Sociology is the study of individual behavior in social institutions. This means family, politics, religion, work, leisure, crime, law, law enforcement, education, and health care. Sociology majors might study something small, such as how people manage the impressions they make of others, or something a bit larger, such as the causes and consequences of immigration or the changes in family patterns. Students who major in sociology find culture, emotions, social problems, deviant behavior, urbanization, political movements, and health disparities fascinating concepts.

Some students choose to major in Sociology because they want to improve the society around them by better understanding the relationships between individuals and other social issues. Other students major in Sociology because it will help prepare them for a job, Graduate or Professional School, and/or help them in life ahead. Students will receive a broad education that means that there are a variety of career opportunities available. Possible careers include: caseworkers, managers, paralegals, crime scene technicians, human rights advocate, computer consultants, marketing researchers, teachers, editors, and more.

**Involvement**

Most students, who major in Sociology, join the Sociology, Anthropology, and/or Criminal Justice club. The students engaged in many activities throughout the school year, bringing students and faculty together on a regular basis. A large number of students are also involved with the habitat for humanity, a program that provides students with the opportunity to get first-hand experience with portions of the public that are discussed with the major.

**Study Abroad**

There are many study abroad options for students. Students are encouraged to take part in the semester-long study abroad programs like Wisconsin in Scotland or International Traveling Classroom. While abroad, there are many social science classes that can be applied towards a sociology major or general requirement. It is expected that undergraduate research is completed individually (but guided) before graduation.

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Students who major in Sociology have the opportunity to complete an internship that has them working in a sociologically-related area for a minimum of 270 hours over the course of the semester. This internship gives the students a chance to gain professional work experience in the Sociology field while still being a full-time student. Sociology is unique in a sense of the cohesiveness of the program. The expectation is that students in Sociology will not only know the content in time by graduation, but actually know the skills of effective research. Here are just a few examples of places students are interning locally:

- March of Dimes (Eagan, MN)
- Allina Health Systems (Minneapolis, MN)
- The Women’s Center (Red Wing, MN)
- Pierce County Victim/Witness Program (Ellsworth, WI)
- River Falls Community Development (River Falls, WI)