

College: CLAS
Department: Sociology
Degree: B.A./B.S.

Introduction

Sociology is the study of society and human interaction. Sociologists examine groups of as small as two or as large as billions. From the smallest friendship or family group to the great global web of human activity, sociologists analyze and interpret our world.

Sociologists use many theoretical approaches, data, and research techniques. Information comes from many sources including surveys, historical documents, census data, intensive interviews, and participant observation. This information is analyzed and used to explain phenomena such as power relations, beliefs and value systems, organizations, and the larger structure of society.

Sociology provides valuable tools for thought and a strong foundation for careers in many fields including education, business, journalism, government, and social service. A major in sociology prepares students for graduate programs leading to careers in research, public service, and higher education. Sociological knowledge helps create informed and thoughtful citizens.

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

LO #01: Students can articulate a working knowledge of the major sociological theoretical perspectives of the discipline: conflict theory, structural-functionalism, symbolic interactionism, social constructionism, and feminist theory.

LO #02: Students can articulate the major sociological ideas and insights relevant to the study of the social processes that produce, maintain, and alter social structures and relationships (such as socialization, identity formation, group formation, formal organizations, social integration, and social conflict).

LO #03: Students can articulate the major sociological ideas and insights relevant to the study of social hierarchies and power inequalities in society (such as those related to social class, gender, sexualities, race, ethnicity, national origin, and (dis)abilities) especially in regard to the diversity of U.S. society.

LO #04: Students can articulate the major sociological ideas and insights relevant to the study of major social institutions (such as the family, education, economy, government, and religion).

LO #05: Students can articulate the major sociological ideas and insights relevant to the study of the interrelationships between communities, the social and physical environment, and human populations.

LO #06: Students can articulate the major sociological ideas and insights relevant to the study of the global system of nations and the effect of the world order on the cultural, structural, economic, and political well-being of nations and the people in them.

LO #07: Students can describe the various methods, data, and modes of explanation used in sociological research.

LO #08: Students can select the research method that is most applicable to a particular research method and explain why they have selected that method.

LO #09: Students can critically analyze sociological writings.

LO #10: Students can successfully address research issues related to reliability, validity, and causal inference.

LO #11: Students can accurately understand and interpret the results of sociological research.

LO #12: Students can conduct a review of relevant research on a sociological topic.

LO #13: Students can use statistical software to analyze sociological data and can interpret results accurately.

LO #14: Students can write a sociological paper that is coherent, cogent, and grammatically correct.