A Day in the Life (Career Profile)

Sociologists study human society and social behavior through the prism of group formations and social, political, religious, and economic institutions. How individuals interact with each other within given contexts, the origin and development of social groups are important indices by which the sociologist conducts research and draws conclusions.

Because of the breadth and scope of this field, sociologists usually specialize in one or more of a number of areas.

From advertising to industry to criminology to medicine to government, sociologists and the research they conduct can enhance sales, improve productivity, shape social policy, resolve social conflicts, promote political platforms and influence lawmakers. Sociological research is an invaluable tool in determining the impact these cuts will have on its constituents. Sociologists must be meticulous and patient in carefully observing and gathering notes on a particular subject. Some “results” are measurably slow in manifesting themselves and could take months or years. Statistics and computers are central to a sociologist’s work, but so too are qualitative methods such as focus group-based research and social impact evaluations.

Studies in Sociology and Social Services prepares students for careers in a wide range of areas such as:

| Case Management | Health Care Research | Local, State & Federal Gov’t |
| Non-Profit Organizations | Business Research | Market Research |
| Public Welfare | Criminal Justice/ Corrections | Youth Services |
| Victim Assistance | Child/Family Services | Policy Development |
| Education | Nursing/Group Homes | Demography |
| Consulting Firms | Private Industry | Social Service Agencies |

Faculty

- Laura Appleton, PhD, Professor—Social Roles, Social Movements, Social Theory
- Eric Cheney, PhD, Assistant Professor—Deviance and Social Control, Economic Sociology, Organizations, Statistics and Urban Society
- Delores Cleary, PhD, Professor & Chair—Criminology, the Life Course, American Society, Minorities, Ethnic Studies, American Indian Issues
- Michael Harrod, PhD, Assistant Professor—Social Psychology, Criminology, Research Methods, Statistics, Survey Methodology
- Judith Hennessy, PhD, Associate Professor—Social Welfare and Poverty, Gender, Sociology of Work, Sociology of Family
- Kirk Johnson, PhD, Professor & Dean of College of the Sciences—Criminology, Delinquency, Victimization, Organizations
- Pamela McMullin-Messier, Assistant Professor—Gender Studies, Social Demography, Environmental Sociology
- Nelson Pichardo, PhD, Professor—Ethnic Studies, Social Movements
- Griff Tester, PhD, Assistant Professor—Inequality, urban & community sociology, gender & sexualities, aging

Staff

Kelly Zakel-Larson, Office Manager

1/28/15
# Sociology Department

## Degree Programs

### Bachelor of Arts—Sociology
- **45 Credit Major** - This major is designed to be combined with another major or a minor
- **60 Credit Major**

Areas of study within Sociology include:
- Deviance, Law, & Social Control
- Inequality & Social Change
- Social Structure & Institutions

### Bachelor of Science—Social Services
- **60 Credit Major**—Students are encouraged to include a minor in an area of specialization outside of Sociology.

Areas of study within Social Services include:
- Practice
- Analysis
- Macro Considerations in Social Services
- Social Organization
- Contemporary Society

### Minors
- **25 credit general minor**, which is often combined with majors such as Law & Justice, Psychology or other fields in the Sciences or Humanities
- **30 credit Social Services minor**

## Honors in Sociology—

1. The Sociology Department’s honors program is designed for students who wish to explore a particular research problem in depth with a faculty mentor.

2. Admission to the program:
   - The student must:
     - Have a 3.25 or higher cumulative GPA in sociology courses
     - Be at least a junior.
     - Have a faculty member sponsorship; the faculty member would submit the student’s name to the department for admission.

3. Requirements:
   - The student is required to:
     - Maintain a 3.25 or higher GPA in sociology coursework.
     - Must complete at least ten credits of SOC 495 under the supervision of a faculty mentor during senior year.
     - Complete a senior-level research project.
     - Must make a professional presentation of their research, like at SOURCE, a Sociology Department colloquium, a professional conference, or other department approved venues.

Those who fail to maintain a 3.25 GPA in the major, or who fail to participate in a public presentation would not receive honors.

## Department Information

The Sociology Department provides opportunities for students to understand the conceptual and methodological tools used by sociologists to understand society. Students will be encouraged to: 1) see society as concrete day-to-day behavior of human beings; 2) grasp the relationship between history, society and the individual’s life; 3) realize that social patterns are tools for the accomplishment of human ends and not necessarily unalterable facts of life; and 4) develop the ability to critically analyze social phenomena.

## Department Standards

Students who major in Sociology and Social Services are required to register with the department, at which time a student selects an advisor. In order to develop a program of study, students are advised to meet once a quarter with their advisor. Further information on specific courses, the faculty and career opportunities are available in the department office, Farrell 409. Students must take SOC 489—Senior Seminar, the capstone course, prior to graduation.