

Health and Aging Concentration

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

Concentrations in Sociology

Students majoring in Sociology have the option of either selecting one of 4 concentrations areas, or majoring in Sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours, or 4 courses. The 4 concentrations are:

- Crime and Delinquency
- Health and Aging
- Gender, Work and Family
- Social Inequality

Health and Aging Concentration

Undergraduate students majoring in Sociology have a special opportunity to receive training in health and aging, an area for which our doctoral program is nationally and internationally recognized. Faculty are exploring a wide range of questions related to age and health. Why are the populations of modern societies “graying” and what are the consequences of this trend for health, relationships and lifestyles? What is “successful aging” and how do we achieve it? To what extent is aging “environmentally or culturally produced? How can families most effectively cope with caregiving needs? Why do the citizens of many European countries smoke and drink more than Americans, yet live longer? Why do Americans not enjoy universal health insurance, while citizens of other advanced countries do? These are just some of the fascinating and important questions studied by Sociologists interested in age and health. Late modern societies have created a demand for social scientists to address the needs and contributions of old people, and to understand the complicated mix of factors that influence health and well-being in late life, especially amidst rapidly changing health care systems. The study of aging, however, is not only about old people. It is also about how family, education, work and leisure experiences and institutions are being transformed for young and old alike. It is also about how these experiences influence the way that an individual ages. There is a pressing need to evaluate these effects and translate knowledge for policymakers and practitioners.

Required Core Courses:

12 credit hours

- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 300: Modern Sociological Thought
SOCI 303: Social Research Methods
STAT 201 or PSCL 282 Statistics

***Health and Aging Concentration* requires four (4) of the following courses (12 credit hours)**

- SOCI 203: Human Development
SOCI 311: Health, Illness and Social Behavior
SOCI 313: Sociology of Stress and Coping
SOCI 319: Sociology of Institutional Care
SOCI 361: The Life Course
SOCI 365: Health Care Delivery
SOCI 369: Aging in American Society

Approved Sociology Elective: 3 credit hours

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 First Seminar (first year), two University Seminars (by the end of the second year), a Department Seminar (third year) and finally a Senior Capstone.

Concentration Coordinators

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