

## **Sociology and Criminal Justice Mission and Goals: Undergraduate Program**

**Prepared by the Undergraduate Policy Committee, February 5, 2014**

**Approved by the faculty, February 18, 2014**

The mission of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is to achieve excellence in scholarship, teaching and service that impacts our students, our colleagues, the university, and community. Our faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized scholars in diverse areas such as health, environment, disasters, law, criminal justice, race, and gender.

The core undergraduate curriculum provides thorough training in the general disciplines of sociology and criminal justice, while our sociology major contains four specialty tracks for students, including Health and Health Services, Law and Society, Social Welfare, and Emergency and Environmental Management.

We have two PhD programs, Sociology and Criminology, where concentrations, training, and comprehensive exams also reflect our faculty's diverse interests and expertise in health, criminology, disasters, environment, research methods, race, and gender.

Our undergraduate programs in Sociology and Criminal Justice promote critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and numerical literacy, teach oral and written communication skills, and convey core Sociology and Criminal Justice concepts and theories. We produce well-rounded, informed, and engaged undergraduate students who are able to critically analyze and insightfully participate in a variety of social environments. Furthermore, our core curriculum is both specialized and broadly-based in order to equip students to pursue many career options across multiple fields.

Our undergraduate programs accomplish this through multiple pedagogical approaches and opportunities, including lectures, seminars, and a variety of Discovery Learning opportunities such as Inside/Out courses, internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad.. The undergraduate program is designed to enable Sociology and Criminal Justice majors to achieve several intellectual and practical outcomes (numbers in parentheses refer to University of Delaware General Education goals—see below):

1. Students will develop and master critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills.
2. Students will develop and master oral and written communication skills. (1a/1b)
3. Students will develop and master the ability to understand and apply major sociology and criminal justice concepts and theories to complex contemporary social phenomena. (4, 5, 9, 10)
4. Students will develop and master the ability to access, comprehend and synthesize the professional sociology and criminal justice literatures in order to assess others' work and for use in their own work. (1, 2, 3, 5)

5. Students will develop and master the ability to apply basic research skills including research design, data analysis and interpretation. (1, 2, 3, 5)

6. Students will be able to understand cultural diversity in the US and compare it to a diverse and globalizing world of social institutions and justice programs. (9, 10)

#### Appendix : University of Delaware General Education Goals to Success

1. Attain effective skills in (a) oral and (b) written communication, (c) quantitative reasoning, and (d) the use of information technology.
2. Learn to think critically to solve problems.
3. Be able to work and learn both independently and collaboratively.
4. Engage questions of ethics and recognize responsibilities to self, community, and society at large.
5. Understand the diverse ways of thinking that underlie the search for knowledge in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.
6. Develop the intellectual curiosity, confidence, and engagement that will lead to lifelong learning.
7. Develop the ability to integrate academic knowledge with experiences that extend the boundaries of the classroom.
8. Expand understanding and appreciation of human creativity and diverse forms of aesthetic and intellectual expression.
9. Understand the foundations of United States society including the significance of its cultural diversity.
10. Develop an international perspective in order to live and work effectively in an increasingly global society

<http://www2.udel.edu/gened/>, accessed May 9, 2014