As a broad discipline, Sociology has something to offer everyone. The content of what we cover in our courses includes the study of a vast array of topics, including: the development of social selves, deviant subcultures, cults, panics, rumors, organizations, social and economic inequality, globalization, states, and global political economy. Running through all of what we do is the analysis of social structure (micro, meso, and macro levels) and the interplay between self and society.

Why UMD

- Our program’s curriculum stresses both theory and method, and offers elective credits in key areas within the discipline - e.g., social organization, social psychology, social movements, inequality.
- Students gain substantive knowledge in key areas as well as practical skills in the realm of data analysis.
- Our Department’s Internship program is very successful at matching student interns with organizations where students get hands-on experience and, in some cases, students end up with job offers from the places where they intern.
- Our Department is home to a number of related disciplines - Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, and Women/Gender/Sexuality Studies. Our programs complement one another, such that students are able to take courses in these different components that count toward their Sociology Degree.

Acquired Skills

- Students in our Sociology program acquire analytical skills. As a multiple paradigmatic science, study in sociology requires students to understand and apply multiple theoretical perspectives in examining social phenomena.
- Students in our Sociology program acquire key methodological skills. Students are required to learn a variety of different methods including qualitative, quantitative, and historical methods for both institutional and community-based action research.
- Students in our Sociology program acquire professional skills through both course-based requirements and their internship experience.

Career Possibilities

Graduates of our Sociology program go on to make valuable contributions in a variety of work settings. The majority of our alumni work in Social Services -- in some cases they go on to earn their MSW and are social workers; in other cases, they are treatment workers in chemical dependency programs; or they work for non-profit organizations. We have Sociology graduates who have gone on to earn their Ph.D. and are now professors in Sociology and/or Criminology programs.

Scholarships

Each year we award the Robert Franz Outstanding Student in Sociology Scholarship ($500 - $1,000)

Student Clubs

Sociology Club and Minnesota Public Research Interest Group (MPIRG)
Faculty Highlights

- Professor Dan Martin participated in Stanford University's Summer Institute in Political Sociology; he has had students join him in social movement research.
- Professor Janelle Wilson is a past recipient of a national advising award.
- Professors Martin and Wilson have had their students assist in the collection and analysis of data for the following projects:
  - VW Bug Study on Nostalgia
  - Protestors and The Policing of Dissent
  - Power and Strategic Communication in Organizations

What you can do with this degree?

The courses offered in our Sociology program provide a solid foundation for work in an array of different organizations. Students with Sociology majors go on to work in both private and public spheres, for profit businesses as well as not for profit agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here’s a sampling of positions Sociology B.A. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN - Health Information Specialist
- Counselor - Northwood Children's Services, Duluth, MN
- Independent Living Skills Coordinator - TBI Residential & Community Services, Duluth, MN
- Graduate School, Social Work, University of St. Thomas & St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN

For more data see the Sociology B.A. Graduate Follow-Up Report.
For ideas about Sociology B.A. and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.