

1. Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work

Sociology: 451101 (BA/BS/MA/PhD)

Anthropology: 450201 (BA/BS)

Social Work: 440701 (BA/BS)

2. Mission: The mission of the department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work is to provide students with: (1) knowledge about how humans relate within different social contexts; (2) an appreciation of the culturally diverse ways humans interact to meet their needs; (3) competence to apply what they have learned to better understand the causes and consequences of human interactions; and, (4) skills to help people meet individual, family, and community needs.

Centrality: The department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work plays a pivotal role in the college and university. Our combined enrollment for 2004 gives us the largest number of students in any curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences. Many of our classes are central to the college's social science major and the programs in Women's Studies, American Ethnic Studies, and Leadership Studies. Classes such as Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Introduction to Sociology, and Social Welfare are taken by students in many majors and are required in other curricula in Arts & Sciences and outside colleges, including Agriculture, Business and Human Ecology. The department offers a wide variety of general education courses, including Archaeological Fact or Fiction (ANTH 503), Immigrant America (ANTH524), Global Social Problems (SOCIO363), Women and Crime (SOCIO665), and Social Welfare (SOCWK 510). Other courses fulfill general university requirements including international overlay, social sciences, quantitative, western heritage, and life sciences.

Uniqueness: Each of the three programs has unique features. At the undergraduate level, the sociology program offers both a general sociology concentration and a criminology option. The criminology undergraduate track is unique in the state of Kansas. Other Regent's universities offer criminal justice degrees, but the criminology option is fundamentally different in emphasis, with core courses focusing on criminological theory and the social construction and regulation of crime and deviance. We offer one of only two Ph.D. programs in sociology in the state. At this level, we offer concentrations in regional and rural development, social change, and criminology. These are also unique among state Regent's institutions. The anthropology degree, perhaps more than any other program in the university, exposes students to diverse cultures and fosters a climate of understanding and inquiry about the range of human social relations. As we offer only an undergraduate degree, our faculty pride themselves on the individual attention that they are able to offer to their students, many of whom then go on to prestigious graduate programs. The social work program is uniquely positioned to prepare its graduates to work in rural settings and provides hands-on experience in field practicums across the state in a wide variety of social service agencies.

3. Quality of Faculty: The department has 19 tenured or tenure-track faculty, all of whom hold terminal degrees in their fields, and 14 of whom hold graduate faculty status. The department also has four non-tenure track faculty, all of whom also hold terminal degrees. Sociology Graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) teach sections of lower level courses (primarily Introduction to Sociology) and also teach lab sections and serve as assistants in larger classes. Faculty have a history of receiving significant teaching awards, with several having received the Stamey Award for undergraduate teaching from the College of Arts and Sciences. Some of our faculty have also been recipients of university-wide honors, such as the Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, and, most recently, the Coffman Chair for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars. This demonstrated

excellence in teaching is balanced with significant contributions to the community through service activities. Faculty have a history of scholarship supported by extra- and intramural funding. Nearly all members of the department publish in top refereed journals in their fields, write book chapters, and many have published highly regarded books in their specialty areas. Faculty frequently present at international, national, regional and state conferences, some have received invitations to present at prestigious national and international meetings.

4. Quality of Students: Sociology majors have had average composite ACT scores of 22 during the last five years, with one third or more receiving scores in the “high” range. Those students who choose to pursue graduate education elsewhere have had great success in finding funded placements in top twenty programs. Anthropology majors consistently have composite ACT scores above 25, higher than the average of incoming KSU freshman. The program exceeds university standards, requiring a minimum GPA of 2.5 to declare an anthropology major. Students who major in social work are highly committed to the professional program. Their average composite ACT scores of 21-22 reflect the large proportion of nontraditional students we serve. These students generally do not perform as well on standardized tests as they do in their course work; the program requires an overall GPA of 2.3 and a 2.75 is required in the core courses for graduation.

5. Student Need: Demand for the degrees offered in the department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work is high. Sociology has the sixth largest number of majors among all the undergraduate programs in the university. The number of majors declined slightly in 2001 and 2002 but by 2003 had climbed to over 340. Department records show that sociology presently has over 360 majors. The demand for the Anthropology major has increased dramatically since 2002 (a 16 percent increase). Records show that majors now exceed 90 with demand apparently growing. The Social Work major has averaged 139 majors over the past five years. Students in this major must be formally admitted to the program during their junior year. This process allows faculty to serve as gatekeepers to the profession and assures that only the highest quality of students continue into the field practicum and complete the degree. The admission criteria used are consistent with the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the social work program.

Employment Demand: Students with a sociology/criminology bachelor’s degree are in greatest demand by criminal justice and social service agencies. Students generally have few problems finding work, as our majors are clearly in a growth sector of the economy. Our graduate students have also fared very well, with our Ph.D.’s finding work in regional and state colleges, and our MA’s working largely in community colleges and government agencies that require data analysis training. Anthropology majors obtain employment in a variety of positions in businesses and government agencies. Employment opportunities in cultural preservation and museums also exist for these graduates. Demand for students specializing in physical anthropology is increasing in conjunction with the growing demand for professionals trained in forensic sciences. The social work program makes a major contribution to the State of Kansas by training social work practitioners for state and local social service agencies. The vast majority of social work graduates obtain employment immediately after graduation, while others pursue graduate education.

6. Service: Each program in the department is actively involved in providing service to the university and community. Members of the department have taken leadership roles at the university level, including serving on the faculty senate, the Commission on the Status of Women and other key positions – one member currently serves as university ombudsperson. Faculty also pride themselves on service to their communities on social service agency boards and as members of local governing bodies. One member is currently co-chair of the United Way Campus

Campaign. Service to their respective professions is also significant. One member recently completed a term as president of her state's professional organization and is now a national board member. Others serve as officers at various levels of professional organizations. Several members of the department have served as editors or deputy editors of leading journals in their field, and almost all serve as peer reviewers for professional journals and referees for grant proposals from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

7. Cost Effectiveness: In 2002, our department generated 23,628 credit hours, up 6% from 1999, despite a slight reduction in the number of majors. Within the College of Arts & Sciences, we are second only to English and Mathematics in total credit hour production. Approximately 75 percent of our credit hours were taken by non-majors, indicating that the department is a significant provider of service to the university. Faculty teaching loads vary among the three programs, resulting in an average teaching load of 2.6.

Costs of instruction continue to be high and we lack resources to make desperately needed improvements. The department has a significant shortage of office space for its faculty, GTAs and instructors. Two seminar rooms in the department are in need of remodeling. Classes are held in Waters Hall and elsewhere on campus. Classrooms in Waters Hall are of mixed quality: newly remodeled hi-tech rooms are adequate, while others lack functioning air conditioners and appropriate student seating. The research methods classes could be greatly enhanced by a technology classroom designed for interactive laboratory exercises. Providing adequate computer equipment for faculty continues to be challenging. A plan has been implemented to upgrade computers on a rotating basis but some faculty will continue using outmoded computers for the next several years. GTAs have access to a computer lab designated for their use, but these machines tend to be second or third generation hand-me-downs from faculty and other departments.