <https://sopa.rice.edu/areas-specialization>

Groups & Identities Electives

- ANTH 354: Disability and Gendered Bodies
- LING 205: Language and Society
- POLI 330: Minority Politics
- PSYC 475: Stereotyping and Prejudice
- SOCI 301: Social Inequality
- SOCI 329: Multiracial America

Institutions Electives

- ANTH 326: Law, Power, and Culture
- ECON 343: Corporate Finance
- ECON 435: Industrial Organization
- POLI 318: The Presidency
- POLI 336: Politics of Regulation
- PSYC 420/POLI 420: Election Systems
- SOCI 358: Crime, Punishment, and Society

Policy, Processes & Outcomes Electives

- ECON 432: Political Economy
- ECON 462: Economics of Human Capital
- ECON 481: Health Economics
- POLI 356: Representation and Policy Making
- POLI 435: Money and Politics
- PSYC 346: Stress and Health
- SMGT 361: Sport Finance
- SOCI 321: Criminology
- SOCI 368: Sociology of Disaster

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Additional Information

Research Options

Many SOPA majors get involved in research on campus with faculty and researchers in institutes like the Texas Policy Lab (TPL), Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC), and Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Summer internships with government agencies, non-profits and research organizations are also encouraged. The major hosts workshops and events throughout the year to help students find and prepare for these opportunities.

Distinction in Research

In SOPA, the award is given to majors who have completed an exceptionally well-done social policy research project during their time at Rice, are in good academic standing, and have a minimum GPA of 3.3 (a university requirement). The work should be above and beyond what is typically required for a paper in a 400-level research seminar or a typical honors thesis. It can be work done with a faculty member or other students, but the student must be able to demonstrate an original core contribution to the co-authored work. Students may nominate themselves or may be nominated by a full-time faculty member or researcher in the School of Social Sciences.

Careers & Graduate Study

Social Policy Analysis majors will be prepared for a variety of roles in public policy, government, political lobbying, non-profits, education, community development, and social welfare and advocacy organizations. Graduate study in law, policy studies, education, public affairs, and political management are some areas that may appeal to a SOPA major.

SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Contact Information

Major Advisor

Melissa Marschall (marschal@rice.edu)

sopa.rice.edu

CONTACTS

Here are some valuable contacts you can use when going about your experience in the Social Sciences.

For your department:

- The Major/Minor Advisor (or Undergraduate Advisor) is a faculty member in the department or program designated to advise undergraduate students about the major/minor. This person is available to meet with pre-majors and majors to discuss academic goals, four-year plans, details of the major, Degree Works, etc. This person will also sign your major/minor declaration form unless otherwise indicated on the department/program website. Major advisors are often minor/transfer credit advisors as well so if a separate minor/transfer advisor is not noted, see the major advisor for assistance.
- Peer Academic Advisors, Academic Fellows, and other older students are also great resources for getting a student perspective on classes in your major.

For the Social Sciences and co-curricular experiences:

- The Gateway Program is designed to help Social Sciences students get involved in leadership, internship, and research opportunities.
(socialsciencesgateway.rice.edu)

CONTACTS (CONT'D)

For career and scheduling advice:

- The Center for Career Development holds information sessions for Social Sciences students and can help with job searches and preparation. (ccd.rice.edu)
- The Office of Academic Advising has resources for new student planning and can help you sort out, in-person, how to best accomplish your academic goals. They are also a good source for specified information on pre-law, pre-med, pre-grad, and pre-business options. (oaa.rice.edu)

For quick reference and questions:

- The Office of the Registrar is where you can find special registration forms, a list of distribution classes, and information relating to the latest General Announcements (registrar.rice.edu)
- Esther is where you can find declaration of major, minor, and certificate forms; where you can register for classes; where you can see your grades and current academic standing; and where you can
- Keep track of the requirements you have fulfilled. (esther.rice.edu)

ga.rice.edu

<https://socialsciences.rice.edu>