Sociology

McDonald Center
(435) 652-7881

https://socialscience.dixie.edu/sociology/

To find faculty & staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php).

Department Chair
Robert Carlson, Ph.D.

Applied Sociology Program Coordinator
Matthew Smith-Lahrman Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant for Social & Behavioral Sciences
Hope Mullins

Dean
Richard Featherstone, Ph.D.

Administrative Specialist
Jenn Stewart

Applied Sociology Program Description

Sociology is the scientific study of human interaction. Specific areas of study within sociology include culture and structure, individual and small group behavior, deviance, inequality and stratification, gender, race and ethnicity, social institutions, demography, and social change. Furthermore, sociologists use a variety of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies in gathering, analyzing, and presenting their data.

A primary goal of Applied Sociology at Dixie State University is the implementation of sociological theory and methods in private, government, and nonprofit settings. The study of Applied Sociology provides a strong intellectual and practical background in sociological thought and methodology. Applied Sociology students understand the influence of culture and structure on human behavior and are able to recognize continuing sources of social inequality and develop awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity. Because of their methodological expertise, Applied Sociology students are able to recognize, analyze, and provide informed decisions concerning difficult issues within a wide range of organizations.

Students in the Applied Sociology Program have multiple opportunities for hands-on experiences, close student-faculty relationships, and social engagement. As a student of Applied Sociology you will find faculty who are committed to the intellectual, professional, and personal development of every student, whatever their ultimate goals may be.

The Applied Sociology Program at Dixie State University is committed to the following:

• Training students to value the search for knowledge by means of scientific methods and research.
• Developing students whose understanding of Sociology reflects an integration of a variety of theoretical perspectives.
• Graduating students who understand the principles of Sociology within a broad liberal arts and science perspective.
• Providing students with the abilities to apply what they learn in the classroom to real life issues outside of academia.
• Inspiring students to commit themselves to a lifetime pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

Course Prefix

• SOC

Degrees & Minors

• Bachelor of Arts/Science in Applied Sociology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/sociology/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_applied_sociology)
• Bachelor of Arts/Sciences in Integrated Studies - Sociology Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencedegreebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__sociology_emphasis)
• Minor in Sociology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/sociology/minor_in_sociology)
• Certificate in Social Research Methods (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/sociology/social_research_methods_certificate)

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework for sociology, students can do the following to enhance their career opportunities:
• Develop academic research skills and experience
• Develop strong written and oral communication skills
• Maintain a high grade point average and consider pursuing an advanced degree
• Gain relevant experience through internships and related part-time employment
• Do volunteer work in the community.
• Learn to work well with people from diverse backgrounds
• Learn how to prepare grant applications
• Earn a minor in a complimentary major such as Psychology, Criminal Justice, a foreign language or Communications.

Career Opportunities

A degree in sociology provides a broad, liberal arts background, which can “open doors” for graduates seeking entry level employment in a variety of professional occupations such as social agencies, business, government services, and law enforcement. Students may wish to pursue graduate education in psychology, social work, counseling, academic advisement, or other related fields as a way of increasing earning potential.

The advanced study of sociology includes many broad and diverse specialty areas, which can lead to careers in such areas as:

• Research
• Education
• Community and Social Services
• Justice System
• Government
• Business and Industry

Job Outlook

The overall job growth expectations for the future are positive, but can vary by specificity and by educational level. Advanced degrees will increase job marketability and income.

Salary Range

Salaries will vary widely depending on factors such as level of education, specialty, and geographic location. On average this would be $48,000 to $68,000. For more information refer to the American Sociological Association (http://www.apa.org/careers/resources).