

NCTC Advising FAQ for Social Sciences (Anthropology, English, Humanities, Philosophy, Sociology, Government and History)

[Associate of Arts Pathways](#)

1. What classes are in these Certificates and Degrees?

At NCTC we have customized our Associate of Arts Degree for the following pathways:

- **Anthropology** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/aa-anthropology-pathway.pdf>
- **English** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/english.pdf>
- **Humanities** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/humanities.pdf>
- **Philosophy** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/humanities.pdf>
- **Psychology** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/psychology.pdf>
- **Sociology** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/sociology.pdf>
- **Government** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/government.pdf>
- **History** <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/degree-transfer-pathways/association-of-arts/history.pdf>

2. Are these majors and programs transferable?

All NCTC undergraduate credits can be transferred to other Texas schools as well as out of state, but the question to ask is, “What major at my intended university needs these specific credits”? Core will fulfill core curriculum requirements, but it is important to check the degree plan at the university you plan to attend to know what classes are needed and to see which of your NCTC credits will fulfill those requirements.

Transfer Guides are a good source for knowing how your classes can transfer. Here are some great resources from area universities:

- **UNT:** <https://registrar.unt.edu/transfer-guides>
- **TWU:** <https://twu.edu/transfer-resources/texas-community-college-transfer-guides/>
- **MSU Texas (Midwestern):** <https://msutexas.edu/admissions/equivalencies.php>

Working with both your advisor at NCTC and a transfer advisor at your intended transfer institution is important to make sure the process is as seamless as possible.

3. How long will it take to complete this degree?

Following the degree plan as it is stated in the NCTC Academic Catalog, it will take two years; however, students are welcome to take classes at their own pace, just keep in mind this will impact your graduation timeline. Remember we have all these [different semesters and ways for you to combine classes](#) throughout the year!

- Summer terms offer 5.5 or 10-week options
- Fall and Spring terms offer 16 and 8-week options
- Wintermester and Maymester courses are 4-5 weeks

How many classes you take each semester depends on other commitments such as work hours, travel time, and/or family responsibilities, however the important thing is that you keep going and take classes in the best combination for you to complete successfully! Here are some things to consider when determining how to balance your school schedule with other variables in your life:

$$(Clock\ Hours\ of\ the\ Course^*) \times (2-3\ Study\ Hours) \% (Number\ of\ Weeks\ in\ the\ Semester\ or\ Term^{**}) = Total\ Weekly\ Time\ Commitment\ for\ School$$

*The "Clock Hours" of a course can be found in "Find Courses" section of MyNCTC after you click on a specific course name/number. Most 3-hour courses are around 48 Clock Hours.

**Number of Weeks in a Course.

4. What can I do with a Social Science or related degree?

According to BestColleges.com, "A social science degree prepares graduates for diverse and rewarding careers. The critical thinking, research, and analytical skills gained during a social science program help prepare graduates for diverse job titles, including economist, psychologist, political scientist, and historian. Social science graduates can also work as postsecondary teachers, museum curators, and social workers.

While some career paths require a graduate degree, individuals with a bachelor's degree can pursue entry-level roles working for businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits. A bachelor's in social science also prepares graduates for law school and other graduate programs that require strong research, writing, and analytical skills."

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/careers/humanities-and-social-sciences/social-science/>

5. How can I learn more about my career options and outlook?

It's important to have a good, general understanding of the field you'd like to go into. We have a Career Services Center (<https://www.nctc.edu/career-services/index.html>) that can help you start your exploration, but there are also a lot of free resources online that you can check out, like My Next Move (<https://www.mynextmove.org/>).

6. Can I use my Financial Aid?

Yes! As long as you are staying on plan and taking courses required for your major. You will work with your advisor to create an academic plan that works best for you.

7. I want to major in Social Work, but I don't see this option offered at NCTC. Can I still major in this?

While NCTC does not have Social Work electives, we do offer the core curriculum, which is needed if you plan to get a Social Work degree in Texas. Here is a listing of our core classes: <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/core-curriculum.html>.

All of our Social Science Pathways include the core, so you could pick any as your major and simply opt to take your electives at the university you plan to transfer to. If you complete your core with us, transfer, and then complete at least 16 hrs of electives at your future university, you can request a reverse transfer and be awarded an Associate of Arts degree from NCTC.

8. What is the difference between Psychology and Psychiatry?

According to Psychology.org, "Psychologists and psychiatrists provide mental health services to people of all ages, but their credentials differ. The differences between psychology and psychiatry come down to education, job training, and [scope of practice](#)."

Both psychologists and psychiatrists need a graduate-level education, but whereas psychologists hold a Ph.D. or a Psy.D., psychiatrists must earn a medical degree. Psychologists and psychiatrists may also work together to care for patients and provide therapy, but only psychiatrists can prescribe medications."

<https://www.psychology.org/resources/differences-between-psychology-and-psychiatry/#main-differences-between-psychology-and-psychiatry>

9. I want to double major or major and minor in two different Social Sciences. Is that possible at NCTC?

Since our social science pathways are all customizations of the same degree, the Associate of Arts, it is not possible to earn the Associate of Arts degree twice. Double majors and minors are customizations that you can request at the university level, so it is a possibility for the future. While at NCTC, it will be in your best interest to pick one major/pathway to focus on. Keep in mind that only classes on your NCTC degree plan may be eligible for Financial Aid, so you may need to pay out of pocket if you add additional courses.

10. How can I complete this degree? Can it be done online and/or is this degree campus specific?

Most of the Criminal Justice programs can be done completely online, however there may be some in-person requirements such as for internships. Your academic courses in the AA or AAS plans can be taken online, limiting the amount of time spent on campus if needed. However you can choose to take any in-person or hybrid course options you like along with your online classes!

11. Will the credits I have from another college be applied to this degree and how do I apply them?

This will vary, pending on where and when you took them, and whether or not the courses you took apply to your major or pathway. To have your transcripts evaluated to transfer in any applicable credits, you will need to complete a [Transcript Evaluation Request](#). Transfer credits are NOT automatically evaluated and applied. While you are waiting on your transcripts to be evaluated, you are able to work with your advisor to verify pre-requisites and to pick classes you don't possibly have credit for already.

12. Which [NCTC advisor](#) or faculty can I contact for more information?

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