SOCIOLOGY

Undergraduate Program Information

The undergraduate major in sociology is broad in scope. It prepares students for various public and private sector employment opportunities, including market research, personnel management, data analytics, computational sociology, human relations, law enforcement, health services, etc. Successful students often use their major as pre-professional preparation for advanced degrees in law, business, education, counseling, and other social science-based careers. Courses are offered both online and on campus.

Graduate Program Information

The program is designed to prepare students for doctoral study in sociology as well as employment in research and applied areas of the field. In addition to the on-campus program, we also offer an online MA for students who cannot attend in person. Through small seminars, on-campus graduate students engage in discussions of subjects that often result in thesis and internship topics. In online seminars, small classes allow for in-depth discussions that can generate ideas for research as well as knowledge for applied work environments. In both online and on-campus settings, faculty members and students work toward the mutual goal of developing each student's full potential.

The Southwest and Border Region

Our unique location attracts faculty and students who are interested in peoples of the southwest, particularly Hispanic/Latinx and Native Americans. In addition, our proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border provides an ideal laboratory for examining such issues as globalization, transnational migration, and the consequences of border development.

Social Inequality

Our faculty members examine the intersection of race, class, and gender oppression in their teaching and research, with special attention to educational, rural/urban, ecological, and global disparities. This examination addresses social problems such as poverty and racial/ethnic inequality.

Program Options and Requirements

Students seeking a master’s degree in sociology should have taken undergraduate courses in methods and statistics or their equivalent. Students who have not taken these courses are encouraged to complete them before beginning their graduate study or in consultation with the sociology graduate director as soon as possible.

Graduate students in sociology have two program options, thesis or non-thesis. Faculty consider the students special interests and career plans in advising regarding their choice of program options. The thesis option is typically selected by students who intend to pursue a Ph.D. degree, while the non-thesis option is commonly pursued by those desiring immediate employment in research and applied areas in business, government, education, social welfare, and health. The non-thesis, coursework only option is currently the only option available for online MA students. All students must pass a final master’s examination.