



## Undergraduate Programs

### MAJOR:

- Sociology\*

### MINORS:

- Sociology\*

\*Teacher certification available

### MULTIDISCIPLINARY MINORS AND PROGRAMS:

- Criminal Justice

## Sample Courses

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

## Professional Associations

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>

## Department Overview

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.

The Sociology Department 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; a chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honors Society; 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.

### FACULTY

The faculty specialize in areas such as small group dynamics, crime and delinquency, family relations, ethnic and cultural minorities, education, health care and illness, aging, demography, gender, environmental studies, and social movements. Students may select from the more than 30 courses in sociology, 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).

View degree requirements:  
[www.uwlax.edu/catalog](http://www.uwlax.edu/catalog)

Sociology Department  
435 Wimberly Hall  
608.785.8457  
[www.uwlax.edu/sociology](http://www.uwlax.edu/sociology)

# Sociology

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES

### 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.

##### 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 UWL. 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.

### 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 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 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 but are rewarding in other ways. 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 related to sociology. Faculty advisers can assist students in identifying a wide range of career opportunities.

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

### Career Opportunities

#### JOB 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

Compatible graduate study programs includes: sociology, anthropology, social work, criminal justice, marriage and family counseling, school counseling and guidance, psychology, law, medicine, business, public health, urban planning, and theology.