First year in the Bachelor of Social Science

Your first year in the Bachelor of Social Science is an exciting time with opportunity to experiment and discover new areas of study. You’ll also be making some decisions about what your degree will look like over the next few years. This short guide aims to help you through some of the key decisions and set you up for your first year.

Requirements of the degree

It is important that you understand the requirements of the degree when making decisions. The Course and Unit Handbook provides you with all the rules and requirements of your degree, as well as all the majors and units available to you. You should visit it whenever you’re unsure about what options you have.

In order to graduate from the Bachelor of Social Science you’ll need to complete:

- A Major in Politics and Policy, or Sociology
- A second major from the social sciences or related disciplines
- Degree Core and Experience and Engagement units as specified in the Course and Unit Handbook.

In your first year you’ll need to choose units towards each of those requirements, completing a total of eight 100 level Introductory units. Most students will complete four units in each of the two main semesters. On the next pages we’ll look at how to choose your units.

**First year structure:** A typical full-time first year enrolment consists of eight 100 level Introductory units including two units towards a major, two units towards a second major, three degree core units and one elective units.

Part-time students follow a similar pattern, but usually in sequence rather than simultaneously.
Choosing your first major
The first major for the Bachelor of Social Science must be either Sociology or Politics and Policy.

In your first year, you will need to complete two 100 level units towards one of these majors.

Politics and Policy:
Semester 1: HPP101 Introduction to Politics and Policy
Semester 2: HIR101 Introduction to International Relations

Sociology
Semester 1: HGA101 Sociology: Understanding the Social World
Semester 2: HGA102 Sociology: Experiencing Social Life

Choosing your second major
The second major comes from social sciences and related disciplines. You can choose from any of the below, taking one unit in each semester as specified:

Criminology Any of the following pairs of units: PSY124 and PSY112 or HPP101 and LAW121 or LAW122 or HGA101 and HGA102 or PSY111 and PSY125 or HSP108 and HGA102 or HSP109 and HGA101

Geography and Environment
Semester 1: KGA171 Global Geographies of Change, Semester 2: KGA172 Space, Place and Nature

History
Semester 1: HTA101 History 1A: Making Modern Europe, Semester 2: HTA102 History 1B: Making the Modern World

Human Resource Management
Semester 1: BMA101 Introduction to Management, Semester 2: BMA121 Managing People at Work

International Relations
Semester 1: HPP101 Introduction to Politics and Policy, Semester 2: HIR101 Introduction to International Relations

Journalism, Media and Communication
Semester 1: HEJ130 Media and Screen Industries or HEJ160 Writing Media: Stories & Content, Semester 2: HEJ150 Texts and Audiences

Psychological Sciences (it is not possible to complete an accredited pathway in the Bachelor of Social Science)
Semester 1: PSY111 Transferable Skills in Psychology, Semester 2: PSY112 Brain and Behaviour

Sociology or Politics and Policy as per first major choices

You can find out more about these disciplines in the Course and Unit Handbook, on the School of Social Sciences webpage, on the internet, or by talking to course and unit coordinators.
Choosing your Degree Core knowledge units
The degree core knowledge units you take will establish the attributes, knowledge and skills that are at the centre of Social Science study.

If you are taking HGA101, HGA102 and/or HPP101 towards your major choices, you will not be able to choose them again here. If you haven’t taken them, you are encouraged to do so.

In your first year, choose three of the following units:

**Semester 1:**
- **HGA101** Sociology: Understanding the Social World
- **HPP101** Introduction to Politics and Policy
- **HAB103** Colonised land: Indigenous Australian History
- **XBR113** Indigenous Lifeworlds: local to the global
- **XBR104** Living and Working with Cultural Diversity

**Semester 2:**
- **HGA102** Sociology: Experiencing the Social Life
- **HAB102** Contemporary Indigenous Australia
- **XBR104** Living and Working with Cultural Diversity

**Spring School:**
- **HGA138** Society, Culture and Health

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Choosing your experience and engagement unit
In your first year you will choose one of the following two units in the first semester:
- **XBR105** Good Thinking: Reasoning Skills for Life
- **XBR106** Ethics and Social Responsibility

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**Example first year enrolment:**
This student has decided to take a first major in Sociology and a second major in Human Resource Management (HRM). They have chosen their degree core and experience and engagement units to compliment their majors, with an emphasis on diversity in the workplace.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First major - Sociology</th>
<th>Second major - HRM</th>
<th>Degree Core Knowledge</th>
<th>Experience and Engagement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HGA101</strong> Sociology: Understanding the Social World</td>
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Not sure what to do or what to choose?
If you’re not sure what you want to do, don’t worry. Take some time to explore the options available, talk to people you value the opinion of, and do some research on the University website and the internet about what the different subject areas are about.

You can also get assistance in making choices through U Connect. U Connect can set you up to meet with a Course Information Officer or Student Advisor who can help you work through the options and decisions you need to make.

You have until the end of week two of semester to finalise your unit choices, so if you find something isn’t what you expected, there is time to make changes.

Credit and Advanced Standing
If you are starting your degree with credit or advanced standing you may not need to complete some or all of your first year students. The Course Information Officer processing your application will advise you what credit is being offered and what your enrolment options are.