Sociology Liberal Arts

Do issues related to sociology interest you? Does a college education with a strong foundation in liberal arts appeal to you? Are you looking for a degree program that is flexible in its course requirements? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then the Sociology in Liberal Arts degree program might be for you.

The Sociology in Liberal Arts major is designed for students who wish to pursue a liberal arts education with a sociological emphasis. This major focuses on sociological perspectives as they related to social structure, social institutions, social inequality, and the solution to social problems.

For students attracted to numerous subject areas, this program offers maximum flexibility. Students, in conjunction with their adviser, tailor and select the majority of their academic major from numerous sociology courses. In addition to this, a great number of general electives are built-in to the major.

Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for any professional. Other valuable skills and competencies specific to the Sociology professions include knowledge of community services, the ability to understand and improve relationships, and familiarity with social structures and change.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core

Minimum of 20 credit hours must be at the 300 level or above

- SO101  Introductory Sociology (4 cr.)
- SO263  Criminology (4 cr.) or SO343 Sociology/Deviant Behavior (4 cr.)
- SO312  Religion and Society (4 cr.)
- SO232 Marriage and the Family (4 cr.)
- SO382 Health, Society and Culture (4 cr.)
- SO351  Social Change (4 cr.) or SO355 Intro to Social Psychology (4 cr.)
- SO353 Globalization/Asian Societies (4 cr.)
- SO407 Sociological Theory (4 cr.)
- SO362  Gender and Society (4 cr.) or SO322 Social Class, Power/Mobility (4 cr.)
- SO372 Minority Groups

Sociology Electives (12 cr.)

Required Minor ( 20 cr.)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Listed are some (and certainly not all) of the career options available to those with degrees in Sociology. Eligibility for many of these careers will depend on the course concentration chosen by the students.

Other career options might require a level of education beyond the bachelor's degree. Teaching will require successful completion of methods courses as well as student teaching and proper certification.

Internship experience and organizational affiliations are beneficial to persons interested in pursuing many of the professional careers related to Sociology.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and individual work experience, and usually range from $25,000 to $35,000. Most of the new careers will involve data processing and information handling and human relations skills.

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.
Potential Careers

NMU’s Sociology Liberal Arts Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Administrative Assistant
- Admissions Counselor
- Advertising Staffer
- Affirmative Action Workers
- Alumni Relations Worker
- Banker
- Child Protection Officer
- College Placement Worker
- Consumer Relations Worker
- Consumer Researcher
- Corrections Officer
- Hospital Administrator
- Human Relations Specialist
- Human Rights Officer
- Interviewer
- Juvenile Court Worker
- Legislative Aide
- Personnel Coordinator
- Planning Assistant
- Police Department Staffer
- Public Health Educator
- Public Relations Staffer
- Social Research Assistant
- Student Personnel Workers
- Trainer
- Urban Planning
- Youth Services Specialist

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Sociology and Social Work
2400 Jamrich
906-227-2706
www.nmu.edu/sociology

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Student Social Work/Sociology Organization
http://www.nmu.edu/soc_work/sswso.htm

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net
www.bls.gov/oco

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.asanet.org American Sociological Assoc.
www.sociology.org Electronic Jnl of Sociology

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