

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Social Science
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 and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Social Science
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Social Science DipHE Social Science
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE Maths at grade C or above (or equivalent)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Lowestoft)
UCAS Code	L990

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Social Science course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

Studying our interdisciplinary degree in the social sciences will give you specific knowledge and understanding of the relationships between the local world and the wider world, between the past and the present and between the individual and the group. You will study sociology, politics, psychology and social and cultural history in preparation for a range of post-graduation careers and study programmes. The BA (Hons) Social Science could open up career opportunities in education, the health professions, law, social services, national and international voluntary and campaigning organisations, the media, public relations, public service organisations and government (national and local), the criminal justice system and social welfare organisations. The course offers a flexible route within higher education for people with varying levels of experience and will enable you to develop your skills of writing,

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

analysis, critical thinking, presentation and teamwork and apply them to contemporary issues and problems in the real world.

Course Aims

- To develop in depth knowledge and a critical understanding of social science in general, with rigorous linking of theoretical analysis with empirical enquiry to enable students to make links both between and within the subject disciplines
- To enable students to develop a critical understanding of subject-specific concepts, approaches and methods drawn from social policy, psychology, sociology, political theory and social and cultural history, with an awareness of the distinctive characters of the separate disciplines
- To develop an understanding of the contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry within the discipline
- To enable students to develop and incorporate study and employability skills
- To plan, carry out and evaluate research, demonstrating the student's understanding of the value of research generally, its role and practice, and the key concepts and theoretical models in research methodologies as applied in social science careers and occupations
- To develop in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of the history and structures of modernity and late-modernity from national, European and global perspectives and an understanding of the social processes underpinning social change
- To enable students to evaluate the importance of the social sciences through the key themes of Representation, the Local and the Global and Self and Society. To develop critically evaluative knowledge of representation in all contexts. To critically apply that knowledge to the immediate locality, to the wider global world and to have critical evaluative knowledge of personal identities and critically apply that knowledge to wider society

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Social Science 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.

Level 6

At this level the emphasis is on critical evaluation of knowledge and analytical skills.

Knowledge

1. The students will have acquired a detailed and critically evaluative knowledge base of the underlying concepts and principles of the subject disciplines, the main methods of enquiry, to analyse the appropriateness of different approaches with regard to investigating social issues and understand the limits of that knowledge.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

2. The students will have acquired a detailed knowledge base and have a systematic and critical understanding of the late 20th Century history and contemporary structures of modernity from local, national, European and global perspectives, as well as a critical understanding of the cultural, theoretical, political and social processes underpinning social change.
3. The students will have a detailed body of knowledge informed by the theories and concepts which are the forefront of the subject disciplines.
4. The students will demonstrate acquisition of the detailed, systematic and coherent body of evaluative knowledge the nature of interdisciplinary social science and the course themes of Representation, Local and Global and Self and Society. Furthermore, they will be able to critically apply the concepts and principles from the disciplines outside of the context in which they were studied, recognising the uncertainty and ambiguity of the knowledge.

Cognitive skills

5. The students will be able to critically evaluate the importance of the social sciences through the key themes of Representation, The Local and the Global and Self and Society as well as critically evaluating representation in all contexts, critically applying this to the immediate locality, to wider global world and to have critical evaluate personal identities and issues and that of the wider society.
6. The students will develop their ability to critically analyse the contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry within the disciplines, develop their evaluation of arguments, assumptions, concepts and data, in accordance with the interdisciplinary approaches.

Practical skills

7. The students will be able to plan and analyse research and critically apply the key concepts to initiate and be able to competently carry out research in the future.
8. The students will be able to make use of scholarly reviews, primary sources, and have good information literacy skills.
9. The students will be able to effectively communicate arguments, ideas, problems and solutions, in a variety of forms for a variety of audience both specialist and non-specialist.

Key skills

10. The students will achieve threshold competence of employability skills and qualities as expected for an undergraduate at level six in the social sciences.
11. The students will demonstrate initiative, decision making, problem solving and be able to undertake further training, education and skills development as commensurate with their future plans.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Design

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

- Sociology (2016);
- Psychology (2016);
- History (2014);
- Politics and International Relations (2015).

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Social Science comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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			
	History: Modernity: Development and Structures	20	R
	Politics: Models of Political thought and the State	20	R
	Psychology: The Human Mind: Introduction to Psychology	20	R
	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	20	R
	Sociology: Understanding the Social: Theories and Themes	20	R
	Academic Skills	20	R
Level 5			
	Politics: International Politics and Relations	20	R
	Psychology: The Human Mind: Psychosocial Factors	20	R
	Research Practice in Social Science	20	M
	Sociology: Contemporary Social Theory (from Modernity to Post Modernity)	20	R
	Advanced Academic and Employability Skills	20	R
Plus 20 credits from:			
	History: Social Policy and Social Change	20	O
	Behaviour Awareness	20	O
Level 6			
	Politics: Globalisation and Localism: Process and Structures from the Local to the Global	20	R
	Psychology: Social Psychology	20	R
	Sociology: Identity and Culture	20	R
	Dissertation	40	M
Plus 20 credits from:			

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

	History: Social and Cultural Futures	20	O
	Critical Evaluation of Interventions and their Success	20	O
	Assessment and Intervention	20	O

Optional modules will be delivered every year.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Social Science. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Social Science on successful completion of 120 credits at level 4 plus 120 credits at level 5 including all mandatory modules across both levels; or a CertHE Social Science on successful completion of 120 credits at level 4 including all mandatory modules.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Lowestoft). Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Social Science can expect a typical week of tutor contact, including class-based sessions, to range between twelve hours a week at level 4 to seven hours at level 6. The course is delivered during family-friendly hours. At level 4, you should expect more class sessions as you become familiar with the knowledge and understanding required within the discipline. By contrast at level 6, class sessions are likely to reduce and there will be more of a requirement for one-to-one or small group tutorials as your autonomy and specialisms develop.

The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops and academic tutorials. Although there is no formal work placement, students are encouraged to seek such opportunities to assist with linking theory to practice and to support the employability ethos of the course. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 20-25 hours of independent study in an average week 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 will mostly be coursework (including essays, reports, seminars, presentations, portfolios, briefing papers, posters etc.).

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 BA (Hons) Social Science will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£14,610 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,435 per 20 credit module

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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

There are no additional costs to students other than for the usual stationery and various text books should they wish to purchase them.

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](#).