

Sociology

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Contact

Amy Blackstone, Chair
 Department of Sociology
 5728 Fernald Hall, Room 201A
 Orono, ME 04469-5728
 207-581-2380
 fax: 207-581-1762
 steven.barkan@umit.maine.edu
umaine.edu/sociology

Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (including biology)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (same language or two years of American Sign Language)
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

Our classes are fairly small, affording a good deal of faculty-student contact. We care deeply about our students' learning and are devoted to giving them the best sociology education possible.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program Description

Sociology offers courses designed to further the student's understanding of society. The courses focus on such questions as: How do our social backgrounds influence our attitudes and behavior? What are the chances for full equality between women and men? What can we do to reduce the problems of poverty and crime? How do deviant identities arise? What kind of family forms are emerging in the post-industrial world? Why are rates of physical and mental illness unusually high in some areas of society? Most importantly, what options do people have to change their groups, organizations and culture?

As a core discipline in the liberal arts, sociology's perspectives and methodologies make it particularly suited to address many of the problems facing us in the next few decades—the growing health care crisis, drug use and abuse, violence and discrimination against women and minorities, divorce and the growing feminization of poverty. The sociology curriculum also provides excellent preparation for a variety of careers involving people and organizations. Sociology majors learn important skills in research methods, data analysis, and evaluation and policy analysis. The department also offers a minor in sociology and two optional concentrations within the major: crime, law, and deviance and race, class and gender.

As an undergraduate department, we are totally committed to the teaching of our undergraduates. Our faculty are also very active in research and other professional activities. We take our teaching very seriously, and students routinely indicate their appreciation for how much they have learned in their sociology courses, how much attention their sociology faculty paid to them, and how sociology has changed the way they think about the world around them and their place in it.

Specialized Information

Outstanding students have served as research assistants or teaching assistants in projects involving Somali immigrants in Maine, sexual harassment of older workers, and childfree couples, and they have also worked on independent study projects on such topics as prejudice toward immigrants and religiosity and sexual behavior among adolescents.

Ongoing Research and Awards

Professor Steven Barkan is former president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the author of a leading textbook in criminology. Assistant Professor Amy Blackstone is the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant to study sexual harassment of older workers. Assistant Professor Kim Huisman is the principal founder of the Somali Narrative Project in Maine. Professor Kyriacos Markides has written several internationally acclaimed books on Christian mysticism.

Representative Courses

SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	SOC 329	Sociology of Gender
SOC 201	Social Inequality	SOC 330	Perspectives on Women
SOC 208	Problems of Violence and Terrorism	SOC 337	Sociology of Mental Illness
SOC 220	Deviance and Social Control	SOC 371	Immigration, Women, and Society
SOC 214	Crime and Criminal Justice	SOC 390	Logic of Sociological Inquiry
SOC 301	Microsociology: Social Interaction and the Self	SOC 460	Major Ideas in Sociology
SOC 302	Macrosociology: The Structure of Societies	SOC 482	Sociology of Religion
SOC 310	Quantitative Reasoning in Sociology	SOC 499	Senior Seminar
SOC 314	Law and Society		
SOC 318	Sociology of the Family		

Career and Graduate Opportunities

Students can attend graduate school in sociology or related fields such as criminology, urban planning, public health, gerontology, and demography. They can also attend professional school in law or business. Career options range widely throughout the service and business sectors and include such positions as child protective worker, employment specialist, healthcare claims recovery analyst, and pharmaceutical sales specialist.

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

