

Do you see yourself working with vulnerable populations such as children, families in crisis, or the elderly? Are you interested in a better understanding of the social world you live in, and how people interact and respond to each other? Are you interested in learning more about issues such as poverty, family, religion, race, gender, class, inequality, and the environment? Are you looking to develop a career in social research as an academic or in public, private, or nonprofit organizations? If you answered “yes” to any of the above, a degree in sociology from St. Ambrose University is just what you’re looking for!

Address the challenging issues of our time. Sociology examines the forces that shape our lives, both at a broad societal level and at the level of daily social interaction. It addresses a variety of intellectual as well as policy-related issues and concerns, such as socioeconomic and demographic change, social institutions (such as law, medicine, education, the family or politics), the structure of social inequality (especially race, class and gender), and the nature of the state and the dynamics of interpersonal relations.

How social systems work. With a degree in sociology from St. Ambrose, you have an advantage in today’s information society. You will understand social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces for social change and resistance and how social systems work. The solid base you receive in understanding social change, as well as in research design, data analysis, statistics, theory and sociological concepts, will enable you to compete for positions in organizations that need your perspective.

A flexible and adaptable foundation. The world in which we live in is changing rapidly. We do not know exactly what to expect in 5 or 10 years in our social or professional lives, but sociology provides a flexible and adaptable liberal arts foundation that enables students to professionally survive these changes, and to understand them as well.

Ambrose Advantages

A practical “hands-on” approach. The sociology program features small class sizes and faculty members who have the time to give you the attention you deserve as you seek out an academic and professional career. Based on student feedback, we provide an early introduction to research in the curriculum. We have structured our program to emphasize a practical “hands-on” approach to social research and the application of sociological skills and knowledge. Simply put, a degree in sociology at St. Ambrose provides majors and minors with skills that are increasingly necessary for living and leading in an interconnected global world.



Face-to-face advising. We are able to advise each and every one of our students and do so on a face-to-face basis. We have not relied on adjunct instructors, meaning that students can expect consistency across our course offerings.

Career Opportunities

In preparation for graduate studies, sociology provides a strong academic base for advanced degrees in sociology, social work, law, and counseling. The skill set that sociology provides is useful in the business sector for careers in human resources, marketing, and public relations. In social services, a sociology degree prepares students who want to work with vulnerable populations such as children, families in crisis, or the elderly. Our program also provides training in research skills that can lead to a career in social research in public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

Because sociologists address some of the most challenging issues of our time, sociology is a rapidly expanding field with the potential to be increasingly tapped by those who craft policies and create programs. You can apply the sociological perspective to a

wide variety of jobs in such sectors as business, healthcare, the criminal justice system, social services and government. You can also prepare for a career as a caseworker for a social service agency, a fund-raiser for a not-for-profit organization, or as a researcher for an environmental group.

Career Outlook

- > The median salary for sociologists was \$75,000 in 2012, with a projected job growth of 15 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- > More than 114,000 new jobs are projected in the social work field through 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The median salary for social workers was \$44,200 in 2012.
- > More than 31,000 new counseling positions are projected through 2022. School and career counselors earned a median salary of \$53,610 in 2012.
- > Job growth of 31 percent is projected for behavioral counselors through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. More than 23,000 new positions for rehabilitation counselors are projected through 2022.
- > More than 48,000 new positions in marriage and family health counseling are projected through 2022 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The position paid a median salary of \$41,500 in 2012.

Alumni Success Stories

- > Kaitlyn Koniuszy (SAU 2012) went on to earn her Master of Social Work degree from St. Ambrose in 2014, and now works at Children's Home + Aid in Belleville, Ill., as an Adoption Preservation Therapist.
- > Jamie Budziak (SAU 2013) is a Clinical Therapist Intern at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.
- > Samantha Rochkus (SAU 2015) is working on a master's degree in School Counseling at Lewis University.

Where Some of Our Graduates Work

A few of the organizations that employ St. Ambrose sociology graduates:

- > Generations Area Agency on Aging, case manager
- > Illinois Student Assistance Commission, counselor
- > Iowa Masonic Nursing Home, certified nursing assistant
- > Robert Young Center, mental health professional
- > Shorewood (Illinois) Elementary School, special education teacher

Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. The area offers more than 90 health and human services and organizations. These include settings such as medical and psychiatric hospitals, mental health clinics, family agencies, facilities for the aging, mental retardation facilities, community programs, courts, employee assistance programs, child welfare programs, and planning and coordinating councils. Organizations like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Friendly House and the Child Abuse Council enable students to become involved on the community level helping disadvantaged and special needs children, and children with disabilities. The Quad Cities is also in close proximity to facilities managed by the Iowa and Illinois departments of correction. These organizations provide exceptional opportunities for networking, internships and jobs.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree. A minor in the discipline is also offered. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog online at www.sau.edu/catalog.