What is sociology?
Sociology seeks to understand the actions of individuals and groups by situating them within their social and institutional contexts. Sociologists work to discover and reveal the underlying regularities of social life—how patterns of inequality and behavior come to be and how they are reproduced or changed over time. We analyze both how social structures shape action and how, in turn, actions may reproduce or transform those structures. The scope of sociology is quite broad, ranging from the study of emotions, identities, or fleeting encounters in public spaces to the analysis of global social structures and processes and everything in between. The purpose of our curriculum is to familiarize students with the basic approach and insights of sociology, its major theoretical approaches, and the ways in which sociological knowledge and habits of thought can enrich our self-understandings and enhance our capacity to bring about positive social change. Additionally, students develop proficiency in methods of gathering and evaluating empirical data to address questions of sociological concern.

Sociology Major Information Sheet

What can I do with a degree in sociology?
Sociology prepares students for a wide variety of careers and life-long learning. Our students have gone on to careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Paths and careers of recent graduates:
- Public Interest Fellowship Program internships (e.g., Bell Policy; Omni Institute; Colorado Health Institute)
- Graduate programs in sociology, education, public health, international development; public administration and more
- Law school or medical school
- Watson Fellows
- Development and Human Rights Officer, UN
- Assistant Provost for Campus and Community Partnerships
- Denver Organizing Director, New Era Colorado
- Community Services Coordinator
- Program manager at Planned Parenthood
- Mission coordinator for Operation Smile
- Peace Corps

Plan for Opportunities:

Departmental Opportunities and Honors
- FYE Mentor
- Quantitative lab tutor/learning assistant
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society)
- Sociology Student Advisory Board
- O’Connor Grants for social justice research or travel
- Abbott Prize for top graduating seniors

Opportunities at CC and Beyond
- Public Interest Fellowship Program
- Community-Based Research (Collaborative)
- Global Development Summer Internship
- Faculty-student research
- Watson Fellowship; Fulbright Fellowship
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Summer Statistics Programs

Sociology Major Requirements (11 credits)

Required Courses (5 credits)
- SO228 Development of Sociological Thought
- SO229 Research Design
- SO301/2 Quantitative or Qualitative Methods
- SO450 Senior Thesis/Capstone (2 credits)
  - Research or theory paper; or
  - Community-based research paper; or
  - Community action project and paper

Electives (6 credits)
- No more than three 100-level electives may count toward the major
- At least one 300-level elective (prior to SO450)
- SO451 Senior Seminar cannot count as an elective
- Study abroad programs that include a sociological element may contribute 1 elective unit to the major

Common Timeline for Progressing through the Major
- First Year: Two 100-level electives or one 100-level and one 200-level elective.
- Second Year: SO228 and SO229 (fall or spring); one or two electives at the 200-level
- Third Year: Approximately two electives at the 200- or 300-level; may consider taking SO301 or SO302
- Fourth Year: SO301 or SO302; one or two electives at the 200- or 300-level; SO450 Senior Thesis; SO451 Senior Seminar (optional)

Research Skills

Qualitative
- Interviewing and focus groups
- Ethnography/participant observation
- Thick description
- Interactions and relationships in research
- Data analysis with NVivo
- Comparative/Historical
- Case study

Quantitative
- Survey design and sampling
- Data analysis with SPSS and Stata
- Spatial analysis with GIS (SO233)
- Network analysis with UCINET (SO312)
- Descriptive statistics and graphing
- Inferential statistics
- Hypothesis testing; program evaluation

Community Engagement and Social Change Skills
- Social and political activism
- Community development
- Community-based research
- Social/public policy