

# Sociology

Sociology studies various aspects of human interaction and social phenomena. The sociology major addresses sociological issues pertaining to self; social groups; social and cultural values; family and community relations; economical and political relations; race, ethnic, gender, and class stratification; the city and the nature of social organizations. The comparative/historical approach of the program enables students to analyze these issues in the United States, as well as in other societies with varied cultural values and at different levels of development.

The sociology curriculum addresses the educational objectives of students who wish to: 1) develop skills in critical thinking and analysis; 2) learn the ways in which sociological thinking can contribute to one's active and constructive participation in society; and 3) apply sociological theories to social public policy, planning, and administration.

After completing the sociology requirements, more students will, for example, be able to: apply sociological analysis in real world situations; assess the validity of statements; and employ critical thinking skills in conducting sociological research and conveying ideas and findings to the public.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates in sociology will be prepared to seek careers in: 1) local and state governments, planning agencies, community-based organizations; and 2) research positions in government, private businesses and corporations, organized labor and labor-management councils. In addition, the program provides the basis for graduate studies in sociology leading to teaching and research positions in higher education.

See the Graduate section (<http://catalog.mtmercy.edu/archives/2014-15/graduateprograms>) of this *Catalog* for more information on Graduate programs offered at Mount Mercy.

## Major

SO 122	Introduction To Sociology	3
SO 215	Methods Of Social Research	3
SO 251	Sociological Theories	3
SO 430	Experiential Learning Internship	3
SO 441	Senior Seminar	3
Total Hours		15

Students are strongly advised to complete SO 122 Introduction To Sociology and SO 251 Sociological Theories by the end of their sophomore year.

Analytical/Topical Electives: two courses from each of the following three areas:

### 1. Social Groups and Organizations:

SO 176	Criminology	3
SO 202	Marriage and Family	3
SO 320	Sociology of Work	3
SO 245	Sociology Of Law	3

### 2. Social Stratification:

SO 155	Social Problems	3
SO 235	Social Inequalities	3
SO 240	Medical Sociology	3
SO 290	Urban Sociology	3
SO 310	Sociology Of Sex And Gender	3
SO 330	Global Race Relations	3

### 3. Historical/Comparative:

SO 183	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
SO 285	Islam And Politics	3
SO 327	Social Change and Technology	3
SO 420	Social Movements and Revolutions	3

In consultation with an advisor, students may substitute one of the following for one of the analytical/topical electives: CJ 365 Diversity and the Criminal Justice System, or PS 221 Social Psychology. Students preparing for graduate studies in sociology should emphasize skills in quantitative analysis, and may consider electing one of the following: BA 270 Business Statistics, MA 135 Basic Statistics, or PS 325 Statistics For Behavioral Sciences.

*Note:* Students planning to pursue teacher education should follow the program guidelines within the education section of this *Catalog* and contact an advisor in the education division for assistance.

## Academic Requirements

SO 122 Introduction To Sociology is a prerequisite for all sociology courses. Students must maintain a grade of C or above (C- does not count) in each required course for the major and minor, this includes SO 122 Introduction To Sociology.

## Sociology Minor

SO 122	Introduction To Sociology	3
SO 215	Methods Of Social Research	3
SO 251	Sociological Theories	3
One elective from each of the analytical/topical areas listed in the major		9
Total Hours		18