Sociology—the scientific study of the organization of society and social relationships -- provides students the opportunity to learn not only about themselves but also about how their experiences and life trajectories are affected by their social environments. Through sociology, students gain unique perspectives and skills that are applicable to a broad range of careers – including research, social services, business, education, policy and healthcare – making them well prepared to succeed in a diverse and changing society.

The Department of Sociology at Wichita State University offers strong undergraduate and graduate programs giving students the option to study a variety of aspects of social life by taking a single course, or in more depth by completing the 15-hour minor or the 31-hour major.

The study of society mandates specific skills for interpreting information and observations. As a sociology major, you are required to take research methods, statistics and theory, plus 15 hours of electives. With this flexibility, you can select specific areas of concentration in deviant behavior, social inequality, family & intimate relationships, gender & sexuality, gerontology, work & urban life, and the social determinants of health. Or you may prefer some combination of these specialties. Depending on your needs, interests, and goals, you may take courses in related fields, such as social work, psychology, political science or ethnic studies, or in other colleges such as business or education.

Sociology is an excellent general degree in the social sciences that may be tailored to your specific needs as you prepare for employment or further graduate/professional education.

**Admission**

When you choose to study sociology you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in sociology who will help you develop your program of study.

If you are still deciding on a major when you begin taking classes at WSU, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.

**Related Opportunities**

You may participate in the cooperative education program, internships, directed research projects and independent readings. Some students are selected to work directly with faculty on research and projects of common interest. Through faculty-based community service, you can gain hands-on experience in social agencies, volunteering and cooperative education employment opportunities.

If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board. Sociology also has its own honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta, and all students are encouraged to get involved in Shocker Soc Club.

**After Graduation**

Sociology graduates are very successful in the work force gaining employment in a variety of fields including the social services, marketing/social science research, education, management, and state or local government after graduation.

Students who participate in Cooperative Education, a program that helps you find a part-time job—with pay—in an area related to sociology and your interests, can earn course credit while gaining relevant work experience, and are able to test out potential career paths—all before they graduate. Research from the American Sociological Association suggests that participating in such applied learning activities while working toward the degree increases post graduation career pathways and overall satisfaction with the type of employment gained. Many times these experiences can turn into a full-time job.

**General Education Program Requirements**

**Well-Rounded Learning**

Wichita State strives to offer the most complete college experience possible to produce well-rounded, successful Shocker graduates. Through general education courses, students explore subjects outside of their major, expanding their knowledge, perspective and skills and making a positive impact on their career and life.
Benefits of general education courses:
• Improved critical thinking skills
• Better communication, written and spoken
• Increased analytical reasoning and problem solving
• An acquired knowledge of natural and social science, the arts and humanities

Improve skills by taking courses that include diversity content, study abroad experiences, service learning and experience-based learning.

Major Requirements
- Introduction to Sociology - 3 credit hours
- Introduction to Social Research - 3 credit hours
- Sociological Statistics - 3 credit hours
- Measurements & Analysis - 4 credit hours
- Sociological Theory - 3 credit hours
- Electives - 15 credit hours

Some courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward LAS General Education Requirements and/or the requirements for the Tilford Diversity Certificate.

Minor Requirements
- Introduction to Sociology - 3 credit hours
- Upper-division courses (at least 3 hours, 500 level or above) - 3 credit hours
- Electives - 9 credit hours

For more information on Sociology at WSU visit wichita.edu/sociology or call (316) 978-3280.