Sociology Department: B.A. in Sociology

The Sociology Program
Sociologists are interested in how society “works” and in how people function within the organization of social life. The emphasis on the connection between individual behavior and the social context, whether the context is a small group or a larger institutional setting, is a defining characteristic of the sociological perspective. From its very beginning, the field of sociology has been concerned with urban life, the forces of social change, and with understanding and addressing social problems. Our department reflects these longstanding interests. Through our undergraduate and graduate programs of study, an engaged and accessible faculty, and opportunities for internships in metropolitan Boston, our goal is to advance the understanding of local and global social conditions and to assist students in finding a career.

The Sociology Curriculum
The Sociology major offers students a broad scope of curriculum options. Students may take courses about core institutions in American society, including the workplace, family, the media, health care and the criminal justice system. Other courses focus on the dynamic social forces that impact culture and individuals, including immigration, social inequality, globalization, population diversity, and cultural differences.

Degree Requirements
The Sociology major requires students to complete 36 semester hours of coursework. Four core courses explore the structure of society, groups and institutions, sociological theory, and methods of research. Six or seven elective courses allow students to pursue sociological issues which reflect their academic interests and career goals. The capstone requirement can be fulfilled by taking a senior-level seminar, completing an internship, or pursuing a directed study.

Senior Capstone Experiences
Students have three options for their capstone. The internship provides an opportunity for students to integrate their academic learning with hands-on experience in the field. Faculty members and the department’s internship coordinator can assist students in finding placements related to their career goals and professional interests. Students can instead complete a senior seminar on a special topic, such as gentrification in Boston, where they will complete a research paper as part of a seminar. Students may also choose a directed study, where they complete independent research under the close supervision of a faculty mentor.

Faculty Research Projects
The Sociology Department is home to a distinguished group of faculty who are accomplished teachers and researchers. These professors are actively advancing scholarship in the field of sociology through the pursuit of research projects on:
- Health and health care
- Race and racism
- Gender
- Immigration
- Media and popular culture
- Social movements
- Family

Possible Career Paths
The BA degree in Sociology prepares students to apply their learning in a wide variety of fields, including law, human services, urban planning, teaching, public health, business, public relations, research, the nonprofit sector and media. The Office of Career Services assists students in preparing for job searches, applying for graduate school, and exploring professional education programs.

To Learn More, Please Contact:
Department of Sociology
Wheatley, 4th floor, Room 12
University of Massachusetts, Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
Phone: (617) 287-6250