

# Undergraduate Sociology Handbook

**For Majors and Minors**

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The Middle Tennessee State University Sociology  
and Anthropology Department  
offers a number of exciting options.

This Handbook describes the sociology major,  
several sociology minors, and offers suggestions about  
what to do after you get your degree in Sociology.

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## Sociology & Anthropology Department Faculty

(See also page 15 for Anthropology listing)

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Ron Aday	TODD 303	898-2125
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<i>Undergraduate Program Director</i>		
Kevin Breault,	TODD 336	898-2696
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William C. Carter	TODD 329	898-2517
Meredith Dye	TODD 331	898-2690
Jackie Eller,	TODD 344	898-2509
<i>Chair</i>		
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<i>Sociology Club Co-Advisor</i>		
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<i>Sociology Club Co-Advisor</i>		
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Gretchen Webber	TODD 305	898-2519
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### Sociology. . .

Involves the application of scientific principles and procedures toward understanding and resolving the complex issues that face small groups, communities, organizations, institutions, and nations.

# Sociology and Anthropology Department Mission Statement

The Sociology Department of Middle Tennessee State University offers undergraduate and graduate programs. The Sociology Department of Middle Tennessee State University is uniquely able to provide:

- A macrosociological perspective on social issues, societal change, and applied solutions to the problems of mass society;
- An understanding of cultural diversity in terms of ethnicity, race, gender, social class, and age differences;
- Opportunities to engage actively in values clarification and social problem solving including application of principles and findings to life situations;
- Skills in gathering viable information (including social science data), discriminating among sources, efficiently evaluating data (including using basic statistical packages and evaluating the research and findings of others), preparing incisive summaries of findings (primary and secondary research), and critical analysis of one's own work and that of others including the Internet, other media, research in one's own field and allied fields);
- Professional and personal preparation courses using social science data and findings.

The department also provides

- Quality faculty with broad-ranging research and public service interests;
- Student support services through advising, the computer lab, and an available professorate;
- Incorporation of newer technologies in the classroom;
- Commitment both to students and to the disciplines taught;
- **Scholarships – for more information contact Ms. Carter at 898-2508;**
- **An active Sociology Club and Sociology Honor Society (AKD) – for more information contact Prof. MacLean.**

## Curriculum

The curriculum for the Sociology Department includes university General Studies, major and minor requirements, and electives. General Studies should be completed in the freshman and sophomore years, and department requirements in the sophomore, junior, and senior years.

### General Education Requirements

#### Communication (9 credit hours)

- A. 6 hours - ENGL 1010, 1020
- B. COMM 2200

#### History (6 credit hours)

- HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030

#### Humanities and/or Fine Arts (9 credit hours)

- A. 3 hours - ENGL 2020, 2030, or HUM 2610
- B. 6 hours with different prefixes – **ANTH 2210**; ART 1030, 1910, or 1920; DANC 1000; ENGL 2020 or 2030; HIST 1010, 1020, 1110, or 1120; HUM 2610, MUS 1030, PHIL 1030, THEA 1030.

**Social/Behavioral Sciences** (6 credit hours – choose two with different prefixes)

AAS 2100, **ANTH 2010**, ECON 2410, GEOG 2000, HLTH 1530/31, JOUR/EMC/RI 1020, PS 1010 or 2010, PSY 1410, **SOC 1010** or **2010**; WMST 2100

**Natural Science** (8 credit hours – choose two with different prefixes)

ASTR 1030/31, BIOL 1030/31, 1110/11, 2010/11, or 2020/21; CHEM 1010/11, 1030/31, or 1110/11; GEOL 1030/31 OR 1040/41, PHYS 2010/11 or 2110/11, PSCI 1030/31

**Math** (3 credit hours)

MATH 1010, **1530** (recommended for soc majors), 1630, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1810, or 1910

## Major in Sociology

To meet the requirements for the B.A. or B.S. degree, a student majoring in Sociology must take a minimum of 30 semester hours in sociology including SOC 1010, 3040, 3050, 3060, and 4980. Students working toward the B.S. degree are required to complete two minors, one of which may be within the department. The faculty advisor should be consulted for the specific requirements of each emphasis program. Persons pursuing the B.A. degree should consult the MTSU catalog for specific requirements. In order to graduate, all students must complete, with the approval of their advisor, the General Education requirements.

### What do sociologists do?

- Agencies and organizations look to sociologists for their unique ability to define the crucial dimensions of a problem, isolate the most critical variables that affect it, and collaborate with others to craft a viable course of action.
- Sociologists work inside organizations in management positions from outside organizations as consultants and partners in rethinking how systems function.
- Sociologists hold positions in virtually every employment setting, including:
  - Federal, state, and local governments
  - International agencies
  - Social service agencies, non-profit organizations
  - Corporations, think tanks, and small businesses
  - Consulting firms
  - Universities and colleges
- Sociologists help frame problems within a larger social science context, building on a strong foundation of concepts and theories. They combine their broad understanding of race, gender, social class, cultural diversity, and age with insights into how organizational and social systems work. This makes them uniquely valuable as objective researchers and innovative change agents.
- Sociologists contribute to the contemporary workforce, bringing sophisticated skills and knowledge of research design to the most challenging problems. Sociologists receive broad training in basic social research, program evaluation, or policy analysis. Some conduct basic research, while others apply research-based knowledge to help organizations rethink existing programs and strategies or plan for the future.
- "Quantitative" sociologists bring expertise in survey design, statistical analysis, and management of large scale data bases. "Qualitative" sociologists have been trained in intensive interviewing, focus group research, community research, conflict analysis, policy analysis, and social impact analysis. Both are adept at interpreting data and deriving implications of research for policy and program development.
- Familiarity with the latest computer programs and management of data bases rank high

among sociologist' skills, including:

Quantitative and qualitative methodologies

Data analysis

Social impact assessment

Program evaluation

Focus group research

Mediation and arbitration

And other applied skills

- Sociologists use statistical analysis software to interpret complicated findings. They prepare reports to governing bodies, employees, the general public, or the media, using clear, accessible language.
- Sociologists offer expertise in substantive areas, adding depth to research, planning, and development projects. Expertise in a specific subject may be of crucial importance to an employer.

## Possible Career Paths in Sociology

Students majoring in sociology at MTSU have the option of selecting a career path within the major. In addition to the required courses (SOC 1010, 3040, 3050, 3060, and 4980), students *are encouraged to choose 12 or more hours from one the following groups depending on their career goals. Recommended minors are also listed.*

1. **AGING, HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES:** SOC 2010, 2600, 3210, 4020, 4040, 4150 (Topics in women's health), 4360, 4520, or 4900; ANTH 3730 (Advisors – Professors Aday, Amey, Carter, MacLean, or Wallace)
  - a. Majors interested in careers in health and human services are encouraged to select from the following minors within sociology or in other departments –
    - i. Aging Studies – see Professor Wallace
    - ii. Family Studies – see below or Professors Aday or Wallace
    - iii. Social Welfare
    - iv. Health Care Services – see Professor Aday
    - v. Mental Health Services
    - vi. Health
    - vii. Recreation
    - viii. Environment and Human Society
    - ix. Human Sciences
    - x. Psychology
    - xi. Lifespan Development
    - xii. Behavioral Research
    - xiii. Communication Disorders
2. **CRIME, DEVIANCE, AND SOCIAL CONTROL:** SOC 2010, 3210, 3250, 4140, 4150 (topics in hate crime or conflict resolution), 4160, 4300, 4540, or 4900 (Advisors – Professors Breault, Canak, Carter, or Eller)
  - a. Majors interested in careers in policing, corrections, or justice administration are encouraged to select from the following minors within sociology or in other departments:

- i. Criminology – see below or Professors Carter or Eller
- ii. Criminal Justice Administration
- iii. Urban Studies
- iv. Political Science
- v. Paralegal Studies

**3. SOCIAL DIVERSITY AND INEQUALITIES:** ANTH 3750, SOC 3400, 4010, 4020, 4150 (Topics in holocaust and genocide), 4240, or 4900 (Advisors – Professors Eller, Hampton, MacLean, or Mertig)

- a. Majors interested in careers in international relations or social diversity are encouraged to select from among the following minors within sociology or other departments.
  - i. Family Studies (see below or Professors Aday or Wallace)
  - ii. Anthropology
  - iii. Asian Studies
  - iv. Linguistics
  - v. Archaeology
  - vi. Native American, Latin American or African American Studies
  - vii. Women or Gender Studies
  - viii. Global Studies
  - ix. International Relations
  - x. Geography
  - xi. Foreign Language
  - xii. Religious Studies

**4. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND CHANGE:** SOC 3950, 4100, 4150 (Topics in conflict resolution), 4500, 4510, or 4900 (Advisors – Professors Canak, MacLean or Mertig)

- a. Majors interested in careers in a non-profit or social movement organization, human resource management, public relations, conflict resolution, organizational advocacy, or grant writing, for example, are encouraged to select from among the following minors:
  - i. Organizational Communication
  - ii. Mass Communication
  - iii. Media, History, and Culture
  - iv. Industrial Relations
  - v. Industrial and Organizational Psychology
  - vi. Business Administration, Business Law, or Business Communication
  - vii. Management or Marketing
  - viii. Economics or Finance
  - ix. Entrepreneurship

**5. COMMUNITY – Working with communities in organization, planning, activism, and change:** SOC 4150 (Topics – Sociology of the south, sociology of education, or society and the environment), 4520, 4660, or 4900 (Advisors – Professors Amey, Hampton, MacLean, or Mertig)

- a. Majors interested in careers in government, public administration, and community service are encouraged to select from among the following minors:

- i. Environment and Human Society
  - ii. Public Administration
  - iii. Urban Planning
  - iv. Urban Studies
  - v. Political Science
  - vi. Organizational Communication
  - vii. Geography
6. **FAMILY** – SOC 2010, 2500, 3150, 4050, 4140, or 4900 (Advisors – Professors Aday or Wallace)
- a. Majors interested in careers in family related services are encouraged to select from among the following minors:
    - i. Aging Studies – see Professor Wallace
    - ii. Family Studies – see below or Professors Aday or Wallace
    - iii. Social Welfare
    - iv. Environment and Human Society
    - v. Human Sciences
    - vi. Psychology
    - vii. Lifespan Development
    - viii. Behavioral Research
    - ix. Women and/or Gender Studies

### Minor in Sociology

The minor in Sociology requires 18 semester hours of sociology including SOC 1010. Students choosing a minor are encouraged to select a sequence of courses that enhances a career path. A student majoring in the department can elect one minor within the department.

### Minor in Family Studies

The minor in Family Studies requires 15 semester hours including SOC 4050. Students must choose the remaining 12 hours from these courses: SOC 2500, 3150, 3400, 4140, and 4500; SW 4620; CDFS 4390.

### Minor in Criminology

The minor is designed to provide students an understanding of the social and psychological aspects of crime, including an in-depth examination of the typologies and classifications of crime; national and international crime patterns; various classical and contemporary theories of crime; causal and associated factors such as gender, race, class, and age; an understanding of victims; and preventative strategies. It requires 15 hours including 6 hours of required courses (SOC 4300 and 4540) and 9 hours of electives. See the current catalog for electives options.

### Writing as a Sociologist

Successfully completing either a major or minor in sociology means one must be able to master writing the sociological essay: using appropriately cited evidence, structuring an effective argument, and capturing the sociological style. See the following for help in writing sociological essays: <http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/writing/arts/sociology/index.xml>

## The Value of Internships and Service Learning

Internships during or just after the undergraduate years offer invaluable experience that can bring to life the sociological concepts and theories you study in books and in the classroom. You can sample potential careers, build your resume, and learn new skills during a well-chosen internship experience. Participation in an internship affords an excellent way to explore career options and help determine what aspects of sociology interest you. A wide range of internships is available to sociology majors/minors. See *Internship Handbook* for more information – Sociology and Anthropology Department Office.

### In order to design your internship, ask yourself these questions:

1. "In what areas would I like to grow?"
  2. "What are my strongest assets?"
  3. "How can I make a meaningful contribution in a relatively short time?"
- Volunteer your time and skills to an employer on a temporary or part-time basis in order to establish initial contact and lay the foundation for future work.
  - Contact your cooperative education, internship and / or service learning coordinator on campus for a listing of organizations that accept interns and for general advice on how to find an internship and derive the most benefit from it.
  - Contact by letter and follow-up telephone call to several nonprofit organizations, corporations, businesses, and government or educational agencies the geographic location that interests you -- the broader the net, the more likely someone will offer you an internship.

## Recommended Sequence for the Curriculum

### FRESHMAN

ENGL 1010, 1020	6
SOC 1010	3
Natural Sciences	8
Mathematics	3
Humanities/Fine Arts	6
Electives	3
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	29

### JUNIOR

Soc 3060	3
Sociology Electives (such as population, urban, or organizations)	6
Minor courses/electives	21
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	30

### SOPHOMORE

ENGL 2020, 2030, or HUM 2610	3
SOC 3040, 3050	7
SOC electives (stratification such as gender, race, class or age)	6
HIST	6
COMM 2200	3
Elective	3
<u>Social/Behavioral Science</u>	3
	31

### SENIOR

SOC 4980	3
SOC Elective	3
Minor Courses	15-21
<u>Electives</u>	4-10
	31

# Sociology Courses and Availability

**1010 Introductory Sociology** (3) Counts toward General Education Social/Behavioral Sciences requirement. Covers the central concepts, theories, and methods of sociology. Focuses on social processes and institutions in modern societies. Assists students in understanding and applying this knowledge in their everyday lives. F, Sp, Su

**2010 Social Problems** (3) As of Fall 07, counts toward General Education Social/Behavioral Sciences requirement. A survey of issues defined as problems by society; examines programs and agencies that address them. Problems addressed include poverty, crime, environment, energy, health, etc. F, Sp, Su

**2500 Marriage and Family** (3) Social, cultural, and personal factors relating to mate selection, intimate relationships, and family life with an emphasis on families in the United States. F, Sp

**2600 Introduction to Gerontology** (3) (Same as A S 2600) Basis Concepts, overview of the field, illustrations of problems, and applications for an aging America. F, Sp

**3040 Research Methods** (3) (Same as ANTH 3040) Issues and strategies used by sociologists in their scientific studies and in their applied work in society. F, Sp

**3050 Data Analysis** (4) (Same as ANTH 3050) Analysis, interpretation, and reporting of social science data. Incorporates the use of a statistical package such as SPSS or SAS. Offers fundamental applied research skills for the job market. F, Sp

**3060 Sociological Theory** (3) Theoretical foundations of sociology with emphasis on the major theories in sociology and their development. Addresses diverse intellectual traditions in both classical and contemporary theory. F, Sp

**3150 Life Cycle and the Social Environment** (3) Prerequisites: PSY 1410 or SOC 1010 or 2010 or BIOL 1010. Overview of life course structure and processes examining physical, cognitive, social and personality development including the rule of institutions.

**3210 Drugs and Alcohol** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010, 2010, or permission of instructor. Sociological, historical, political-economic, and cultural dimensions of drugs and alcohol in society. F, Sp, Su

**3250 Social Deviance** (3) A general survey and theoretical review of the definitions, causes, and consequences of deviance and social control. Analyzes drugs, panics, sex, media violence, and emotions in society. F, Sp, Su

**3320 Public Opinion and Propaganda** (3) Nature of public opinion and its role in the political and social process; myths, symbols, and other instruments and techniques of propaganda in opinion formation.

**3400 Gender and Society** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or 2010. A socio-historical and cultural exploration of the socialization patterns, relationships, expectations, influences, organizational, institutional, and aging experiences of women and men in American society. F, Sp, Su

**3950 Social Organizations and Institutions** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010 or 2010. Theory, analysis, and public policy applications for contemporary organizations (corporations and social agencies) and institutions (family, education, health, media). F, Sp

**4010 Social Inequality** (3) The origins, variations, and consequences of class, status, and power in society. Individual and group economic interests, social prestige, ideology, market and institutional inequality. Sp

**4020 Sociology of the Aging** (3) Demographic, social, and cultural aspects of aging with particular emphasis on the types of problems encountered by older persons in American society. F, Su

**4030 Topics in Gerontology** (3) (Same as A S 4030) An opportunity to integrate gerontological theory and research techniques with the practical problems of older persons.

**4040 Health Care Delivery Issues** (3) An assessment of critical issues with special emphasis on policies, procedures, and intervention strategies in long-term care settings. F

**4050 Sociology of Families** (3) Analysis of the family as a social institution with an emphasis on contemporary trends and diversity. Sp

**4100 Sociology of Work** (3) Comparative analysis of work structure and processes in organizational contexts, including study of management and employee organizations and legal environments regarding workplace relations. F

**4140 Violence in the Family** (3) (Same as CDFS 4140) The causes, dynamics, and consequences of violence in the family. Includes a discussion of violence toward children, spouses, dating partners, siblings, and elders. Emphasizes the social conditions that lead to these types of violence. F, Sp, Su

**4150 Topics in Sociology** (3 each) In depth study of a special topic that is significant in current sociological literature, such as women's health, sociology of emotions, global sociology, hate crimes, and so on.

**4160 Sociology of Gangs** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010. History of gangs in the United States, the factors that account for their formation and perpetuation, and current empirical data on gang composition, demographics, and culture. Policy strategies for prevention, law enforcement, and non-legal intervention assessed. F

**4240 Race and Ethnic Relations** (3) The dynamics of race and ethnic relations in the United States from a socio-historic perspective. F, Sp

**4300 Criminology** (3) Theories of the causes of criminal behavior and coverage of its development and incidence; punishment and methods of control and rehabilitation. F, Sp, Su

**4360 Medical Sociology** (3) Sociological analysis of health care delivery including problems, policies, and issues faced by recipients and providers of care. Focuses on the U.S., role theory, and demographics. Sp

**4500 Social Psychology** (3) Individual behavior in social contexts and symbolic interaction in groups. Includes social influences on perception, conformity, attitudes, communication, group structure, leadership, and role behavior. Sp

**4510 Social Movements and Social Change** (3) Study of the major sociological theories of revolutions, rebellions, civil wars, and protest movements of the past and present and their relationship to significant social changes. Sp Alternate Years

**4520 Population and Society** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010, or 2010, or permission of instructor. Examination of world and U.S. population trends and the impact of social forces on such demographic variables as births, deaths, migration, age, sex, education, and marital status and how these impact social conditions. F Alternate Years.

**4540 Juvenile Delinquency** (3) Social factors related to delinquency including family, peer-group, school, and community. Includes juvenile justice system and its agents. F, Sp, Su

**4550 Sociology of Religion** (3) Religion as social process and institution. An ideological, structural, and functional analysis. Specific U.S. religions examined in detail. F

**4560 Organization Structures and Processes** (3) Analysis of structure and processes of change, organizational environments, modes of power, ideologies, forms of control and resistance including alternatives to bureaucracy. F

**4660 Urban and Community Studies** (3) Prerequisite: SOC 1010. Focuses on the concept of community as a core idea in the historical development of sociology, concentrating on theories and historical trends of urbanization and current urban problems and policies. Sp Alternate Years

**4790 Sport and Society** (3) (Same as REC 4790) Behavioral approach to sport and leisure from the related perspectives of sociology and anthropology. F, Sp

**4800 Special Projects** (1-6) (Same as A S 4800) Field experiences or reading courses through which special interests or needs of the student may be pursued under individual supervision. No more than three hours may be used in the major. Arrangements must be made with an instructor prior to registration. F, Sp, Su

**4900 Sociology Internship** (3-6) Supervised independent study in which students are placed in an organization on a contractual basis as a means of applying the principles of his/her training in preparation for eventual employment. Arrangements must be made with an instructor prior to registration. F, Sp, Su

**4980 Senior Seminar in Sociology** (3) Prerequisites: At least 18 hours of sociology, including SOC 1010, 3040, 3050, 3060, and senior standing. Integrates coursework in the major through coverage of theory and method, analysis of critical issues, and applications to modern society. F, Sp

## Upper Division Form Requirements

An Upper Division form should be completed at the end of the sophomore year. The purpose of the Upper Division Form is to provide information on the student's major and minor areas for the University Records Office. This information is entered into the University computer system and is used to track the student's progress toward a degree.

## Intent to Graduate Form

Graduation is conducted at the close of the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. Students who plan to graduate should complete a Notice of Intention to Graduate form within the first two weeks of the first semester of the senior year. This form is available in the Records Office, 102 Cope Administration Building.

## Advising

The purpose of advising is to enable the sociology faculty to provide the highest quality advice to the student regarding his/her academic career so that he/she can make meaningful progress toward a Bachelors Degree in Sociology in the shortest possible time. Good advising requires teamwork and cooperation between faculty members and students. The advising system for Sociology majors and minors is as follows:

1. Students come to the Sociology Department Office, 342 Todd Hall, to register officially as a sociology major and complete a Data Sheet for their advisors. Students may indicate their preference for an advisor on this form.
2. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with requirements for the bachelors degree that are in the MTSU Catalog.
3. It is in the students best interest to become acquainted with his/her advisor and have the advisor review the students schedule before registration to ensure that no mistakes occur.

## The "Non-Traditional" Student

The Sociology Department welcomes students who are returning to the University after raising children, working for a few years, or who are changing careers. They may have responsibilities for families, and often are juggling several roles such as parent, spouse, student, and part or full time employee. They may be concerned about adapting to college life and some are uncomfortable about the quality of their previous college work. The Sociology Department has many majors who fit this description. The faculty offers attention and support to these students.

## A Final Note on the Liberal Arts Advantage

When we ask sociology majors who are already employed outside academic settings to reflect on their education with the wisdom of hindsight, they value most highly their undergraduate courses in social research methods, statistics, and computer skills. These courses help make sociology undergraduates marketable, especially in today's highly technical and data-oriented work environment. In addition, sociology majors develop analytical skills and the ability to understand issues within a "macro" or social structural perspective. Learning the process of

critical thinking and how to bring evidence to bear in support of an argument is extremely important in a fast-changing job market.

Consequently, as a sociology graduate, you have a competitive advantage in today's information society. The solid base you receive in understanding social change -as well as in research design, data analysis, statistics, theory, and sociological concepts- enables you to compete for *support* positions (such as program, administrative, or research assistant) in research, policy analysis, program evaluation, and countless other social science endeavors.

The well-educated sociology graduate acquires a sense of history, other cultures and times; the interconnectedness of social life; and different frameworks of thought. He or she can be proficient at gathering information and putting it into perspective. Sociological training helps students bring breadth and depth of understanding to the workplace. A sociology graduate learns to think abstractly, formulate problems, ask appropriate questions, search for answers, analyze situations and data, organize material, write well, and make oral presentations that help others develop insight and make decisions. Sociology graduates have an advantage in understanding human behavior on three levels:

- How individuals behave in organizations, families, and communities
- The ways in which these social units function as groups
- The wider social, political, and economic contexts in which decisions are made and in which groups function.

This career information is paraphrased from "Careers in Sociology" 4<sup>th</sup> edition, American Sociological Association, 1997, pp1-11.

### **MTSU offers a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology described in detail in the MTSU Graduate Catalog**

## What can I do with a Master of Arts or Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Sociology?

With advanced degrees, the more likely it is that a job will have the title sociologist, but many opportunities exist--the diversity of sociological career ranges much farther than what you might find under "S" in the Sunday newspaper employment ads.

- Sociologists become high school teachers or faculty in colleges
- Sociologists enter the corporate, non-profit, and governments worlds as directors of research, policy analysts, consultants, human resource managers, and program managers.
- Practicing sociologists with advanced degrees may be called research analysts, survey researchers, gerontologists, statisticians, urban planners, community developers, criminologists, or demographers.
- Some MA and PhD sociologists obtain specialized training to become counselors, therapists, or program directors in social service agencies.

People with degrees in sociology may enter many careers, and the options are increasing. What is common to all of these careers? Underlying sociological training is the commitment to understand human relationships in every kind of social group.

## Anthropology Faculty

Faculty	Office	Office Phone
Hugh Berryman <i>FIRE Director</i>	TODD 315	494-7896
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Tanya Peres <i>Anthropology Club advisor</i>	TODD 311	904-8590
Kevin Smith <i>Anthropology Program Director</i>	TODD 313	898-5958
Rebecca Carter <i>Minority Dissertation Fellow</i>	TODD 343	904-8328

For additional information regarding the Sociology & Anthropology Department, please call or write to:

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