

# What is sociology?

**"The sociological imagination is a quality of mind that seems most dramatically to promise an understanding of the intimate realities of ourselves in connection with larger social realities."**

**--C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination***

Sociologists seek to understand the actions of individuals by situating them within the social contexts in which they take place. Sociologists are interested in discovering the underlying regularities of social life, how these patterns of people's behavior have come to be, and how they differ across both time and space. We analyze both how these structures shape and how they are reproduced and transformed by our actions. The scope of sociology is quite broad, ranging from the study of fleeting encounters in public to the analysis of global social processes. The purpose of our curriculum is to familiarize students with the basic approach and findings of sociology, its methods of gathering and evaluating evidence, its major theoretical approaches, and the ways in which sociological knowledge can both enrich our self-understandings and enhance our capacities for democratic citizenship.

## What can you do with a degree in sociology?

Sociology prepares students for a wide variety of careers and pursuits. Our students have gone on to careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Many of our alumni pursue graduate degrees in sociology, law, and related fields. Here are just some of the places our graduates from the past four years now find themselves:

- Colorado College Public Interest Fellow with the Bell Policy Center, Denver, CO
- Master of Arts in Elementary Teaching program, Colorado College
- Masters in Religions of the World program, Harvard University
- Masters in International Development/International Relations, Johns Hopkins University
- Masters in Public Service program at Marquette University
- PhD programs in sociology at the following universities: Berkeley, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Indiana
- Southern Methodist University Law School
- Vermont Law School
- Mission Coordinator for Operation Smile, Ethiopia
- Peace Corps
- Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch
- University of Arkansas Medical School
- Operations Coordinator for a youth outreach program, UC Santa Cruz
- Resident and Community Services Coordinator for at-risk youth for the Denver Housing Authority
- Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust in Colorado Springs

Visit us online and learn more at: <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/dept/so/index.asp>

# The Sociology Curriculum

Students majoring in sociology must complete 11 units of sociology courses:

## **Core Courses (6 units)**

SO229 Sociological Research Design (1)

SO301 Quantitative Research Methods and/or SO302 Qualitative Research Methods (1)

SO334 Social Theory (2)

SO450 Senior Thesis (2)

## **Electives (5+ units)**

SO100 Thinking Sociologically

SO105 Art and Society

SO117 Inequality

SO112 Gender Inequality

SO113 Racial Inequality

SO116 Global Inequality

SO118 Deviance and Social Control

SO130 Environmental Sociology

SO160 The Sociology of Everyday Life

SO190 Polynesian Society (field course)

SO210 Sociology of Sexuality

SO214 Sociology of Religion

SO218 Political Sociology

SO235 Sociology of the Family

SO237 Latino Immigration and Social Change

SO243 Social Movements

SO247 Sociology of Developing Countries

SO257 Globalization and Immigration on the US-Mexico Border (field course)

SO265 Immigrant Communities in Colorado College

SO280 Sociology of Education

SO290 Topics: Sociology of Health and Medicine

SO290 Topics: The Nonprofit Sector

SO312 Communities and Networks

SO314 Sociology of Culture

SO316 Development and Underdevelopment in Africa (field course)

SO370 Modernity and Postmodernity