



Undergraduate Studies

Phone: (216) 368-2700
Mather Memorial, Room 226

B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is a dynamic and exciting discipline with opportunities for a variety of career pathways. A major in sociology provides a strong background for students considering careers in a broad array of fields including the **health and social service professions, criminal and juvenile justice agencies, social research, public administration and program development, journalism, market research, social work, communications, teaching and business.** A sociology major also provides excellent preparation for **law school, medical school** and graduate study in **sociology, social work, education** and many other fields of graduate study. Sociology minor course work offers excellent preparation to students majoring in other social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, or humanities.

Undergraduate majors in Sociology are encouraged to experience firsthand the excitement of discovering and creating new knowledge through individualized research projects or other research experiences, either as part of a regular class, an independent study or an Honors project. As an undergraduate Sociology student, you have the option of taking upper-level classes alongside graduate students in Sociology's internationally recognized graduate program, which may provide added opportunities for research experience. Sociology majors have the option of choosing either a general Sociology curriculum or one of the four available concentrations: *Crime and Delinquency, Health and Aging, Gender, Work and Family* and *Social Inequality*. Concentrations are intended to guide you in the selection of courses relevant to your interests and future goals, as well as to provide a solid grounding in Sociology as one of the liberal arts sciences. Students may thus connect their concentration to topics of interests, to possible employment opportunities, or to specific graduate and professional programs that you intend to pursue.

CONCENTRATIONS IN SOCIOLOGY

Concentrations are intended to guide students in the selection of courses relevant to their interests and future goals, as well as to provide them with a solid grounding in Sociology as one of the liberal arts sciences. Students may thus connect their concentration to their interests, to possible employment opportunities, or to specific graduate and professional school programs that they intend to pursue. The student majoring in Sociology has the option of choosing one of the 4 concentration fields taken in conjunction with the Sociology major, or he/she may choose to obtain the major in Sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of 12 credit hours. Students choosing a concentration (only one is permitted), must take 4 of the courses listed for the selected concentration. The Department offers the following four concentrations:

- 1. CRIME AND DELINQUENCY CONCENTRATION—SOCI 204:**
Criminology, SOCI 320: Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, SOCI 328: Urban Sociology, SOCI 333: Deviance, SOCI 349: Social Inequality, SOCI 360: Sociology of Law
- 2. GENDER, WORK, AND FAMILY CONCENTRATION—SOCI 201:**
Introduction to Women & Gender Studies, SOCI 208: Dating, Marriage and Family, SOCI 222: Gender in U.S. Society, SOCI 228: Sociology of Sexuality, SOCI 275: Live in Medicine: Becoming and Being a Physician, SOCI 326: Gender, Inequality and Globalization, SOCI 370: Sociology of the Family, SOCI 372: Work and Family: U.S. and Abroad
- 3. HEALTH AND AGING CONCENTRATION—SOCI 203:**
Human Development-Medical and Social, SOCI 262: Disability and Society, SOCI 275: Lives in Medicine" Being and Becoming a Physician, SOCI 311: Health, Illness and Social Behavior, SOCI 313: Sociology of Stress and Coping, SOCI 319: Sociology of Institutional Care, SOCI 345: Sociology of Mental Illness, SOCI 361: The Life Course, SOCI 365: Health Care Delivery, SOCI 369: Aging in American Society, SOCI 377: Population Dynamics and Changing Societies
- 4. SOCIAL INEQUALITY—SOCI 113:**
Critical Problems in Modern Society, SOCI 203: Human Development: Medical and Social, SOCI 228: Sociology of Sexuality, SOCI 302: Race and Ethnic Minorities in American Society, SOCI 320: Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, SOCI 326: Gender, Inequalities and Globalization, SOCI 347: Sociology of Education, SOCI 349: Social Inequality, SOCI 372: Work and Family, SOCI 374: Using Law to Designate Public-Private Boundaries for Social Problems

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

To fulfill department requirements, 30 hours of coursework must be completed successfully. All majors must complete the following:

- SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology
- SOCI 300 Modern Sociological Theory
- SOCI 303 Social Research Methods
- STAT 201* Statistics OR
- PSCL 282* Quantitative Methods
- *Recommend prior to SOCI 303

In addition, they must complete 18 hours of electives, consisting of any 6 courses in sociology. SOCI 375 (Independent Study) is available to selected majors in their junior or senior year.

In addition to the requirements listed above for Sociology major, Case Western Reserve University also requires all undergraduate students to participate in courses through SAGES. These requirements include a First Seminar, two University Seminars, a Department Seminar and finally a Senior Capstone.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- In addition to the B.A. degree, the Department of Sociology offers M.A. and Ph.D degrees.
- Department faculty have recently been nominated for, or received, noteworthy awards such as the Diekhoff Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, the Wittke Award in Teaching Excellence, the Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring, the Outstanding Researcher in gerontology, and the Mortar Board "Top Prof" Award.
- Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honors fraternity, welcomes selected juniors and seniors; membership requires a 3.4 GPA in sociology and a 3.0 GPA overall.

- Students may join the Sociology Club to become more involved in the Case experience with students with similar interests.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Departmental Honors

Admission to the Departmental Honors Program is by faculty approval, and the planning of this project must start during the second semester of your junior year. The year-long senior honors thesis program consists of two independent study courses: SOCI 397 and SOCI 398. To be accepted to senior honors courses, students must have demonstrated academic excellence and must earn at least a 3.4 general GPA and a 3.6 Sociology GPA. The project will be structured as a two-semester experience and it calls for research and data collection, which can focus either on primary or secondary data.

Integrated Graduate Studies (IGS)

The Department of Sociology participates in the Integrated Graduate Studies Program. Students in the program are able to obtain B.A. and M.A. degrees simultaneously. Admission to this program actually comprises admission to graduate school, and entails the same rigorous process of admission. Interested students should note the general requirements and the admission procedures in the appropriate section of this bulletin and may consult the department for further information.

Internships, Service Learning, and Study Abroad

Internships and service learning projects are available with organizations such as the AFL-CIO and the criminal justice system. In addition, there are many junior year abroad opportunities available through the University.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Elderly Care Research Center

ECRC's funded research projects focus on theory-based and public policy-relevant issues in aging and medical sociology. Current projects relate to physical and mental health outcomes of stress, coping, cancer survivorship, and adaptation to frailty in late life. Research projects have been funded by the National Institutes of Aging, the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Nursing research. In addition to conducting quantitative surveys and in depth qualitative interviews with community dwelling elders researchers at the ECRC are also engaged in an NCI funded intervention to help elderly patients communicate better with their doctors. The Center has been the recipient of an NIA Merit Award for a long-term study of very old residents of a retirement community. This research seeks to understand health promotion, proactive adaptation, and maintenance of wellness in late life. The Center serves as a laboratory for student research. Collaborative and cross-national research involves colleagues from multiple disciplines at universities in Israel, Hungary, Britain, and Germany.

Cancer Survivor Research Program

The Cancer Survivors Research Program (CSRP) investigates important research issues in psychological oncology. Formally started in September 1998, the CSRP had been funded for ten years by the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Gary Deimling serves as program director and principal investigator and is assisted by colleagues in the Department of Sociology and the Case School of Medicine. As with many other research programs within the department and the university at large, the CSRP also serves as a teaching facility by training graduate students in the many methodological and theoretical aspects of sociomedical research. The project allows students in the sociology Ph.D. program to gain hands-on experience in a formal research setting while putting their course work into practice.

FreshLink: Increasing Access to Healthy Foods in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods

The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative, conducts research to improve health and prevent chronic disease in Cleveland neighborhoods. Dr. Kelley-Moore, Principal Investigator of FreshLink, the core project of the Center, studies how the neighborhood and environment influence differential health outcomes. Today, obesity and poor nutrition are the primary drivers of chronic disease at all ages. Dr. Kelley-Moore conducts an intervention study designed to change the neighborhood food environment by increasing access to healthier food options in urban neighborhoods in Greater Cleveland, coupled with nutrition and skill-building. In order to foster long-term change, this is one of the few intervention projects that is focused on changing the food environment rather than focusing on individual behavior change. This multidimensional study is working in four primary venues: food retail, schools, community gardens, and community centers.

Comparative-Historical Analysis of Children's Rights: Introducing the Children's Rights Index

In what countries do children enjoy higher levels of rights than other countries? Have children's rights improved with time, or have they actually worsened? Past studies of children's rights have focused on violations of particular rights, and specific countries where children's rights are frequently or severely violated. What has been lacking is systematic scholarship on the various kinds of children's rights that exist, across countries and over time. This project refines and introduces the Children's Rights Index (CRI), an innovative international measure of children's rights for over 190 countries for 2004. With funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation, this project will replicate the CRI over five-year intervals for the period 1984 to 2009. This project will examine factors that promote or hinder children's rights. A short-term objective is to provide evidence on status of children's rights. A long-term objective is to use the CRI to determine if stronger rights lead to superior outcomes for children.

FACULTY

Dale Dannefer, Ph.D.

(Rutgers University)
Selah Chamberlain Professor of Sociology
Department Chair
Theory, life course, aging, sociology of work, sociology of education

Gary Deimling, Ph.D.

(Bowling Green State University)
Professor
Sociology of aging, medical sociology, family sociology, research methods

Brian Gran, Ph.D.

(Northwestern University)
Associate Professor
Comparative sociology, sociology of health policy, sociology of law

Susan Hinze, Ph.D.

(Vanderbilt University)
Associate Professor
Medical sociology; social inequality, sex and gender, work and family

Eva Kahana, Ph.D.

(University of Chicago)
Robson Professor of Sociology, Humanities
Nursing and Medicine
Sociology of aging, medical sociology, social factors in stress and coping

Jessica Kelley-Moore, Ph.D.

(Perdue University)
Associate Professor
Health disparities, sociology of disability, sociology of the life course, and race/ethnicity

Emilia McGucken, Ph. D.

(University of Akron)
Senior Instructor
Criminology; theory, delinquency; deviance; urban studies

David Warner, Ph.D.

(Pennsylvania State University)
Assistant Professor
Demography of work and retirement; health inequalities; gender and the life course; marriage and marital quality; event history and multistate life table methods

RECENT GRADUATES

A recent survey of post graduation plans among graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences found that 62% went on to graduate or professional school and the remainder pursued other plans. Each year, approximately 28 students graduate with a B.A. in sociology. The majority of those students proceed to graduate or professional school. In recent years, graduates were accepted to Ph.D. programs at Case, the University of Washington, University of California, University of Maryland, Duke University, Pennsylvania State University, Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. Other students enrolled in medical and law schools.