Sociology and Anthropology

Degree Offered

• Master of Arts in Sociology

Nature of the Program

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers a master of arts degree in sociology. The program trains students in the core areas of sociology, including research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data analysis, theory, and sociological writing. It also teaches a range of professional skills designed to help graduates enter the academic or non-academic job markets. Emphasis is placed on writing and presentation skills, knowledge of statistical software, teaching ability, expertise in program evaluation, and ability to communicate and apply sociological theory. Graduates of the program have entered Ph.D programs and have taken positions in universities, government, community agencies, and private industry.

Employers value our graduates' technical skills, understanding of the research process, and overview of the interaction between research, planning, and policy. Many of our graduates are soon promoted to positions as project directors, managers, and supervisors. As a consequence, our network for placing graduates is ever-expanding.

In addition to instruction of technical skills, faculty furnish an overview of the relationship between policy and research and provide expertise in a broad range of substantive areas, including economic development in Appalachia; gender, racial and ethnic studies; sociology of education and work; the criminal justice system; health care delivery; injury prevention; community and organizational development; and conflict analysis and resolution. In addition to coursework, students will have an opportunity to work with faculty who are actively engaged in research in the areas previously mentioned. It is not uncommon to have students work with faculty on research that is presented at local, regional, and national professional meetings; published in professional journals; and presented to development agencies and legislative bodies.

Degree Requirements

The thirty-six-hour program requires thirty hours of coursework and either the completion of a thesis (six hours) or an applied research report (six hours). During the first three semesters, students are required to enroll in a series of core research courses. In addition, the student, in consultation with his or her program committee, chooses electives either within the department or elsewhere in the university as a basis for gaining expertise in some specific area of concentration.

Faculty

Professor

• Lawrence T. Nichols - Ph.D. (Boston College)
  Sociology, Criminology, Theory, Business

Professor Emeritus

• Ronald C. Althouse - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Theory, Work, Occupational Safety and Health

Associate Professors

• Corey Colyer - Ph.D. (Syracuse University)
  Sociology, People Processing Systems, Agencies of Social Control
• S. Melissa Latimer - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)
  Sociology, Gender/Race/Ethnicity, Inequality/Labor Markets/Welfare Systems
• James Nolan, III - Ph.D. (Temple University)
  Sociology, Criminal Justice, Group and Social Processes
• Karen Weiss - Ph.D. (State University of New York, Stony Brook)
  Sociology, Criminology, Victimization, Gender/Sexuality/Culture
• Rachael A. Woldoff - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Sociology, Community, Crime, Inequality/Race/Class

Associate Professors Emeriti

• Ann L. Paterson - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Sociology
• Patricia C. Rice - M.A. (Ohio State University)
  Anthropology
• Joseph J. Simoni - Ph.D. (University of Notre Dame)
Sociology
• William I. Torry - Ph.D. (Columbia University)

Anthropology
• Assistant Professor
  • Lisa M. Dilks - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina)
    Sociology, Social Psychology, Group Processes, Law and Society, Quantitative Methods
  • Amy Hirshman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
    Anthropology, Mesoamerican Anthropology, Social Complexity, Ceramics
  • Jason Manning - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
    Sociology, Conflict and Social Control, Violence, Sociology of Knowledge
  • Daniel Renfrew - Ph.D. (State University of New York, Binghamton)
    Anthropology, Environmental and Political Anthropology, Social Movements, Latin American Cultures
  • Rachel Stein - Ph.D. (University of Akron)
    Sociology, Criminology, Victimization, Media and Crime
  • Joshua Woods - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
    Sociology, Social Psychology, Media, Complex Organizations, Sociology of Risk
  • Jesse Wozniak - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
    Sociology, Policing, Criminology, Deviance, State Power

Teaching Assistant Professor
• Adam Dasari - Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University)
  Sociology, Social Stratification, Globalization, Environmental Sociology, Theory

Clinical Assistant Professor
• Jennifer Steele - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Rural Sociology, Natural Resource Sociology, Rural Community and Economic Development

Admission
Applicants for admission to graduate study must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Applicants must submit a university graduate application and have their college or university transcripts sent directly to the WVU Office of Admissions. Candidates should also submit three completed recommendation forms from former professors, supervisors, or employers. Applicants should submit a written statement of purpose outlining graduate study goals and plans (career plans, research experience, and any special circumstances), a short sample of academic writing, and scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Foreign students for whom English is not the native language are required by the university to submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores (a minimum score of 550 is required) and may be required to participate in the university’s language orientation sessions.

Application Deadline
The application process should be completed by March 1 for admission to the fall semester. Students seeking financial assistance must request and submit a separate application form furnished by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Remediation
Students with deficient background in sociological theory, methods, or statistics may be required to do remedial work. Full-time students who are admitted as special provisional students are required to complete twelve hours of approved coursework with a B average or better within a year; students who fail to do so are suspended. The department’s Graduate Committee assesses all students and determines who will be permitted to continue in the program, with or without assistance. Normally, assistance is for no more than two years.

Degree Requirements
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A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses.

Major Requirements

Major Requirements
Major in Sociology
SOCA 510 Principles of Research Design
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