



Sociology

College of Liberal Studies

Sociology adds to our knowledge of people as agents of a particular culture or often a mix of different cultures. Sociology studies patterns of social interaction within a society and the specific institutional structures that influence human lives in sometimes positive and sometimes negative ways. A general goal of much sociological research is to enhance our understanding of how society really works and to expose the often hidden structures of authority and power that regulate social outcomes. Anthropology is offered as a minor in the Sociology/Archaeology Department. Anthropology also includes in its research strategy the study of human biology and prehistory. Both disciplines borrow and contribute freely to each other as well as to the other social sciences and the humanities.

The Sociology/Archaeology Department at UW-La Crosse provides several services for students including: placement and internship advising; a limited number of part-time employment positions in the department; a newsletter to keep students informed of department policies, directions and developments; and the Social Issues Club which is open to anyone interested in informal discussions, student-organized field trips and faculty-student get-togethers.

Students consult with advisers to select courses that match their interests and long-term plans. Areas of concentration include comparative sociology, criminal justice, demography and social stratification, sociological theory, and social psychology.

Undergraduate Programs

Majors:

- Sociology*

Minors:

- Anthropology
- Sociology*

**Teacher certification available*

Multidisciplinary Minors and Programs:

- Criminal Justice

Department Features

Majors and Minors

Sociology major and minor

Sociology is the study of human groups and how the group influences social behavior. The field is both a science and a philosophy, seeking to answer questions about human behavior through the use of scientific methods. Sociology gives us new and important knowledge about the social world. The focus of the sociology major is to prepare students with the methodological background and analytical skills necessary for working in today's world, while allowing students to gain a basic understanding of a

variety of areas within sociology such as social stratification, criminology, social psychology and comparative sociology.

Every Sociology major completes a senior project in one of our two senior capstone courses SOC 405 Quantitative Social Research Seminar or SOC 416 Qualitative Explorations. Working closely with faculty, each student designs and completes a semester-long investigation of a sociology-related topic. The senior capstone course provides students with firsthand experience and analytical skills that are valuable in the work world and in graduate study.

Anthropology minor

The Anthropology minor provides students with a solid background in sociocultural anthropology. Course electives allow students to gain a greater understanding of how cultures develop and the similarities and differences in cultures from the past and present. The Anthropology minor is an excellent compliment to majors in business, foreign languages, psychology, political science, communication studies and sociology.

Criminal Justice minor

The Criminal Justice minor is an interdisciplinary minor that is designed to assist students interested in careers within the criminal justice system. The minor is

complementary to a variety of majors offered at UW-La Crosse. Students will gain an understanding of the major components of the criminal justice system such as law enforcement, corrections, probation, the courts, crime and delinquency. The Criminal Justice minor will serve the needs of any student interested in criminal justice related careers such as law enforcement officer, corrections officer, probation agent, and youth counselor.

Faculty

The faculty specializes in areas such as small group dynamics, crime and delinquency, family relations, ethnic and cultural minorities, education, death, illness, demography, gender, and social movements. Students may select from the more than 30 courses in sociology and anthropology, design independent studies and engage in internships.

Student Clubs

There are two student clubs, the Sociology and Social Issues Club (open to all interested students) and Alpha Kappa Delta (an honors association for sociology majors).

Sample Courses

- Sociological Foundations
- Sociological Methods I & II
- Contemporary Sociological Theory
- Classical Sociological Theory
- Qualitative Explorations
- Quantitative Social Research Seminar
- Society and Schools
- Marriage and Family
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Law and Society
- Religion and Society
- Sociology of Gender
- Social Stratification
- Social Psychology
- Criminology
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Drugs and Society
- Environmental Sociology
- Collective Behavior
- Comparative Sociology
- Sociology Internship

Career Opportunities

Career Titles of Past Graduates: Community and Social Services

- AmeriCorps Member
- Counselor
- Child Care Worker
- Group Home Worker
- Manager of Group Home for Children
- Non-Profit Agency Fundraiser
- Peace Corps Member
- Social Service Agency Worker
- Substance Abuse Group Worker
- Volunteer Services Director
- Recreation Activity Leader
- Social Security Administration Caseworker

Criminal Justice

- Border Patrol Agent
- Correctional Officer/Jailer
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Juvenile Detention Center Worker
- Insurance Claims Investigator

Human Resources

- Employment Counselor
- Job Service Specialist
- Labor Relations Manager
- Personnel Administrator

Business & Management

- Advertising
- Banking
- Customer Service Representative
- Insurance
- Public Relations
- Stockbroker

Applied Sociology/Research

- Market/Consumer Research Analyst
- Opinion Survey Researcher
- Grant Writer/Assistant

Further Education

- Graduate study in sociology, anthropology, social work, criminal justice, marriage and family counseling, school counseling and guidance, psychology, law, medicine, business, public health, urban planning, and theology.

Occupational Outlook

Knowledge and research skills learned in sociology can be used in a variety of careers. Many employers advertise for management trainees, marketing personnel, salespersons, system planners, field representatives, counselors, labor-management negotiators, and recruiters, to name a few. Employers seek alert, highly motivated people who like to work with other people. Sociology and anthropology students who build a major or minor with the proper mix of electives and research/analytical skills will be at a competitive advantage in the job market.

Sociology and anthropology graduates have obtained jobs where they administer programs, conduct small research projects and

participate as analysts on social research teams.

Sociology majors' earnings are similar to that of other liberal arts majors. Sociology majors often seek and obtain jobs in human service/non-profit fields that often pay less than business/for-profit related fields. Sociology majors are strongly encouraged to consider a wide variety of career options and not narrow their interests to careers that appear to be directly sociology related. Faculty advisers can assist students in identifying a wide range of career opportunities.

Independent work as a "sociologist" or "anthropologist" requires additional skills obtained in graduate degree programs.

Professional Associations

The primary professional organizations for sociology offer student memberships to encourage student participation.

American Sociological Association (ASA)

<http://www.asanet.org/>

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

<http://www.sssp1.org/>

Midwest Sociological Society

<http://www.themss.org/>

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