

Undergraduate Programs in Sociology

In whatever field you choose to do your life's work, you will encounter the discipline of sociology: the study of how individuals and groups of people function within social contexts – political organizations, clubs, corporations, governments, and more. Because comprehending the interactions between individuals and the groups they form is key to understanding your own social environment, knowing sociological principles will always serve you well.

THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

From its very beginning, the field of sociology has been concerned with urban life, the forces of social change, and with understanding and addressing social problems. Our department reflects these interests and has a foundational goal of advancing the understanding of local and global social conditions.

The Sociology major offers the broadest perspective and the widest range of curriculum options. This major affords an opportunity to take courses that address the workings of many core societal institutions – the workplace, the family, the health care and criminal justice systems, and the media. It provides an overview of dynamic social forces that affect us every day, including population density and behavior, immigration, inequality, cultural

differences, and globalization. These studies are supplemented by elective coursework that helps students focus their academic interests, identify an area of specialization, and ultimately select a career path.

In addition to pursuing advanced study in master's and doctoral-level programs, graduates of the sociology program have gone on to work as applied researchers, teachers, and counselors in human service, health care, and criminal justice settings.

THE CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

The CCJ program provides social scientific grounding to issues of crime and criminal justice. Students explore the nature of criminal behavior, its causes, the role of punishment, and prison as a social institution. Students learn about the criminal justice system, including corrections, law enforcement and the law. Classes focus on issues central to policies and practices, including mental illness, substance abuse, racial and ethnic inequality, gender, class, and immigration.

A major focus of the faculty is to help students connect theory and research with policy and practice in the "real world." Through current events, research, observations, and critical study of criminal justice

systems, students better understand broader trends and future options. For example, students may consider the increasing prison population and high cost of incarceration and ask: Who is being incarcerated and why? Do prison alternatives work? How do incarceration policies affect families and communities?

Many graduates pursue careers in fields such as law enforcement, re-entry programs, legal services, victim services, corrections, and security. Others move into graduate programs in criminology, forensic services, law, or dispute resolution.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

An internship provides an excellent opportunity for students to integrate academic learning with hands-on experience. Through an internship, students can explore career options, develop marketable skills, network with established professionals, and build their resumes. The Sociology department assists students in finding placements related to their career goals and academic interests.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

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