

SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY



The Millersville University sociology program provides students with the ability to understand human behavior in the context of social, cultural, political and environmental influences. Our program enables students to develop a “sociological imagination” with which they can understand their place in and responsibility for the world around them.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

In addition to acquiring a wide knowledge base with which students can understand and navigate the social world, students learn valuable qualitative and quantitative research skills. Students who select sociology as their major may choose to concentrate their studies in criminology (sociology/criminology option) or concentrate in other required related areas, such as community sociology, social and political thought, data analysis and global issues.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN SOCIOLOGY

In addition to acquiring knowledge on various sociological topics, such as families, social class, gender, and race, students develop a specialized skill set that allows them to investigate and comprehend the social world. This skill set includes theoretical understandings, statistical techniques, data analysis, and research methods.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN SOCIOLOGY: CRIMINOLOGY OPTION

With the criminology option, students also develop a specialized skill set with which they can investigate and comprehend the social world. Within the option, students focus specifically on criminological topics, which include courts and policing, corrections and juvenile delinquency.

MINORS

SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY MINOR

The sociology program offers minors in sociology and criminology that can be combined with any major area of study. Adding these minors gives students an important sociological context to their chosen careers. These 18 credit minors offer enough flexibility to be tailored to the individual student's interests.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Along with fostering academic growth inside the classroom, sociology faculty members encourage student development outside the classroom. Students participate in a variety of valuable internship and volunteer opportunities, including experiences with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Lancaster Adult Probation and Parole Services, Lancaster County Juvenile Probation, the American Red Cross, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Further, students have opportunities to work with Millersville University's Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change. In doing so, students gain valuable work experience producing and analyzing sociological research within the local community by participating in community-based research projects and community surveys.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sociology Club - The Sociology Club organizes social gatherings, sponsors field trips to various organizations related to sociology, engages in community service and regularly attends the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meetings.



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FACULTY

Sociology faculty members work closely with students on academic advisement. Students meet with faculty advisors every semester to arrange class schedules and outline a successful path towards graduation. Students complete an academic progress review during their sophomore year to ensure proper academic progress. Also, sociology faculty members organize a course schedule preview lunch every fall and spring semester. During the event, faculty members discuss upcoming courses and answer questions about class and schedule requirements.

GRADUATES

Our graduates work in law enforcement, human service organizations, research-based organizations, as well as local, state and federal government offices. Our major provides outstanding preparation for graduate school and law school.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Millersville University sociology program is to provide students with the ability to understand human behavior in the context of social, historical, cultural, political and environmental influences—that is, to enable students to develop a “sociological imagination” with which they can understand their place in and responsibility for the world around them. All human behavior is necessarily social behavior, making the sociology major, the criminology emphasis within the major, and the sociology and criminology minors widely applicable. Students will learn to acquire, synthesize and apply sociological information.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Millersville University sociology program has adopted the following student outcomes:

1. Sociology graduates demonstrate written communication skills consistent with the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) essential learning outcomes.
2. Sociology graduates demonstrate information literacy.
3. Sociology graduates demonstrate the ability to interact appropriately with professionals in the community.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Benjamin Shoff '15

Major: Sociology (criminology option)

After graduating from Millersville University, Benjamin Shoff joined the Department of Homeland Security. During his time at Millersville, Benjamin completed an honors thesis on community crime prevention strategies and presented the research at the Eastern Sociological Society meeting in New York City. In addition, Benjamin worked at Millersville’s Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change.

Chelsey Wirth '15

Major: Sociology

After graduating from Millersville University, Chelsey joined the Four Diamonds charitable organization. Chelsey is also working towards a MA degree in public health. During her time at Millersville, Chelsey completed an honors thesis on media representations of aging populations and presented the research at the Eastern Sociological Society meeting in New York City.



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