

Sociology

Program Highlights

- Students interested in contributing to social change have an opportunity to participate in the public policy and peace studies programs or coordinate sociology courses with offerings in economics, political science, or other disciplines.
- Multiculturalism is important to our program. More than half of our faculty members have directed an international study program. The department offers courses in world populations, race and ethnicity, urban studies and anthropology.
- Experiential learning is valued. In addition to internships, interested students can participate in on-going faculty research or design and implement their own independent research project for credit.
- The sociology curriculum is organized in accordance with American Sociological Association guidelines. This includes required courses in Introduction to Sociology, Contemporary Sociological Theory, Social Statistics, Social Research Methods, and a Senior Capstone course.
- There are elective courses such as criminology, race and ethnic groups, social problems, medical sociology, intimate relationships and world populations.
- The department has sponsored internships at the Office of the Saint Cloud Mayor, Camp Courage, Casa Guadalupe and Stearns County Community Corrections.
- We also offer a concentration in family studies.

"What can I do with a BA in sociology?"

- As a strong liberal arts major, sociology provides several answers to this important question:
- A BA in sociology is excellent preparation for future graduate work in sociology in order to become a professor, researcher, or applied sociologist.
- The undergraduate degree provides a strong liberal arts preparation for entry level positions throughout the business, social service, and government worlds. Employers look for people with the skills that an undergraduate education in sociology provides.
- Sociology offers valuable preparation for careers in journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration— fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse groups.
- Many students choose sociology because they see it as a broad liberal arts base for professions such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counseling. Sociology provides a rich fund of knowledge that directly pertains to each of these fields.

Leaders with Sociology Backgrounds

Ronald Reagan (U.S. President, 1981-1989); Fernando Cardoso (Brazilian President, 1995-2002); Shirley Chisholm (U.S. Congresswoman; Ambassador); Cardinal Theo. McCarrick (Archbishop of Washington); Rev. Jesse Jackson (Social Activist).

Nobel Prize Recipients with Sociology Backgrounds. (<http://www.nobel.se>)

Frederic Passy (1901 Peace Prize); Jane Addams (1931 Peace Prize); Carlos Saavedra Lamas (1936 Peace Prize); Emily Greene Balch (1946 Peace Prize); Georges Pire (1958 Peace Prize); Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964 Peace Prize); Wassily Leontief (1973 Economics Prize); Saul Bellow (1976 Literature Prize); George J. Stigler (1982 Economics Prize); John C. Harsanyi (1994 Economics Prize); Wislawa Szymborska (1996 Literature Prize).

What is Sociology?

Sociology systematically studies groups and social aggregates - investigating their structural relations and how individuals' attitudes and actions are influenced by them. Families, schools, religious associations, peer groups, political parties, work organizations, markets, and even nations are all examples of groups that sociologists might study. Sociologists are called upon to analyze group dynamics, the assimilation (or non-assimilation) of new persons into a social system, and the patterned behavior of people in organizations, and project demographic trends to give just a few examples.

Sociologists employ an array of theoretical frameworks (e.g., Marxist, functionalist, positivist, symbolic interactions, phenomenological), methodologies (e.g., secondary data, surveys, document studies, experiments, observations), and analytical techniques (e.g., statistics, content analysis) in their quest to understand how the social world operates.

Sociologists work professionally as researchers, policy consultants, and professors, technicians in private and governmental agencies and in personnel or industrial counseling. Individual courses in sociology help prepare students to work in a variety of fields such as public policy, social service, law, education, marketing, health, counseling, human resources and corrections.

Courses Include:

- Contemporary Sociological Theory
- Sex and Gender
- Family & Society
- Sociology of Medicine and Health Care
- Race & Ethnic Groups in the United States

Study Abroad

The sociology department encourages students to couple experiential learning with the study of social structure and cultural practices within different venues. Students are encouraged to participate in study abroad and other horizon-broadening experiences. Many sociology majors have participated in such experiences around the globe including Australia, Central America, Great Britain, Greece

and Rome, South Africa, and Spain. Sociology department faculty members have directed programs to Austria, China, Ireland, and Japan as well as having participated in research and/or faculty development excursions to Honduras, India, and Scandinavia.

Faculty

Richard Albares, Ph.D.
(University of Chicago)

Janet Hope, Ph.D.
(University of North Carolina)

Jeffrey Kamakahi, Ph.D.
(University of Hawaii at Manoa)

James Makepeace, Ph.D.
(Washington State University)

M. Sheila Nelson, Ph.D.
(Loyola University of Chicago)

To further explore your interest in sociology, visit the following Web sites:

- American Sociological Association: <http://www.asanet.org>
- Central Plains Sociological Association: <http://sociology.sdstate.edu/gpsa/gpsa.htm>
- International Sociological Association: <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/info/isa/>
- Midwest Sociological Association: <http://www.themss.org/>
- National Council of State Sociological Associations: <http://www.statesociologicalassociations.org/>
- North Central Sociological Association: <http://www.ncsanet.org/>
- Pacific Sociological Association: <http://www.csus.edu/psa/psa.html>
- Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI): <http://www.soci.niu.edu/~sssi/>
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP): <http://www.sssp1.org/>
- Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS): <http://newmedia.colorado.edu/~socwomen/>
- Sociologists of Minnesota: <http://www.thunder.com.net/som/>
- Socioweb: <http://www.socioweb.com/~markbl/socioweb/assoc/>

"The study of how social collectivities are organized, how the quality of life of populations can be measured and improved, and how purposeful social change can be accomplished are becoming ever more important as globalization increases. As a discipline, sociology stands at the forefront of such inquiries."

Jeff Kamakahi, department chair