Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Become an agent for social change.

THE RIVIER UNIVERSITY ADVANTAGE

Rivier’s Sociology program examines the interactions between individuals and groups, focusing on cultural diversity and patterns that affect social issues and problems. Understanding the sociological perspective will contribute to your success working in multi-ethnic communities and organizations. This program provides you with a strong liberal arts foundation and the ability to tailor your degree to your individual career interests.

At Rivier, academic excellence is offered and great achievement is expected. You will transform yourself through engaging classroom interaction, powerful study abroad experiences, challenging internships and life-changing community service. Our mission—transforming hearts and minds to serve the world—ensures that you will find a rich global experience in our vibrant campus community. Faculty members bring real-world experience to their classrooms and are dedicated to the success of every student.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Sociology major gives students insight into a variety of social forces and factors; race, criminology, culture, social change, social class, gender, age issues, education, politics and the economy are all informed by sociology. Experience and skills development in research design and data analysis helps develop critical thinking skills and the ability to make and apply sound rational judgments to real-world situations.

Elective courses allow students to focus on their particular areas of interest. This focus may lead to careers in government, international affairs, business, human resources, social work, criminal justice, research or serve as the foundation for graduate studies in numerous disciplines.

ACCESS THE WORLD

Internships, study abroad, and co-curricular opportunities

Sociology students can gain valuable work experience by participating in unpaid and paid internships at reputable, local organizations and companies. Internships can also earn academic credit.

Several related, on-campus clubs and organizations offer leadership and co-curricular opportunities including: the Habitat for Humanity Club, Business Club, Multicultural Student Organization, Rivier Alliance, and more. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in various study abroad opportunities ranging from faculty-led weeklong study tours to entire semesters spent at a university abroad.

CAREERS

The Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree offers students a wide range of career options. Sociology program graduates can pursue careers as:

• Counselors and psychologists
• Human and social services workers
• Human resource managers and directors
• Community activists and planners
• Marketing and PR professionals
• Teachers and corporate trainers

Note: Some careers, especially for counselors, psychologists, and teachers, will require additional graduate study and/or certification.

Rivier University’s Career Development Center (CDC) is committed to helping students on their path to become leaders in a global society.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
The B.A. in Sociology degree requires a combination of General Education, Major, and General Elective courses.

MAJOR COURSES
SOC - Four electives
SOC 300 - 400 - Three electives
SOC 101 - Introductory Sociology
SOC 301 - Social Theory
SOC 406 - Research Methods

COMPETENCIES
Students who complete degree requirements in sociology should be able to:
• recognize and define current sociological concepts especially in the areas of social problems;
• describe historical developments, current perspectives, and major sociological theories and theorists;
• read, abstract, and interpret sociological research;
• relate sociological principles and concepts to applied situations;
• communicate clearly and effectively acquired knowledge of sociology both orally and in written form;
• recognize problems, analyze situations, develop alternatives, and make decisions based on research and knowledge of sociology;
• apply sociological analysis to any contemporary social situation;
• and design a sociological research proposal.

ASSESSMENT
Student achievement in the sociology major is assessed in a variety of ways. Assessment includes formal course examinations, classroom participation, research papers, critical analysis papers, journals, individual and group projects, in-class presentations, role playing, self-appraisal, and videotaping. Students are encouraged to keep a portfolio of their experiences for reflective purposes, as well as to demonstrate their competencies when applying to graduate school and for positions in their field.

ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION
New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

FACULTY
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The University reserves the right to make changes when appropriate and necessary as needed without notification.

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