



Sociology



Special Points of Interest

- Students have the option to major in Sociology-General or Sociology-Criminology.
- Research opportunities and access to professional journals are just a few benefits to studying Sociology at OU.
- Students who excel in Sociology have the opportunity to compete for their place in the Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society.

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Interested in Sociology?

Sociology is the scientific study of human societies, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop and refine a body of knowledge about human social activity, often with the goal of applying such knowledge to the pursuit of social welfare. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from presentation of self to religious cults, from the divisions of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of health care. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and the application of knowledge.

Student Organizations and Professional Development:

- Alpha Kappa Delta
- Midwest Sociological Society
- Southern Sociological Society
- Rural Sociological Society
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
- Society for the Scientific Study of Social Problems

Recent graduates have pursued areas of:

- Counseling
- Management
- Teaching
- Information Science
- Sales/Marketing
- Research
- Graduate School
- Law School

Criminology is a specialized area of sociology. It is the scientific study of the nature, extent, causes, and control of criminal behavior in both the individual and in society. Criminology is an interdisciplinary field in the behavioral sciences, drawing especially upon the research of sociologists (particularly in the sociology of deviance) and psychologists, as well as on writings in law. Areas of research in criminology include the incidence, forms, causes and consequences of crime, as well as social and governmental regulations and reaction to crime. For studying the distribution and causes of crime, criminology mainly relies upon quantitative methods.

Sociology & Criminology Curriculum

We offer courses in most areas of sociology, but our strengths are in the areas of class stratification, criminology and deviance, demography, family, gender, international/macro-comparative, and race and ethnicity. The Department of Sociology has two interrelated missions: to provide the highest quality education at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels, and to foster state-of-the-art research among faculty and graduate students. Criminology is research-oriented, while Criminal Justice is the system of practices and institutions of governments directed at upholding social control, deterring and mitigating crime, and sanctioning those who violate laws with criminal penalties and rehabilitation efforts.