



SOCIOLOGY

B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY

The study of sociology offers a unique perspective for understanding the social structures and forces that affect individuals and their relationships with one another and their community. The Department of Sociology explores the roles of gender, race, religion, culture, ethnicity and income in shaping the human experience in a changing society. The department places special emphasis on issues of health and social influences on health policies and health behaviors.

Sociologists think creatively and critically about individual values, lifestyles and options. They have skills to conduct qualitative and quantitative studies for understanding public opinion, social needs, trends and institutions. A major in sociology will be useful to students considering careers in the health and social service professions, social research, public administration and program development, criminal and juvenile justice agencies, market research, communications and business.

The sociology major provides excellent preparation for admission to law school or medical school. Sociology course work, or a minor or second major in sociology, also provides excellent preparation to students majoring in other social sciences, natural sciences or humanities.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honors fraternity, welcomes selected juniors and seniors; membership requires a 3.4 GPA in sociology and a 3.0 GPA overall.
- The multidisciplinary program in gerontological studies is designed to integrate research and theory about aging and old age. Humanists, scientists, social scientists and professionals strive to understand the position of the aged in society, the aging process in various contexts, the meaning of aging to individuals and the physical changes that accompany aging.
- Students may join the Sociology Club to become more involved in the Case experience with students who share similar interests.

- Department faculty have recently been nominated for, or received, noteworthy awards such as the Diekhoff Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, the Wittke Award in Teaching Excellence, the Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring, the Outstanding Researcher in gerontology and the Mortar Board "Top Prof" Award.
- In addition to the B.A., the department offers the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

To fulfill department requirements, 30 hours of coursework must be completed successfully. All majors must complete the following:

- SOCI 112 Introductory Sociology
- SOCI 300 Sociological Theory
- PSCL 282 Quantitative Methods OR
- STAT 201 Statistics (Recommended Prior to SOCI 303)
- SOCI 303 Research Methods
- SOCI 392 Senior Capstone Experience

In addition, they must complete 18 hours of electives, consisting of any six courses in sociology, SOCI 375 (Independent Study) is available to selected majors in their junior or senior year.

Concentrations in Sociology

Concentrations are intended to guide students in the selection of courses relevant to their interests and future goals, as well as to provide them with a solid grounding in sociology as one of the liberal arts sciences. Students may thus connect their concentration to their interests, to possible employment opportunities, or to specific graduate and professional school programs that

they intend to pursue. The student majoring in sociology has the option of choosing one of the four concentration fields taken in conjunction with the sociology major, or he/she may choose to obtain the major in sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of 12 credit hours. Students choosing a concentration must take four of the courses listed for the selected concentration.

1. CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

CONCENTRATION — SOCI 204 Criminology; SOCI 320 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice; SOCI 328 Urban Sociology; SOCI 333 Deviance; SOCI 349 Social Inequality; SOCI 369 Sociology of Law

2. HEALTH AND AGING CONCENTRATION —

SOCI 203 Human Development; SOCI 311 Health, Illness and Social Behavior; SOCI 313 Sociology of Stress and Coping; SOCI 319 Sociology of Institutional Care; SOCI 361 The Life Course; SOCI 365 Health Care Delivery; SOCI 369 Aging in American Society

3. GENDER, WORK AND FAMILY

CONCENTRATION — SOCI 208 Dating, Marriage and Family; SOCI 222 Gender in U.S. Society; SOCI 355 Work and Occupations; SOCI 370 Family Structure and Process; SOCI 372 Work and Family

4. SOCIAL INEQUALITY —

SOCI 203 Human Development; SOCI 320 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice; SOCI 326 Women and Society; SOCI 349 Social Inequality; SOCI 355 Sociology of Education; SOCI 361 The Life Course; SOCI 372 Work and Family

Please see the General Bulletin (www.case.edu/bulletin) for a complete listing of courses and complete course descriptions.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Departmental honors

Juniors majoring in sociology with a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.4 GPA in sociology are invited to apply for the department's honors program, which consists of an intensive, year-long investigation of a research problem under the guidance of a faculty member. Students will earn credit through registration in SOCI 397 and SOCI 398 (Honors Studies). Admission to honors work is by faculty approval. Completion of SOCI 303 previous to beginning the honors sequence is required.

Integrated Graduate Studies

This program is intended for highly motivated candidates for the B.A. whose objective is a degree at the master's or doctorate level.

By closely integrating undergraduate and graduate studies, qualified students begin a program of graduate study their senior year leading to the simultaneous completion of requirements for both the master's and bachelor's, each within its specified framework. Students interested in pursuing the IGS program should apply for admission at the end of the sophomore year. Please see the General Bulletin for full details.

Internships, service learning and study abroad

Internships and service learning projects are available with organizations such as the AFL-CIO and the criminal justice system. In addition, there are many junior year abroad opportunities available through the university.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Elderly Care Research Center is the site of funded projects focused on theory-based and public policy issues in aging and medical sociology. Current projects relate to physical and mental health outcomes of stress, coping, cancer survivorship, and adaptation to frailty and life-threatening illness in late life. The center is recipient of an National Institute on Aging (NIA) Merit Award for a long-term study of residents of a retirement community. The center serves as a laboratory for student research.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to work with faculty on research projects. Students have recently engaged in studies involving "medical marriages," successful aging, inequality and aging, coping with disabilities, and crime and delinquency.

Collaborative and cross-national research involves colleges from other disciplines and universities in Israel, Hungary, Great Britain and Germany.

RECENT GRADUATES

A recent survey of post graduation plans among graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences found that 55 percent went on to graduate or professional school and the remainder pursued other plans.

Each year, approximately 25 students graduate with a B.A. in sociology. The majority of those students proceed to graduate or professional schools. In recent years, graduates were accepted to Ph.D. programs at Case, University of Washington, University of California Davis, University of Maryland, Duke University, Penn State University and Columbia University. Other students enrolled in medical or law schools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

General Bulletin

www.case.edu/bulletin

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