Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social behavior. Sociologists study a broad array of social phenomena ranging from the dynamics of social interaction to the composition and workings of entire societies.

The diversity of the faculty is reflected in the many different types of undergraduate and graduate courses offered. Topics include environment; criminology and criminal justice; law and society; juvenile delinquency; social problems; social movements; social inequality; social psychology; race and ethnicity; gender; religion; and family. Students gain mastery of knowledge in topical areas as well as in the methods of social research, enabling them to pursue professional positions in a variety of occupational fields. Many undergraduate majors take advantage of the applied research option by selecting supervised work-related internships. Students at the graduate level may pursue the MS or PhD in Sociology.

The Department of Sociology offers BA and BS degrees in general sociology and applied sociology. The Department also offers the BS in Sociology as a Pre-Law or Pre-Medical Science degree, enabling students to tailor their program of study for future careers in these fields. The general sociology degree provides students the opportunity to obtain a strong liberal arts degree with a maximum number of electives, and provides a good base for pursuing a professional or graduate degree in sociology and several other fields of study. Students may also choose to focus their Sociology degree by selecting an applied emphasis or the anthropology emphasis. The applied option enables students to focus their studies and educational experiences on criminology and criminal justice; environment and society; or social services, and provides practical experience for work in a variety of settings.

The option in anthropology provides students with a basic introduction to methods, theory, and principles of cultural anthropology, archaeology and physical anthropology. Regular course offerings introduce students to past and present cultures within and outside the United States.