

College of Arts and Science

Department of Sociology

If you wonder why society works the way it does, then sociology is the major for you. Be it white-collar crime or global social movements, work–family conflict or racial–ethnic relations, sociology provides the theories, research and skills to make sense of our increasingly complex and ever-changing world.

The Sociology Major

A bachelor of arts with a major in sociology consists of 30 credits organized to provide progressively more sophisticated levels of sociological analysis culminating in a capstone experience (3 credits). Students start with entry-level courses that introduce them to the discipline (6 credits), progress to basic courses in theory and research methods (6 credits), and then to upper-level electives (15 credits). In addition, students must complete all degree, College of Arts and Science and University graduation requirements, including University general education requirements.

The course work in sociology fits into five recommended tracks of study. The tracks represent broad areas of interest within sociology. Each track has recommended courses in the major, complementary internships, service-learning opportunities, and suggested courses offered by other departments. These tracks and a sample of course offerings are listed below.

Track: Law, Justice and Society

Sociology 1650: Social Deviance

Sociology 3600: Criminology

Sociology 4600: Contemporary Corrections

Track: Power, Inequalities and Social Change

Sociology 3200: Class, Status and Power

Sociology 3520: Collective Behavior

Sociology 4220 Race and Ethnic Relations

Track: Sexuality, Health, and the Life Course

Sociology 2230: Social Perspectives on Aging

Sociology 3420: The Family

Sociology 3440: Sociology of Health

Track: Culture, Identity and the Media

Sociology 2300: Self and Society

Sociology 3400: The Politics of the Media

Sociology 3510: Public Opinion and Communication

Track: Organizations, Work, Technology and the Economy

Sociology 3700: Organizations and Institutions

Sociology 3710: Sociology of Work

Sociology 4230: Global Perspectives on Women and Development

Experiential Learning

Options are available to students who wish to have “real world” experiences tied to their academic program. These include service-learning placements, internships and research assistantships. Recent placements have included a youth center, a law firm, a business association, a prison and a state government agency.

Honors in Sociology

Sociology majors who maintain a 3.3 GPA are eligible to pursue departmental honors in sociology. To do so, students must complete an independent research project under the direction of a faculty member. Those who expect to pursue graduate study are especially encouraged to con-

sider departmental honors. Recent honors projects have explored topics ranging from multicultural education to political attitudes, from body image among athletes to non-profit management.

Sociology Student Organization

Sociology majors and minors are encouraged to participate in the Sociology Club. The central mission of the Sociology Club is to plan academic, social and service events for members.

Honors and Awards

Sociology majors with exceptional academic records are eligible to apply to Alpha Kappa Delta, the international honors society for sociology. The sociology department also sponsors an undergraduate paper competition twice a year to recognize outstanding work.

Careers

Sociology is a liberal arts major and as such it prepares students for a wide range of careers where strong analytical and critical thinking skills are needed. Many sociology graduates pursue employment in fields such as administration, community planning, health services, marketing, human resources, social services, law enforcement and social research. A sample of positions held by recent BA graduates of the sociology program includes Congressional legislative assistant, account manager, pharmaceutical sales representative, social worker, police officer and research analyst.

A sociology degree is also excellent preparation for professional school (e.g. law, business or public policy) or graduate

school in the social and behavioral sciences. Recent graduates of the MU sociology program are currently pursuing a graduate or professional degree at the University of Kansas, George Washington University, Notre Dame and Rutgers University.

Personal Attention

The sociology department is known for the individual attention students receive. Students get to know the faculty both in and out of the classroom. The department is collegial in nature, and one frequently sees students and faculty engaged in one-on-one conversations about everything from the latest MU sporting event to terrorism and global stability. Because our faculty take the time to know our students, they serve as an important source of career advice.

Advising

The director of undergraduate studies interviews each student who inquires about majoring in sociology to find out what the student's interests and goals are. Together the director and the student develop a plan of study that will culminate in a bachelor's degree in sociology. The director keeps students up to date on the latest happenings in the department via a listserv for sociology majors.

Missouri Admission

The University admits students on the basis of their chances for success here. The main criteria are the high-school curriculum, test scores and class rank.

Applicants are expected to have followed a college-preparatory program with at least 17 units of credit, as follows (one unit equals one year):

Four units of English

Two units emphasizing composition or writing skills are required; one unit may be in speech.

Four units of mathematics

Acceptable courses include algebra I, geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus/trigonometry/analytic geometry, calculus and math analysis. Courses such as computer math, programming, consumer math and accounting are not acceptable.

Three units of science

At least one must be a laboratory course, such as earth science, biology, chemistry or physics. Courses such as general science and agricultural science are not acceptable.

Three units of social studies

Examples are world history, American government and principles of democracy.

Two units in a single foreign language

One unit in fine arts

Contact Information

Department of Sociology
Director of Undergraduate Studies
312 Middlebush Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211-6100
Phone: 573-882-8331
Fax: 573-884-6430
E-mail: sociologyUG@missouri.edu
Web: sociology.missouri.edu

For information about applying to MU, call or write:

Office of Admissions

230 Jesse Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-1300

Phone: 573-882-7786

800-225-6075 (toll free in Missouri and Illinois)

Fax: 573-882-7887

E-mail: mu4u@missouri.edu

Web: www.missouri.edu

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

