

SOCIOLOGY

Envisioning the good society

Virtually every field of human endeavor requires an understanding of society, culture, and behavior. As a Sociology major at Elon, you will delve into the fascinating investigation of how human beings relate to one another. You will explore the myriad differences and striking similarities between people and societies and learn to appreciate cultural diversity. With Elon's distinctive balance of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience such as field research, internships and study abroad, you will build the critical thinking, research, interpersonal and communication skills that will deepen your understanding of the world and broaden your career opportunities. A degree in Sociology is an asset in a wide range of professions such as business, criminal justice, education, government, health care, social services and urban planning.

THE ELON APPROACH

Sociology is a rapidly evolving discipline, driven by forces such as globalization and the growing emphasis on cultural diversity. Elon combines the disciplines of Sociology and Anthropology within one department to create a comprehensive, integrated approach to the study of various human societies and how those societies are interrelated.

As a Sociology major you will gain a thorough sociological understanding of a broad range of concepts through courses such as Sociology of Families, Criminology, Ethnic and Race Relations, Social Stratification, Social Deviance, Sociology of Sport, Sociocultural Perspectives on Gender, and Sociology of Popular Culture.

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY

The faculty in Elon's Sociology program bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and diverse interests to the classroom, and they care deeply about their students and the teaching and learning process. Classes are small, and the 15-1 student-to-faculty ratio means students receive plenty of individualized attention. Their doors are always open if you need advice or encouragement.

“Through research, courses and amazing professors, the Sociology department has prepared me for life. I now have a better understanding of how the world works, how people interact with each other and how to always use a sociological imagination to understand and make sense of our developing world.”

DARRIS MEANS '05

The Sociology faculty includes several award-winning teachers who have been recognized for their years of outstanding teaching at Elon University:

- **Dr. Thomas Arcaro**, a recipient of the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, twice voted Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the student body and director of Project Pericles, a national college

initiative promoting citizenship, teaches sociological theory and introductory sociology courses.

- **Professor Bernard Curry** holds a joint appointment between the sociology program and the education program. He teaches criminology, sociology of religion and introductory sociology courses, and offers teaching practicum supervision for up-and-coming social studies teachers in the education program.
- **Dr. Thomas Henricks**, Elon's J. Earl Danieley Professor of Sociology, winner of the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching and Distinguished University Professor, teaches a variety of courses for the department including social stratification, sociology of sport and sociology of popular culture.
- **Dr. Angela Lewellyn Jones**, department chair and academic coordinator of the social entrepreneurship scholars program, offers courses in criminology and deviance, violence in families, social problems and sociology of gender.
- **Dr. Aaron Peeks** provides in-depth courses in the area of criminology and deviant behavior as well as quantitative research methods.
- **Dr. Lisa Peloquin** teaches a variety of engaging courses related to theory, sociology of gender, sociology of families, social psychology and research methods.
- **Dr. Laurence Basirico**, author of numerous sociology textbooks who has been featured many times in the national media for his writing and research on family reunions, teaches sociology of families, social psychology, research methods and introductory sociology courses.

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■ **Professor Laurin Kier**, associate director of tutorial services for the university and part-time assistant professor of sociology, teaches introductory sociology courses.

DYNAMIC, HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Elon is a national leader in experiential education, and Sociology majors have some of the most extensive opportunities for field research, international study and internships. For example, during Winter Term, the Sociology program offers opportunities to travel and learn about indigenous Australia, Peru, Guatemala, Ghana and other locations around the world.

Elon helps Sociology students secure internships in a wide range of settings. Students have worked at the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, the Physicians for Human Rights photo exhibit and the Alamance Dispute Settlement Center. These internships offer invaluable opportunities to put classroom knowledge into action and gain the real-world experience so highly valued by employers.

In addition, the Sociology program offers several courses that contain an academic service-learning component, meaning that students are sent into the local community to serve with a nonprofit organization and then build connections between this experiential learning opportunity and the substantive content of various courses. Likewise, the Sociology program is involved in Elon's Project Pericles program, a national college initiative promoting citizenship, as well as Elon's Social Entrepreneurship Scholars program, which seeks to create and sustain positive change in communities across North Carolina.

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN PREMIER FACILITIES

The Program for Ethnographic Research and Community Studies

(PERCS) is housed within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, offering students and faculty an exciting opportunity to conduct cutting-edge ethnographic research and explore diverse cultures. The program is equipped with modern software, technical resources, teaching modules and facilities to enhance faculty-student collaboration.

In fall 2009 the Sociology and Anthropology department will move to a new home in the Lindner Pavilion, where students will have access to state-of-the-art classroom and lab space as well as many open spaces for student engagement.

"A degree in Sociology allowed me to pursue a career in any field. My communication skills have been enhanced, as well as my awareness and knowledge of the people and environments I encounter. I would suggest a Sociology major for anyone who has a passion for understanding people as well as building relationships and learning new and different mindframes."

KATIE BARLEY '07

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology majors showcase their research at Elon's annual Student Undergraduate Research Forum and regional and national conferences. Sociology students also are eligible for the Elon College Fellows program, designed to enhance and enrich their research experience at

Elon. For more information about the Elon College Fellows program and its various academic and financial benefits, visit www.elon.edu/fellows.

Sociology students are also eligible to become members of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society, and Pi Gamma Mu, the International Social Science Honor Society.

PREPARATION FOR A CAREER

A Sociology major provides a well-rounded liberal arts education, which prepares one to participate fully as a conscientious global citizen. In addition, sociology enables one to engage in critical thought about social justice and injustice throughout the world.

A Sociology degree from Elon prepares students to pursue graduate education in sociology, criminology, law, education and business, and also prepares one to pursue a career in a variety of fields, including:

- Human resources
- Counseling
- Social research
- Management
- Demography
- Criminal justice and law
- Teaching
- Social work
- Communications

For more information on Elon's Sociology program go to www.elon.edu/sociology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Elon University Office of Admissions
2700 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244

800-334-8448 or 336-278-ELON
admissions@elon.edu

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