

SOCIOLOGY

College of Arts Letters & Sciences

EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

The sociology program at Southwest Minnesota State University is designed to help students understand human social activity and the world around us. Mastering the basics of sociology teaches you to understand situations of people different than you, another advantage in this rapidly changing world. As a sociology student, you will gain skills in critical thinking, public speaking, writing ability, cultural competence, and self-awareness.

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.

Human services, criminal justice and women's studies minors complement the sociology major. A sociology minor also complements 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

Faculty offices are located in the Charter Hall Building. Meeting rooms, computer labs, and club rooms are also available in this building. Computers for doing online research and data analysis are available in the Social Science Research and Computer Lab, at the various computer labs across campus, or 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 Social Justice Club, Social Work Club, and Student Government. Through Indigenous Nations and Dakota Studies, students may participate in Native American experiential learning opportunities such as visits to four different regional reservations. The Global Studies Program and other special programs offered regularly on campus provide additional opportunities for sociology majors. Sociology students regularly present research at the annual SMSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

POTENTIAL CAREERS

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

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Criminal Justice Club
- Sociology Club
- Social Work Club
- Social Justice Club

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



MINNESOTA STATE

Southwest Minnesota State University,
A member of Minnesota State

Southwest Minnesota State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, the Council on Social Work Education, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
SMSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer.