

Sociology

A bachelor's degree in Sociology from St. Ambrose provides an excellent foundation for embarking on a wide range of career paths. An undergraduate education in sociology at St. Ambrose can open a variety of doors in business and human services. Sociology majors who enter the business world work in such areas as sales, marketing, customer relations, and human resources. Those who enter human resources work with youth at risk, the elderly, people experiencing problems related to poverty or substance abuse, and in the justice system.

Contact us

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 St. Ambrose University
 518 West Locust Street
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 Visit the Sociology Department
 Web site at www.sau.edu/sociology
 For general information about
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:
 Admissions Office
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627
 email: admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu

Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. A minor, a secondary teaching major and a teaching minor also are offered.

Sociology majors are required to take 30 credit hours in sociology. A minor consists of 15 credit hours in sociology.

A teaching minor requires 30 credit hours in sociology and 12 credit hours of social science electives. Additional education-based courses are also required.

A secondary teaching minor (7-12) requires 33 credit hours in sociology and 12 credit hours of social science electives in addition to education course requirements.

See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Program highlights and courses

A typical Sociology major or minor's first course of study starts with Introductory Sociology followed by Social Psychology, Social Organization, and Applied Statistical Reasoning for the Sciences to provide a fundamental base and serve as preparation for the 300 level courses. Senior level Sociology majors are eligible for the Senior Seminar, which involves researching current trends in the discipline and preparing a presentation.

Upper level courses include: Sociological Theory, Research Methods in the Social Sciences, Qualitative and Ethnographic Research Methods, Marriage and the Family, Medical Sociology, Social Gerontology, Death and Dying, Drugs and Society, Sociology of Religion, Social Welfare Policy, and Field Experience.

Resources and co-curricular activities

The Sociology Department sponsors a Sociology Club to encourage extra-curricular voluntary involvement with sociological concerns. There is also a Sociology Honor Society to recognize the outstanding achievement of students in the Sociology program.

What can you do with a Sociology degree?

A degree in Sociology provides the kind of investigative and people skills to make a career in journalism, politics, public relations, business or public administration extremely viable.

Sociology also provides a liberal arts base for careers in the areas of law, education, medicine, social work and counseling. Many students with bachelor's degrees go on to do graduate work in sociology in order to teach at the college level or perform research.

Our Sociology majors have found careers as:

- Director of marketing and administration for a national youth organization. Graduated in 1994.
- Social services director for a community senior center. Graduated in 2001.
- Certified addictions counselor for a non-profit addictions center. Graduated in 2003.

About the faculty

Martin Hansen PhD, Associate Professor and Department Chair

DrMartinHansen@netins.net

Although he is foremost a sociology generalist, Prof. Hansen's primary interests are sociological theory and the history and philosophy of science. His path to sociology has been full of diverse experiences working as an independent construction contractor, a professional musician, and a design engineer and technician for his own computer company. Prof. Hansen received his PhD in sociology from Iowa State University and has taught at St. Ambrose since 1999.

Walter Kurth MSW, Assistant Professor

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Prof. Kurth's interests are in social welfare policy and the sociology of religion. He received his master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa and holds a master of divinity degree from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Prof. Kurth joined the St. Ambrose faculty in 1985 with a dual appointment in Sociology and Psychology.

Regina Stephens PhD, Assistant Professor

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As Director of the Gerontology Certificate program, Prof. Stephens works with organizations in the community on aging-related issues to further develop and establish the Gerontology program. Her current research interest is health care and social support experiences for people living with HIV/AIDS. She received her PhD in sociology from Oklahoma State University. Prof. Stephens joined the faculty at St. Ambrose in 1999.