Sociology

Program Description
Sociology is a scientific discipline and profession serving public good. Sociologists seek to understand all aspects of human social behavior. They study individuals, the social dynamics of small groups, communities, organizations, institutions, and societies. A primary goal of the study of Sociology is to develop effective social policy. Specific areas of study within Sociology include gender roles and relationships, family structure and behavior, social networks, interpersonal relationships and processes, race and ethnic relations, historical societies and economies, social trends, poverty and inequality, gang violence, organizations, social structure and culture, and crime and incarceration.

The study of Sociology at DSU provides a strong intellectual background in sociological thought, methodology, and contributions. Special emphasis is placed on the sociological perspective, social theory, social research methods, and data analysis. Students develop abilities to explain the important influence of culture, social structure, and social processes on human behavior; to recognize continuing sources of social inequality; and to develop an awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity.

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

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

- Developing students who value the search for knowledge by means of scientific methods and research and providing students with the knowledge and skills to do so.
- Developing students whose understanding of Sociology reflects an integration of a variety of theoretical perspectives.
- Developing students who understand the principles of Sociology within a broad liberal arts and science perspective.
- Inspiring students to act ethically as scholars and as future Sociologists.
- Inspiring students to value and to use critical thinking as students, scholars, consumers of media, and targets of influence.
- 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_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__sociology_emphasis)
- Minor in Sociology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/sociology/minor_in_sociology)

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).