Mason's sociology degree is designed to help you understand the social forces that shape your world and who you are. As a sociology major, you will learn how social movements emerge from the collective efforts of individuals. You will study the role that social forces play in defining racial identities and gender roles. You will come to realize how social inequality may shape your life and the lives of others. Sociology takes you beyond a superficial understanding of the world and prepares you to participate in important public debates at this time of social transformation.

You will take courses in the theories that explain social phenomena and develop the research skills to investigate the questions that interest you. You will learn how to conduct surveys, interviews, systematic observation, and to evaluate sources. These research skills – along with critical thinking and strong writing skills that you will develop as a sociology major – are highly valued by prospective employers and graduate schools.

The biggest thing I’ll take [from my internship] is the desire to get involved in my community. I spend a lot of time thinking about the global issues of the day, but [I also think about] where one individual can really make the biggest difference...and I understand that now more than ever.

-Sander Schrantz, ’09

Why Mason?

Located just minutes from Washington, D.C., Mason offers you access to more affordable learning and career opportunities than any other university in the region. Our students intern and find jobs with local and federal government agencies, prestigious think tanks, and social advocacy organizations. In addition, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., have an active and exciting cultural life, including Mason’s own Center for the Arts.
UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

Take advantage of career-building internships, undergraduate research experiences, or study abroad courses. Mason has a wealth of opportunities to prepare you for a career that is personally rewarding and challenging.

- Mona Singh, ’08, was the first Mason recipient of the prestigious Truman Scholarship. She worked as a research assistant at the Center for Neural Dynamics and is now a full-time medical student.

- Katherine Berger, ’08, studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal, conducting extensive ethnographic research. Her scholarship was recognized by Mason’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences with a Dean’s Challenge Scholarship.

- Sander Schrantz, ’09, interned with the Lake Worth, Florida, Community Development Corporation. As a community organizer, he used what he learned in sociology classes to develop a community survey to determine needs for home maintenance and other services.

Other students have interned with the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights, the Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the National Organization for Women, and many federal and state agencies.

EXCITING CAREERS

- Christine Nader, ’93, is vice president for information technology at Edelman Financial Services, LLC, where she manages IT projects. She uses her sociology degree in an extremely innovative way.

- Christopher Wilkins, ’90, is a human resource specialist at Capitol Office Solutions, assisting clients in selecting and implementing digital office technologies to increase workplace productivity.

- Robert Herr, ’91, is a training and logistics analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency, overseeing the management of training courses offered throughout the company.

Other sociology majors have careers in social work, law enforcement, counseling, higher education, and federal and state agencies. Many enter graduate school to study sociology, education, social work, and international relations or pursue advanced degrees in law and business.

ENHANCE YOUR MAJOR

Put your electives to good use by choosing a minor that extends your areas of expertise and increases your marketability. Most minors require only three or four courses beyond the major. Sociology majors often minor in:

- Administration of Justice
- Communication
- Immigration Studies
- Nonprofit Studies
- Psychology
- Public Policy and Management

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