



POSTGRADUATE HONOURS PROGRAMME: SOCIOLOGY (2025 entry)

If you have enjoyed Sociology on an undergraduate level, you might be interested in a postgraduate degree in Sociology. The Honours programme is a one-year course in which students deepen their sociological knowledge and analysis while developing their capacity to do research. Advanced study in Sociology helps you make sense of society and your role within it, enabling you to better grapple with complex social challenges no matter your life trajectory. Sociology students go on to work in varied fields, including branches of government and NGOs, educational institutions, social movements, trade unions, and as researchers in public or private institutions.


The Honours year is an intellectually stimulating, rigorous, and demanding academic programme that rewards students with new insights, skills, and opportunities. The Honours programme in Sociology is conducted in English and runs for one year (for full-time students) or two years (for part-time students). The UFS Honours in Sociology programme consists of four year-long modules. Two are compulsory (*Sociological Theory* and *Social Research*), and you can choose two of the other three electives: 1) *Population and the Environment*, 2) *Collective Behaviour & Social Movements*, or 3) *Capita Selecta*. We accept applications for Sociology Honours at both the Bloemfontein and QwaQwa campuses.

Two compulsory core modules

<i>Sociological Theory</i>	<i>Social Research</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">SOCT6808 Sociological Theory</p> <p>Why do we do social theory? Why can it be considered the cornerstone of understanding academic and worldly endeavours? Most social theorists wanted (and still want) to develop social theory as they were interested in finding explanations for social processes not simply from a detached interest but from a deep involvement in the fate of humankind. There is, therefore, an expressed need for some of these theorists to improve humanity's capacity to shape the course of social processes or at least to avert their worst outcomes. Despite the promises of progress, civilisation, development, and technology, our contemporary contexts remain fraught with contradictions, tensions, and recurrences of past errors that have led to unutterable atrocities. As sociologists, we should strive to reflect on the issues of our time by using the "sociological imagination" to develop a better awareness that relates to our societies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOCR6808 Social Research</p> <p>Our understanding of the world around us broadens and deepens if we become aware of it as a continuously changing reality with different facets. The research process enables us to acquire this knowledge and better understand the surrounding reality. In this module, you will be taught in logical interdependent steps how to scientifically approach, investigate and give account of your conclusions of a problem or issue. In this way, the research process becomes a school where you can learn to become acquainted with social realities in all their exciting facets and full diversity. Whatever the motivation for our research might be, in one way or another, it satisfies our craving for more knowledge and deeper understanding, answers the diverse questions that we continue to ask about the world around us and justifies our role and function as scientists in this world.</p>

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Select two of the three elective modules (areas of specialisation)

<i>Environmental Sociology</i>	<i>Capita Selecta</i>	<i>Social Movements</i>
<p>SOCP6808 Population and the Environment</p> <p>Climate change and environmental catastrophe are central 21st-century global concerns. This module explores how Sociology can contribute to understanding and addressing environmental issues. Social and political-economic organisation shapes environmental conditions, and environmental conditions, in turn, shape human life. We thus look at how the natural and social environments are inextricably joined together and how different facets of these systems relate to one another. In this module, we focus on two main questions: 1) who or what is responsible for climate change? and 2) who acts to mitigate climate catastrophe?</p>	<p>SOCI6808 Capita Selecta, from Specialities in Sociology</p> <p>In this module, students are exposed to various areas of specialisation in Sociology. The area of specialisation changes regularly as experts are available in the Department. In 2025, this will likely be a 'deep reading' module. Each academic staff member will offer a sociological text that students will read critically with guidance over the course of the semester. Students select two texts for in-depth reading (one first semester, one second semester), according to their interests.</p> 	<p>SOCS6808 Collective Behaviour & Social Movements</p> <p>South Africa is a country in constant flux, with our history and contemporary reality being shaped by collective behaviour and social movements. This module explores the Sociology of Social Movements from across the world, exploring various geo-political contexts and how people respond collectively to social change, oppression, states, and other social institutions. It provides an academic space in which students can contextualise and critically reflect on broader societal trends in social movement activity.</p>

Application and Selection Process

Step 1: Check if you are eligible.

You **must** have met the following minimum admission requirements:

- An **undergraduate** (BA/BSocSci) degree with **Sociology as a major**,
- A **minimum average of 60% for Sociology** at the undergraduate level, and
- A **consistently good overall performance** (min. 60% average) at the undergraduate level.

Note: Meeting the minimum admission requirements for honours does not guarantee selection.

If you meet the above requirements, **move to step 2**.



**Closing date for applications:
30 September 2024**



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Step 2:

Download the Sociology Honours application form.

Download the **application form** from the Sociology Department website:

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/sociology-home/general/postgraduate-honours>



Note: there are **two steps** to the application process: you must submit your application to the Department (Step 3) **and** complete the online application form for the University (Step 4).

Step 3:

Submit your application to the Department.

To complete your application, you **must complete and submit the following**:

- A completed and signed Departmental application form (see Step 2),
- A complete academic record (e.g., official transcript),
- A motivational essay (500-1000 words) in which you:
 - Outline why you would like to pursue an honours degree in Sociology,
 - Explain what your favourite sociological theory is, and why, and
 - Explain how you see this theory 'playing' itself out in everyday life or social structures.

Tip: Do not ask ChatGPT, other software, or someone else to write your application. Candidates who submit plagiarised application materials will be rejected. Instead, be honest and give us a sense of who you are.

Once you have **completed these three materials**, submit them by email to sociologyhonours@ufs.ac.za.

Note: Once you have done this, you are not finished with the process yet; **please move to step 4**.

Step 4:

Apply online on the University website.

To complete your application, you **must ALSO apply online** through the UFS Student Academic Services page:

<https://apply.ufs.ac.za/>



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Step 5:

The Department will confirm receipt of your application.

After the Department has processed your application, we will email you a confirmation that we have received your application materials. **If you do not receive an email within two weeks confirming receipt,** please email sociologyhonours@ufs.ac.za to follow up.

Note: only complete applications will be considered for the programme.



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Step 6:

You will receive a letter with the result of your application.

Following Step 5, you should wait for a letter indicating whether your application has been approved and is successful, conditionally accepted, or rejected. Your application will be considered at the next Sociology Department Honours Selection Committee meeting, usually in October/November each year. The Committee decides whether to accept candidates for the Honours programme based on a complete application, academic performance, and written motivation.

*Note: There is limited space in the honours programme, and meeting the minimum admission requirements for the honours programme **does not guarantee selection.***

Applicants are notified by the end of November whether their application has been successful. Please contact sociologyhonours@ufs.ac.za if you have not heard from us by early December.

Step 7:

Apply for Funding.

We encourage you to apply for funding if you have received acceptance (or conditional acceptance) from the Department. We recommend looking at the following:

1. Centre for Graduate Support at UFS. Please contact the Centre at

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/centreforgraduatesupport/centreforgraduatesupporthome/contact-us/contact-us>

T: +27 51 401 2045

E: Postgradfunding@ufs.ac.za

2. National Research Foundation (NRF). Please check the NRF website to see if you are eligible:

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-for-post-graduate-students/bursaries-scholarships/>

NOTE: it is wise to look for funding in advance to check if there are separate application deadlines.

The Sociology Department cannot guarantee funding and cannot make funding decisions on behalf of external parties.

If you have any questions, please contact:



Honours Coordinator: Dr Platzky Miller (Josh)

Tel: +27 514012950

Email: sociologyhonours@ufs.ac.za

UFS Sociology Department, South Block, Bloemfontein Campus



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