



Sociology

BA

Bachelor of Arts major

Be an agent for change and solve complex social problems, now and into the future.

How does power work? How do people interact with each other? Why do we create the institutions around us? And what cultural beliefs and practices shape our lives?

Sociologists care about understanding how the world works, why inequality exists, and how to leave our communities and institutions better than we found them.

THERE IS NO
PLANET B



Career possibilities

Graduates have gone on to jobs in policy analysis, law, media and journalism, gender and sexual violence prevention, union advocacy, central and local government, economic and social justice organisations, environmental activism, marketing, business and more.

“Sociology offered a framework that bridged theoretical inquiry with lived experience, helping me make sense of the world in a way that was both intellectually stimulating and socially meaningful. I wanted to understand how systemic inequalities and power imbalances are created, reproduced, and either sustained or resisted in everyday contexts.

“The critical thinking, independent problem-solving, and communication skills I developed through my studies has been invaluable in my work, applying theory to real-world situations to offer evidence-based solutions.”



RENZ WILLIAM ALINABON
Regional Data Collection Specialist, Stats NZ

Graduate: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Criminology + Sociology
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Politics and International Relations
Master of Arts in Politics and International Relations



“Sociology helps us understand why we as individuals and groups behave in the ways that we do. We explore why some people are privileged while others are disadvantaged and, importantly, what we can do to bridge the gaps.”

MOEATA KEIL
Lecturer



The study of Sociology includes four broad themes: cultural sociology, applied sociology and social policy, power and resistance, and comparative sociology and the global society. Move between these groupings and find the courses that most interest you, whether that's the world of image and representation, understanding death in different cultures, social frameworks that regulate and influence human behaviour or government and community responses to health and wellbeing.

STAGE 1 COURSE*

SOCIOL 105 – Cultural Studies and Society

A cultural studies approach to social life focuses on the way we experience the world, taking account of what we see, what we hear, what we consume and how we communicate. Sociological theory will be explored through investigating different cultural forms including film, advertising, art, social media, sport, and video games.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

SOCIOL 229 – Environmental Sociology

Environmental sociology provides insight into the complex social processes that define, create and even threaten our natural environment. Provides tools with which to think sociologically about environmental issues, such as understanding how environmental issues come to be seen as environmental problems, and how political, cultural, and economic factors have come to shape our interaction with the natural environment.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

SOCIOL 300 – Feminist, Anti-Colonial and Post-Capitalist Technofutures

Introduction to theoretical approaches for understanding the social, material and power (political) dimensions of science and technology, and practical approaches for imagining and enacting more ethical, equitable, collaborative and anti-colonial technofutures. Topics studied include: science, technology and social theory; feminist, anti-colonial and post-capitalist approaches to science and technology.



Get excited about your course options:



- Aotearoa New Zealand Social Policy and Social Justice
- Cultural Studies and Society
- Issues and Themes in Sociology
- Migration, Borders and Displacement

**Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*



Complementary majors include:

Sociology
+
Communication
Criminology
Gender Studies
Politics and International Relations
Psychology

“Sociology allows me to broaden my view on society, as well as understand my position in society for myself and those who come after me. I am interested in prison reform, particularly policies concerning wāhine Māori, as well as research around incarceration itself.”

RIHIPETI - PAERAU FORBES

Ngāti Pāoa and Ngāti Maniapoto

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Māori Studies + Sociology
Master of Indigenous Studies

