

# SOCIOLOGY

*College of Arts Letters & Sciences*

## EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

The Sociology major provides students with a broad sociological perspective and encourages development of a “sociological imagination.” You will gain an understanding of how social forces influence individual behavior and how interacting individuals, groups, and organizations affect society and social change.

Sociologists address the most challenging issues of our time. Since all human behavior is social, the subject of Sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from the divisions of race, gender and social class, street crime and delinquency, to the problems of war and peace.

Criminal justice and women’s studies minors complement the Sociology major. Sociology, criminal justice, and women’s studies minors also complement other major areas of study such as justice administration, political science, social work, and business.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Robert White Memorial Scholarship is available to Sociology and social work students with an interest and background in social activism. Incoming students may be eligible for a number of academic and leadership scholarships through the Office of Admission. These scholarships are awarded based on a student’s past academic record including the ACT, class rank, GPA, and leadership potential.

## INTERNSHIPS

Although Sociology internships are not required, faculty can help advanced students arrange field experience related to their particular employment interests. Through internships, students gain valuable work experience, and the field experience component provides students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned. The Sociology capstone course guides students through a qualitative or quantitative research project connected with their field experience. Internship possibilities include working in social service agencies, court systems or corrections agencies, and working with juveniles or seniors.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology graduates find exciting careers in social service agencies, businesses, and local, state, and national government. A Sociology major is excellent preparation for law school and other professional and graduate programs. Sociology, criminal justice, and women’s studies minors enhance preparation for graduate school in many disciplines as well as preparation for careers in any field that requires an understanding of people and society.

## FACILITIES

Classes are held in the Social Science building. A computer lab, meeting rooms, and club rooms are also available in this building. Students have access to e-mail and the Internet via SMSU’s Macintosh and PC labs. They may do research via the on-line computer system in the SMSU library.

## ACTIVITIES

The Sociology Club organizes social activities, community service projects, and academic growth activities and trips to state and national academic conferences. Sociology courses often provide opportunities to attend seminars and take field trips. Other SMSU clubs and organizations beneficial to Sociology majors include the Environmental Awareness Club, Habitat for Humanity, Students Advocating Gender Equity, GLBTA, and Student Government. Through American Indian Studies and Dakota Studies, students may participate in Native American experiential learning opportunities such as visits to four different regional reservations. The acclaimed Global Studies Program, undergraduate exchange with European universities, and other special programs offered regularly on campus provide additional opportunities for Sociology majors.

## POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Administration
- Business
- Corrections
- Counseling
- Education
- Investigations
- Journalism
- Politics
- Public Relations
- Research
- Senior Services
- Youth Services

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Criminal Justice Club
- Habitat for Humanity
- Lion's Club
- Sociology Club
- Student Social Work Association

For more information please contact: The Sociology Department at (507) 537-6224.



**MINNESOTA STATE**

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