

# UMSL Sociology

## Why UMSL?

You'll learn about this exciting and inherently urban field at the only metropolitan public research university in St. Louis. The entire St. Louis metropolitan area is your laboratory to learn sociology.

You'll join a community of sociology students and faculty members committed to improving the region's quality of life through special partnerships, internships and projects involving the region's public institutions and other colleges and universities.

You'll be taught by sociology faculty members who are involved in research or advanced applications of the discipline. Our faculty members daily question the taken-for-granted assumptions and perspectives that pervade modern social life and they are eager to share their questions and answers with their students in the classroom.

You'll be part of a small, nurturing department where everyone wants to get to know you and to help ensure your academic and professional success with the discipline of sociology as the foundation.

You'll be able to choose among a variety of undergraduate and combined undergraduate and graduate degree programs in sociology to prepare you to pursue a variety of career options and graduate study.

When you graduate, the Office of Career Services at UMSL is your job-search partner to help you prepare your résumé, sharpen your interviewing skills and connect you with prospective employers. Sociology graduates are teachers, researchers, employees of government agencies, research bureaus, welfare agencies and large and small companies.

## Career Outlook

The undergraduate major in sociology can lead to further training at the graduate level. Job opportunities include working in business, government, social welfare, and probation and parole. Majors learn to

analyze complex social and urban issues and to develop a thorough understanding of the workings of major social institutions. Sociology is a particularly good major for prelaw, pre-M.BA and pre-MSW students. For more career information, see a sociology advisor.

To function specifically as a sociologist, a graduate degree in the discipline is required, and students with such an interest should plan for this additional training. The MA in sociology prepares students with skills suitable for the career areas of 1) administrative and supervisory positions at the local, state and federal level; 2) private sector positions in evaluation and policy research, marketing, consulting and nonprofit organizations; and 3) high school level sociology teaching for persons with a teaching certificate.

## Undergraduate Studies

### Degrees and Areas of Concentration

The Sociology Department offers courses leading to the BA in sociology, the BS in sociology; in cooperation with the College of Education, the BA in sociology with teacher certification; in cooperation with the College of Business Administration, the BA in sociology with a business option; and cooperative minor or certificate programs in African studies, prelaw, women's studies, international studies and nonprofit organization management and leadership.

Students completing the BA or BS degree in sociology are well-prepared for graduate study in sociology or careers in industry, health and social services, or urban, intergroup, political, or community issues.

In addition to a balanced program of basic undergraduate to advanced graduate courses, the Department provides a range of opportunities for students to develop concrete research design and data analysis skills. Focused topics courses, specialized research methods seminars and internship placements are

offered in support of this goal and are typically designed around the ongoing research interests of Department faculty. Currently, faculty are investigating such areas as homelessness, industrial competitiveness, racial and ethnic conflict, international business, interpersonal violence, education and mental illness. The Department provides students with opportunities for intensive direction and guidance from faculty. Students and faculty working in particular subject areas consult freely with members working in other areas.

Research interests of sociology faculty extend beyond the Department into a wide variety of joint projects with faculty in other departments and programs, including Criminology and Criminal Justice, Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies, Gerontology,

Public Policy Administration and the Center for International Studies. The Department currently includes four full-time and several part-time members.

A minor in sociology is available to students majoring in related areas.

### **Faculty**

The faculty prides itself on its commitments to high standards of teaching and to sound scholarly research. Systematic course evaluations by students each semester are taken seriously, and individual faculty have been singled out as nominees and recipients of Excellence in Teaching awards. The scholarly research expected of UMSL faculty is reflected particularly in the conduct of upper-level and graduate courses, as well as in the publication credits of the faculty. Each year, faculty members author numerous articles in scholarly and professional journals and present research papers at various professional meetings.

### **General Education Requirements**

Majors must satisfy the University and College general education requirements. Courses in sociology may be used to meet the social science requirement. The foreign language requirement for the BA degree may be satisfied in any language. Not more than 10 hours of community college transfer credit may be applied toward the combined minimum of required credit hours for the BA (31 credit hours) or BS (37 credit hours) major.

### **Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Restrictions**

Sociology majors may not take courses counting toward their major requirements on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

### **Degree Requirements**

In addition to specific Baccalaureate Degree Requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences, candidates for a sociology major must complete the following required core courses:

SOCIOL 1010, Introduction to Sociology  
SOCIOL 3210, Sociological Theory  
SOCIOL 3220, Sociological Statistics, or  
MATH 1310, Elementary Statistical Methods, or  
MATH 1102, Finite Mathematics, or  
MATH 1105, Basic Probability and Statistics  
SOCIOL 3230, Research Methods  
SOCIOL 3231, Research Methods Lab

Note: The core requirements should be completed as early as possible, preferably by the end of the junior year. Sociological Statistics is a prerequisite for Research Methods.

In addition to the general education and specific major degree requirements, students are to take the remaining hours required to complete the BA or BS degree from courses which the appropriate department has evaluated as being of university-level quality, from one or more of the following areas of their university-quality equivalents at other institutions: anthropology/archaeology, art (appreciation, history, studio), biology, chemistry, communication, criminology and criminal justice, economics, English, foreign languages/literature, history, mathematics/computer science, music (appreciation, history, performance); philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, business, education, engineering and interdisciplinary.

### **Bachelor of Arts in Sociology**

For the BA in Sociology, candidates are required to take the core courses and at least 18 additional hours of sociology courses, selected according to career objectives, with at least six hours at the 4000-level (other than Sociology 4350, Special Study). No more than three hours in sociology below the 2000-level can count toward this 18-hour requirement.

Applied training through one or more research courses may be used as part of the requirements for the major.

### **Bachelor of Science in Sociology**

For the BS in Sociology, candidates are required to take core courses and complete the following requirements:

Eight additional sociology courses (24 hours), chosen with the approval of the student's faculty advisor, are required for the BS in Sociology, including a minimum of four courses (twelve hours) at the 4000(300) or 5000(400) level (no more than three hours of either Soc 4350(350) Special Study or SOCIOL 4385(385), Internship in Sociology may be applied to the 4000(300) or 5000(400) level requirement). No more than three hours in sociology below the 2000(100) level can count toward this 24-hour requirement.

### **Related Area Requirements**

Candidates for the BS in Sociology also must complete five courses from at least four of the following nine areas: computer science, economics, mathematics, philosophy, political science, probability and statistics, psychology, public administration and international studies. Specific course selections must be approved by a faculty advisor. BA or BS in Sociology with Teacher Certification Students must complete the BA or BS in sociology requirements, as well as the requirements for teacher certification. (See the College of Education section of the UMSL Bulletin: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Catalog.)

### **BA or BS in Sociology with an Interest in Business**

The following courses are suggested for students seeking careers in areas such as sales, market research and others. In addition to the BA or BS in sociology requirements, the following core courses are suggested:

ECON 1001, Principles of Microeconomics  
SOCIOL 4646, Demographic Techniques  
BUS AD 2400, Fundamentals of Financial Accounting

Students may then choose to complete one of the following three sets of courses:

1. Marketing Management  
BUS AD 3700, Basic Marketing  
BUS AD 3740, Marketing Intelligence  
BUS AD 3760, Industrial Marketing
2. Financial Management  
BUS AD 3500, Financial Management  
BUS AD 3501, Financial Policies  
BUS AD 3520, Investments
3. Accounting  
BUS AD 2410, Managerial Accounting  
BUS AD 3401, Intermediate Accounting I  
BUS AD 3411, Cost Accounting

For those students who wish to focus on one area of sociological study, the following areas are suggested:

- Urban Problems
- Minorities and Power
- Deviance, Conformity and Social Control
- Social Psychology: The Individual and Society
- Organizational Dynamics: Conflict and Consensus
- Applied Analysis and Measurement

### **Requirements for the Minor**

Students must apply for the minor in sociology. Candidates must complete at least 15 hours of course work of which at least six hours must be at the 4000-level.

Candidates who anticipate that their background in sociology may play a substantial role in their career plans are strongly encouraged to take some or all of the core requirements.

Candidates must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in all courses pertaining to the minor. Department courses taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may not be applied to the minor. (See the University of Missouri-St. Louis Bulletin: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Catalog for more information about minor requirements.)

## Graduate Studies

### Curriculum

The Department offers a flexible program of studies leading to the master of arts degree in sociology.

Course work combines intensive examination of the core areas of sociology with acquisition of the analytical skills of sociological investigation. A variety of career options are available to the master's-level graduate, including program evaluation and research, field or case work related to community issues, administrative roles in social agencies and planning organizations, or doctoral studies in sociology or related fields.

The curriculum is designed to serve the needs of full-time students as well as working students who are able to engage only in part-time studies. This design allows pre-career and mid-career students to prepare for employment in education, service agencies, community organizations, government agencies, or businesses. The curriculum also invites students to take advantage of the university's urban setting through integration of selected work experiences with practicum courses and academic seminars under faculty guidance. The curriculum emphasizes theoretical, analytic and substantive approaches to urban-related problem solving.

### 2+3 BA and MA in Sociology

The 2+3 BA and MA in sociology enables students of demonstrated academic ability and educational maturity to complete the requirements for both degrees in five years of full-time study. Because of its accelerated nature, the program requires the completion of lower-division requirements (13 hours) before entry into the three-year portion of the program. When all the requirements of the BA and MA program have been completed, students will be awarded both the baccalaureate and master's degrees. A carefully designed program can permit a student to earn both degrees within as few as ten semesters.