

SOCIAL SCIENCES, BS

Curriculum

The Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences degree requires 45 units total, including the major, concentration, elective certificate, and elective and distribution courses.

Students take eight core courses and choose a major concentration in Law and Policy, Health, Science, and Society, or Social Justice. Social Sciences students also select an elective certificate comprised of four courses from outside of the major.

Core and Major Concentrations

Course	Title
Core Courses	
SOC_SCI 211-DL	Human Cultures and the World
POLI_SCI 250-DL	Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSYCH 110-DL	Introduction to Psychology
SOCIOL 201-DL	Social Inequality
SOCIOL 288-DL	Institutions and Society
SOCIOL 303-DL	Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data
SOC_SCI 389-DL	Qualitative Research in Social Sciences
SOC_SCI 398-DL	Social Sciences Capstone
Major Concentrations (choose one)	
Law and Policy	
POLI_SCI 230-DL	Introduction to Law in the Political Arena
SOC_SCI 320-DL	Social and Public Policy
SOC_SCI 322-DL	Identity and U.S. Policy
SOCIOL 318-DL	Sociology of Law
Health, Science, and Society	
BIOL_SCI 312-DL	The Evolutionary Biology of Human Anatomy, Health, and Disease
HLTH_SCI 317-DL	Culturally Responsive Healthcare
PHIL 269-DL	Bioethics
PUB_HLTH 343-DL	Healthcare Disparities, Inequities, and Social Determinants of Health
Social Justice	
SOC_SCI 330-DL	Human Rights and Social Institutions: A Global Perspective
SOC_SCI 331-DL	Social Justice Movements
SOC_SCI 334-DL	Social Justice and the Commercial Sector
SOC_SCI 335-DL	Social Entrepreneurship and the Non-profit Sector

Elective Certificates

Elective certificates provide students with the opportunity to build skills in a wide range of areas to meet career objectives and earn a stand-alone credential to demonstrate expertise in the professional arena.

Elective Certificates - choose one

- Artificial Intelligence (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-certificate/>)
- Biology for Health Sciences (available Fall 2025)
- Business Essentials (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/business-essentials/business-essentials-certificate/>)

- Corporate Communication and Branding (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/corporate-communication/corporate-communication-certificate/>)
- Data Science (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/data-science/data-science-certificate/>)
- Human Resources (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/human-resources/human-resources-certificate/>)
- Leadership (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/leadership/leadership-certificate/>)
- Programming (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/programming/programming-certificate/>)
- Public Health (available Fall 2025)
- Research and Analytics (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/research-analytics/research-analytics-certificate/>)
- Strategic Communication (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/certificates/post-baccalaureate/strategic-communication/strategic-communication-certificate/>)
- Strategic Management (available Fall 2025)

Degree Requirements

In addition to the core courses, major concentration, elective certificate, and elective courses, the B.S. degree requires 14 units of distribution courses that includes a writing requirement and courses from three areas: humanities, science and math, and social sciences. Two distribution courses apply perspectives on power, justice, and equity: one course within the United States and one course focused globally. Students complete a philosophy course on professional ethics for one of the four humanities distribution courses.

Courses	Units Earned
Writing Requirement: English 111 and 205	2
Humanities	4
Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning	4
Social Sciences	4
Major Requirements	8
Major Concentration	4
Elective Certificate	4
Electives	15
Total	45