

SOCIOLOGY, B.S. (CAPITAL)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Description

Sociology is the scientific study of society in all of its complexity. It includes the study of social structure, social interaction and social change from the micro level of small groups and families; to the meso level of communities, organizations, and institutions; to the macro level of globalization, war, technology and culture. The world today is undergoing tremendous changes and facing great challenges, problems, and possibilities. Sociology attempts to understand our world and to improve it.

The sociology major at Penn State Harrisburg provides a unique orientation to social change at multiple levels, including families, communities, organizations, social movements, institutions, society, and the world system. The major addresses topics such as culture, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social class, inequality, urban life, globalization, environmental change, and political conflict.

The sociology program at Penn State Harrisburg prepares students to succeed in an increasingly complex, diverse, and globalized world. A major in sociology provides opportunities for a wide range of career options. Students with degrees in sociology work in social services, community, advocacy and non-profit organizations, education, business, law, criminal justice, policy-making, social science research, and public administration. An undergraduate degree in sociology also provides a strong foundation for graduate study in sociology and fields such as law, social work, human resources, criminal justice, community psychology, urban planning, political science, and related areas.

Two options are available within the major:

1. General Sociology Option
2. Community Organization and Social Services Option

General Sociology Option

This option provides students with strong education in general sociology in a diverse range of sociological topics. The General Sociology Option is designed for students who seek a solid sociological education with preparation for the widest range of careers and employment opportunities, as well as for graduate education.

Community Organization and Social Services Option

This option provides students with strong preparation for careers working in community settings or in social services. The Community Organization and Social Services Option is designed for students who wish to work directly with people in a broad range of possible settings, in both public and private sectors.

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human social groups from individual families to nations. Sociology focuses on the ways that social environments, such as family, neighborhood, school, and society influence individuals' life options, advantages and disadvantages. Sociology also helps us understand how societies operate and change, and the impact of large scale events such as hurricanes, economic recessions, and social movements on individuals, groups, and societies.

The workings of societies and the social world are often invisible to us as individuals - sociology helps to make these processes visible to us.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are people-oriented and naturally curious about group behavior.
- You would like to make the world better.
- You like working with people.
- You wonder why people do the things they do, and how they are influenced by those around them.
- You are interested in a career as a sociologist, or in another profession that requires critical and creative thinking and analytic problem-solving.