Undergraduate Programs

Sociology is the scientific study of people in groups—from friendship networks to communities to entire nations. Sociologists describe the characteristics of social groups and consider explanations for social stability and social change. They promote critical thinking on issues such as social inequality, racial and ethnic conflict, law and justice, social and political movements, immigration, education, health, the family, and the role of gender and sexuality. The undergraduate major in sociology provides students with knowledge of and a perspective on social life that transcends their personal experience and helps them develop a deep understanding of important trends in modern society.

Undergraduate Program Learning Goals

The UW Sociology Department is committed to giving its undergraduates a high quality, useful college education. Toward this end, the department has identified five goals for its undergraduate program and strives to provide students with multiple, reinforcing opportunities to attain them. By the time students who major in sociology at the University of Washington graduate, they should:

1. Possess a coherent understanding of the sociological perspective.
2. Possess the analytic skills necessary to understand and evaluate sociological arguments and relevant empirical evidence. These include:
3. Possess the oral and written communication skills necessary to effectively convey, explain, and evaluate sociological arguments and the empirical evidence relevant to them.
4. Be prepared for meaningful careers in occupations that draw on a sociological background.
5. Be thoughtful citizens of the world.

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