Program of Study

Sociology is a social science involving the study of human societies, their structure, and the ways individuals and groups relate to one another. Sociological knowledge is vital to the understanding of contemporary issues and topics such as poverty, crime, delinquency, deviance, mental illness, urban growth and decay, marriage and family life, behavior in bureaucracies, and the organization and delivery of human services. Students taking courses in Sociology will venture onto a journey of fascinating discoveries.

A Sociology major empowers students with the ability to relate to people, to critically analyze the world and one's place within it, to gain skills in developing solutions to human problems, to communicate successfully, and to analyze the interactions of societies through a global perspective. Sociology in the 21st century helps build those skills which today's employers in the U.S. and abroad are seeking.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. As a Sociology major, you are required to complete 33 semester hours (s.h.) in Sociology: one introductory Sociology course, one introductory Anthropology course, two social research methods courses, one classical Sociology theory course, one contemporary Sociology course, and a course on social stratification, plus 15 s.h. of Sociology electives. Your advisor will help you plan the remaining coursework to meet your own career goals.

Since an understanding of human social behavior is essential in many fields, a Sociology minor is an excellent companion to many majors. A minimum of 18 s.h. in Sociology, including Sociology 100, is required for the minor. Your minor advisor will help you select courses to best complement your major field of study, or you can consult the Department of Sociology and Anthropology advisor.

Faculty

Our faculty members come from diverse academic, social, and ethnic backgrounds and represent superior professional experience in teaching and research. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, the full-time faculty members are actively involved in their respective disciplines. Each year, they publish numerous articles and books; present papers at state, regional, and national meetings; and secure research grants from private, state, and federal sources to advance knowledge in their disciplines.

In a recent department poll, our students said that our strongest feature was the quality of classroom instruction. Coupled with extensive professional experience in teaching, research, and publication, this diversity is the real strength of our program.

Scholarships

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers two annual scholarships for undergraduate Sociology majors:

1. Harriet Stull Sociology Scholarship is an annual award ($500) given to an outstanding Sociology student with sophomore standing or higher and evidence of leadership in department, College, University, and/or community activities.

2. Kara Leigh Broughton Memorial Scholarship is an annual award ($750) given to an outstanding Sociology junior or senior and awarded for an essay on “How You Intend to Use Your WIU Education to Make a Difference in this World.”
Sample Course Planning for Sociology Major (*indicates required course for major)
Semester One: Sociology 100*
Semester Two: Anthropology 110*
Semester Three: Sociology Elective
Semester Four: Social Research Methods I*
Semester Five: Two Sociology Electives
Semester Six: Classical Sociological Theory,* Sociology Elective
Semester Seven: Social Research Methods II,* Social Stratification*
Semester Eight: Sociology Elective, Contemporary Sociological Theory*

The department's Honors program is a unique opportunity to work closely with professors on special projects designed to challenge you. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college.

Honors in Sociology
To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshman must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 or 25 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale based on 12 s/h or more. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions.

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Alpha Kappa Delta is an international Sociology honor society which was founded in 1920 and is dedicated to promoting “an interest in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.” Eligible Sociology undergraduates must be at least a junior (third year) by standards of the host institution, must have accumulated the equivalent of an overall GPA of at least 3.3 on a four point scale, must have maintained the equivalent of a 3.0 GPA in Sociology courses taken at the host institution prior to initiation, and must have completed at least four regular courses in Sociology at the host institution prior to initiation (exclusive of extension or courses graded pass/fail).

Student Activities
Our majors and minors are active in WASC, the Western Anthropology and Sociology Club, which sponsors several activities throughout the academic year. In addition to inviting guest speakers for campus programs, WASC organizes events such as career, résumé, and internship workshops; topical events relating to Sociology and Anthropology; and social events.

Special Opportunities
A 3 s/h internship can be completed, but is not required. Interested Sociology majors should consult with the department chair or the advisor.

After College
Our BA in Sociology students are prepared for future graduate work in Sociology in order to become a professor, researcher, or applied sociologist. Furthermore, our students are equipped to apply for work in public relations, politics, public administration, law, the justice system, education, business, social services, community services, and government. In the corporate, nonprofit, and government worlds, sociologists are needed as directors of research policy analysts, consultants, human resources managers, and program managers. In a time when new employees are expected to have an extensive skill set in many careers, Sociology is an ideal primary or secondary major for WIU students.

For More Information
Call the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at (309) 298-1056 or e-mail the advisor at misoc@wiu.edu. You can learn more about the department by visiting wiu.edu/sociology.

General Outlook
Like all Western programs, studies in Sociology build upon the General Education courses you will take during your freshman and sophomore years. The University’s General Education requirements include courses in composition, speech, and math, plus electives from such disciplines as science, social studies, humanities, health sciences, and physical education. In addition, students seeking a BA in Sociology are required to take 36 s/h for the Sociology major (21 s/h of required coursework and 15 s/h in Directed Electives in Sociology and Anthropology).

wiu.edu/cas/sociology

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