



## Sociology Department: B.A. in Sociology

### The Sociology Program

Sociologists are interested in how society “works” and in how people function within the organization of social life. The emphasis on the connection between individual behavior and the social context, whether the context is a small group or a larger institutional setting, is a defining characteristic of the sociological perspective. From its very beginning, the field of sociology has been concerned with urban life, the forces of social change, and with understanding and addressing social problems. Our department reflects these longstanding interests.

Through our undergraduate and graduate programs of study, an engaged and accessible faculty, and opportunities for internships in metropolitan Boston, our goal is to advance the understanding of local and global social conditions and to assist students in finding a career.

### The Sociology Curriculum

The Sociology major offers students a broad scope of curriculum options. Students may take courses about core institutions in American society, including the workplace, family, the media, health care and the criminal justice system. Other courses focus on the social forces that impact culture and individuals, including immigration, social inequality, globalization, population

diversity, and cultural differences.

### Degree Requirements

The Sociology major requires students to complete 36 semester hours of coursework. Five core courses explore the structure of society, groups and institutions, sociological theory, methods of research, and statistics. Following the core courses, majors complete five or six electives that focus on specialized topics in Sociology. The final requirement is to complete a Senior Capstone, a discussion-based, research-intensive class.

### Senior Capstone Experiences

Students have three options for their Senior Capstone. An internship class provides an excellent opportunity for students to integrate academic learning with hands-on experience in the field. Faculty members and the department’s internship coordinator can assist students in finding placements related to their career goals and professional interests. Alternately, students can choose to complete a senior seminar focusing on a special topic chosen by the faculty, such as gentrification or globalization. Other students may pursue a directed study, wherein they complete a semester-long independent research project under the close supervision of a faculty mentor.

### Faculty Research Projects

The Sociology Department is home to a distinguished group of faculty who are recognized as both scholars and teachers. These professors are actively advancing scholarship in the field of sociology through the pursuit of research projects on:

- Health and health care
- Race and racism
- Gender
- Migration and immigration
- Social movements
- Criminology
- Family
- Culture and identity

### Possible Career Paths

The BA degree in Sociology prepares students to apply their learning in a wide variety of fields, including law, human services, urban planning, teaching, public health, business, public relations, research, the non-profit sector and media. The Office of Career Services assists students in preparing for job searches, applying for graduate school, and exploring professional education programs.

### For More Information:

