



honors class in sociology meaning



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Meaning of an Honors Class in Sociology

In sociology, an **honors class** typically refers to an advanced, research-focused course or program designed for high-achieving students who meet specific academic criteria. It is not just a regular lecture class, but often a **year-long seminar or independent study** where students work closely with faculty to develop and complete a **sociology honors thesis**.

Core features of a sociology honors class include:

- Advanced independent study:** Students work under the supervision of a sociology faculty member, often with a “second reader” from another department, to design and execute an original research project

- Thesis requirement:** The program culminates in writing and presenting a thesis that addresses a specific sociological question, using methods such as surveys, interviews, participant observation, or historical analysis 
- Specialized coursework:** Honors students usually take two 3-hour courses over two semesters (e.g., SOC 679HA and SOC 679HB at UT Austin) that focus on research design, literature review, and thesis writing

- Eligibility:** Admission typically requires a high GPA (often 3.0–3.65 overall and in sociology), completion of core sociology courses (theory, methods, statistics), and sometimes a proposed thesis topic or advisor

- Skills and benefits:** The honors class provides deeper training in research, critical thinking, and academic writing, and the thesis can serve as a strong writing sample for graduate school applications 

In short: An honors class in sociology is an **accelerated, faculty-guided research experience** that goes beyond standard coursework, offering students the opportunity to engage in original sociological inquiry, produce scholarly work, and demonstrate advanced academic ability.

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Honors Program | Department of Sociology

Overview Program Components Finished Product Eligibility

The objective of the program is for students to conduct original research that results in a substantial research paper. The program emphasizes the often non-linear process of research: how to translate an abstract interest into a sociological question that you can actually answer with research, learning to situate a topic in an existing literature,...

[See more on sociology.duke.edu](#)

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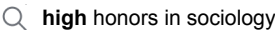
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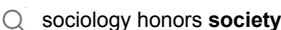
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The Sociology Honors Program gives students hands on experience with the academic research and writing process—i.e. analyzing ...

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What is Sociology Honors? Sociology Honors (also known as Departmental Honors) is a two-semester program during which ...

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Honors Program - American Sociological Association

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Honors - Department of Sociology

This award was established in 1967 in honor of Professor Howard Odum, who founded and first chaired the UNC Sociology ...

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