Sociology Department

About the Department
Sociology is the study of humans as they interact within groups, organizations, institutions, and social systems. Sociologists study and observe the patterns of behavior that lead to cooperation or conflict, resistance or change, social inequality, or social justice.

Our sociologists explore a wide range of pressing social issues and topics relevant to our lives – environment, immigration, criminal justice, social inequality, globalization, race relations, and gender identity/gender expression and sexuality.

Students majoring in sociology develop skills and knowledge that will serve them well throughout their lifetime as spouses, parents, workers, and members of communities. From critical thinking to intercultural competence to problem solving and analytic reasoning, our majors are well prepared for a career in a wide variety of fields or graduate studies.

As part of their degree requirements, sociology majors conduct original research on an array of topics. In the last few years, students studied: Food Deserts; Eastern European Immigration; Effects of Divorce on Children, Victimization of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People; Stand-up Comedy and the Election Cycle; Education Levels and Success of Rookie Pitchers in the National Baseball League; Criminal Recidivism; Violence in Prime Time Television; Childhood Obesity; and Teen Suicide, among others.

“I have been exposed to a lot of inequality that occurs in our social world. I am grateful that I changed my major into [sociology]. I love it!”

www.salisbury.edu/sociology
Beyond the Classroom

Our students typically participate as volunteers with at-risk youth, the homeless, the elderly, domestic violence hotlines/shelters, afterschool programs, as a tutor and more. Sociology majors are encouraged to enhance their experiences through study abroad programs and internships.

Many students choose to participate in the Sociology Club, which sponsors discussions, lectures and movies about some of today’s most pressing issues.

In the News

Sociology continues to be recognized as an essential discipline with its emphasis on understanding diversity and culture. Graduates are sought by the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as the fields of criminal justice, health and medicine and international business. In 2016, sociology was ranked in the top one-third of the most appealing jobs according to CareerCast.com. And let’s not forget that First Lady Michele Obama has an undergraduate degree in sociology!

Tony Topolski Scholarship

A $500 scholarship is awarded annually to a sociology major of advanced standing who demonstrates involvement in community activity and a strong commitment to the pursuit of justice and social change.

RECENT STUDY ABROAD

- Hahna Samuel – India
- Diana Mitchell – Spain
- Keith Barbalotto – Thailand
- Blake Lovelace – China

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

- Life Crisis Center, SGA
- Maintaining Active Citizens (geriatric services)
- Kidney Dialysis Center
- Occupational Health Rehabilitation Center
- Parole and Probation
- Community Mediation
- Real Estate company
- Homeless Shelter
- Migrant Clinicians Network
- Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Public Defenders Office
- United Way, Addictions and Mental Health day program
- Housing Services
- Disability Service Program
- Police Agencies
- Juvenile Services
- Criminal Attorneys
- Elementary Afterschool Tutoring Program

FAMOUS SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

- Rev. Martin Luther King
- Rev. Jesse Jackson
- Roy Wilkins, former head of NAACP
- Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator from Maryland
- Saul Alinsky, father of community organizing
- Michelle Obama, First Lady
- Dan Aykroyd, actor/Blues Brother
- Robin Williams, actor/comedian
- Ruth Westheimer, the “sex doctor”
- Kalpen Suresh Modi, White House Liaison for Arts and Humanities