

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
Named Exit Awards	BSc Criminology and Sociology DipHE Criminology and Sociology CertHE Criminology and Sociology
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC) or Access to HE Diploma - a minimum of 30 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. All applicants are required to hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L301

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2025-26 academic year.⁵

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Summary

As a Criminology and Sociology student you will draw against both courses to develop your academic understanding of the world. Below we discuss Criminology and Sociology so that you understand the courses you will engage with.

Criminology at University of Suffolk will help you to critically engage with national and international dimensions of crime and criminal justice policy and develop well informed views on contested public issues. There is a strong emphasis on challenging “common-sense” notions of criminal and deviant behaviours by critically examining academic research and making informed decisions based on available evidence. To this end, you will be introduced to a variety of research methods and ethical considerations, so that you can challenge and understand the limitations and ambiguities of empirical research, whilst assessing its value. This will provide an excellent theoretical and practical platform for the completion of a third-year independent project in an area of personal or career interest.

Sociology developed with the modern world and its key task is to analyse the changing nature of our social world. Sociology at the University of Suffolk emphasises the real world and underpins skills needed for careers in the private and public sectors. You will study important aspects of the real world that are complex and challenging such as inequality, violence, unfairness, or injustice. Sociology students study these challenging areas when examining social change, globalisation, migration, gender and sexuality, technology and social theory.

By studying sociology at the University of Suffolk you will become sensitive to the wider social context of our lived experience and learn to look beyond a narrow focus on the individual in any life situation. This attention to context will allow you to make more informed decisions. Studying sociology equips students with analytical, decision making and research skills necessary for many vocations. This course will allow you to be innovative, ask awkward questions, and develop good group working skills. It is this combination that makes sociology graduates employable. It is an education for a thoughtful and useful life.

Course Aims

1. To investigate the changing nature of social life, sociology and criminology with its consequences for patterns of diversity, inequality, and injustice
2. To study and develop a critical account of the key features and debates in social theory that aim to explain social life.
3. To develop an ethical framework and a questioning and critical approach to the social life and crime at the local, national, regional and global levels.
4. To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning.
5. To develop subject specific, cognitive and information management skills of value in employment, further study and personal development.
6. To promote increasing participation in education by supporting a range of learners, including non-traditional entrants, at degree level

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

Knowledge and Intellectual Skills

1. Show knowledge and critical analysis of a range of sociological and criminological approaches, theories, concepts, research and their applications.
2. Give a thorough account of social diversity and inequalities using research from the fields of criminology and sociology.
3. Use, develop and evaluate sociological and criminological arguments, perspectives and evidence in a range of social contexts.
4. Develop a sociologically and criminologically informed ethical framework and awareness of major social and crime related problems and challenges at the local, national, regional and global level.

Capability and employability

5. Design, conduct, analyse, and report sociological research using quantitative, qualitative, comparative or mixed method approaches and primary and secondary sources using appropriate data analysis techniques and software.
6. Develop sociologically and criminologically informed questions to undertake and critically evaluate a research project.
7. Manage own learning and communicate it effectively through finding and making good use of academic literature and arguments.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Criminology (2022)
- Sociology (2019)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Social Science Skills	20	R
	Introduction to Criminology	20	R
	Sociological imagination	20	R
	Criminology modules		
	Politics, Crime and Policy	20	O
	Principles of Psychology for Criminology	20	O
	History of Crime & Punishment in England and Wales	20	O
	Sociology modules		
	Social Change	20	O
	Migration and Ethnicity	20	O
Level 5			
	Understanding Research	20	R
	Social Theory	20	R
	Criminological Theory	20	M
	Criminology modules		
	Youth Crime and Justice	20	O
	Policing	20	O
	Criminal Justice	20	O
	Psychology and Crime	20	O
	Crime and the Environment	20	O
	Contemporary Issues in Criminology	20	O
	Law for Criminologists	20	O
	Sociology modules		
	Medical Sociology	20	O
	The World of Work	20	O
	Globalization	20	O
	Social Justice and Policy	20	O
	Racialisation, racism and resistance: global perspectives	20	O
Level 6			
	Independent project	40	M
	Independent Study Module	20	O (recovery)
	Criminology modules		
	Penology	20	O

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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	Victimology	20	O
	Drugs, Crime and Society	20	O
	Forensic Psychology	20	O
	Rehabilitation of Offenders	20	O
	Crime Prevention & Community Safety	20	O
	Crimes of the Powerful	20	O
	Sociology modules		
	Mental Health Policy and Practice	20	O
	Gender and Sexuality	20	O
	Technology and Material Culture	20	O
	Data Analysis and Visualisation for Social Scientists	20	O

The Optional Recovery modules are only available in the exceptional circumstances where a student must retrieve credits to ensure progression or where a standard optional module cannot be delivered.

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for an for an BSc Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 300 credits at Level 4 or above (including at least 180 credits at Level 5 or above and at least 60 credits at Level 6); a DipHE Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5; a CertHE Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) tutor-structured learning for level 4, 9 hours per week (216 hours per year) tutor-structured learning for level 5, and 8 hours per week (192 hours per year) tutor-structured learning for level 6. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and guided learning activities which take place on campus and through our online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 28 hours of independent study in an average

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week at level 4, (672 hours per year), 31 hours of independent study at level 5, (744 hours per year) and 32 hours of independent study at level 6, (768 hours per year), but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with up to two examinations at level 4.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,535 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£15,090 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for essential reading materials amounting to approximately £240 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).