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Department of Sociology

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Overview

The value set characterizing all the activities of this department is **a belief in the basic dignity of every human being**. From this perspective we move to the more immediate objectives: **to present students with various facets of interactive processes, the nature and function of institutions, social group relationships, cultural-environmental interrelationships, and cross-cultural studies.**

The department offers a variety of elective courses that explore the dynamics of various social institutions in society, including family, religion, education, legal and economic systems. These courses focus on three primary concentrations: human services, criminology, and social media and technology. **The department also offers a concentration in Criminology.**

Advisement

The Sociology department, through advisement, internships, and career seminars, is **committed to helping students prepare for a career after graduation**. Your advisor will help you tailor your course selection to fulfill graduation requirements, while you satisfy your individual interests and career preparation needs, pursue your academic activities to get the most out of your college experience, and explore career options.

Opportunities for Students

Internships afford majors in sociology the opportunity to experience how the social sciences are related to a variety of careers. By participating in one or more of the internships offered in the

department, students can gain firsthand information on how certain occupations function, including social work, human services, criminal justice and regional and urban planning. This may help students decide on a career after graduation.

Student Research

The requirement for Sociology's senior capstone course is an original research project which students develop, implement, and analyze data. The project will be guided and mentored by a professor. The student is required to present the results of the research and to complete a formal written thesis.

The following students have presented research posters at the annual Eastern Sociological Society Conference:

Timothy Butler '10. *Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Personnel and Stress; Methods for Coping with Stress and Income Influences.*

Joshua W. Mattern '10. *Supermax Prisons: Bane or Blessing for Hosting Towns?*

Emily Tanski '09. *The Need for Exercise in Aging Women: Benefits for their Physical, Mental, and Social Well-being.*

Carrie M. Farrell '08. *The Effects of Social Service Intervention Through the Life Course.*

Christina E. Cressler '08. *The Implications of Foster Care on Today's Youth.*