



Understand how social relationships, social processes and social institutions function.

Examine the root causes of society's most pressing issues.

Sociology

Education, family, culture, social class and gender impact so much of our social experience and worldview. Sociology explains how these personal experiences interact with the organizational context of society.

Sociologists conduct research on:

- relationships between individuals (e.g. friendships or intimate relationships)
- relations between groups (e.g. tensions between workers and owners)
- processes such as socialization (e.g. how children learn within their cultural setting)
- the role of institutions in society (e.g. education, families, the mass media, and government)

Sociology offers a breadth of courses, including: the sociological aspects of crime and deviance, the environment, immigration, sexualities, and work.

Employers value sociology graduates. The critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills learned apply to a wide range of employment opportunities.

The outstanding quality and diversity of our department is one of our greatest strengths.

Degree options

To apply to Sociology, students must successfully complete a Social Sciences Level I program, including Sociology 1Z03.

Honours Sociology B.A.	Grade Point Average of 5.0 (C) including an average of at least 5.0 (C) in SOCIOL 1Z03.
Combined Honours B.A. in Sociology and another subject	Grade Point Average of 5.0 (C) including an average of at least 5.0 (C) in SOCIOL 1Z03. Satisfaction of admission requirements for the Honours program in the other B.A. subject.
Honours Sociology B.A. Specialist Option	Grade Point Average of 5.0 (C) including an average of at least 5.0 (C) in SOCIOL 1Z03.
Combined Honours. B.A. in Sociology Specialist Option and another subject	Grade Point Average of 5.0 (C), including an average of 5.0 (C) in SOCIOL 1Z03. Satisfaction of admission requirements for the Honours program in the other B.A. subject.
Minors	Sociology Diversity and Equity Gender, Sexualities and Families Immigration, Race Relations and Indigenous-Settler Relations Social Problems, Social Policy and the Law

For students interested in pursuing the Sociology B.A., please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar.

Level I courses

Sociology 1Z03

An Introduction to Sociology

Examine concepts which help us understand our social world and place in it. Topics include: socialization, research methods, families, media, social inequality, health, gender relations and gender inequality, race and ethnicity.

Sociology 1C03

Canadian Society: Social Problems, Social Policy and the Law

Explore social policy and law in Canada in relation to: families, the labour market, immigration, the criminal justice system, health and health care.

Beyond first year

Choose from a variety of courses, such as:

- **Sociology of Deviance**
Studying actions and behaviours that violate social norms
- **Sociology of Families**
Understanding the social aspects of intimate relationships, households, and families
- **Sociology of Health Care**
Addressing social issues associated with the provision of health care
- **Sociology of Sexualities**
Exploring the social construction of sexuality and gender
- **Race and Ethnicity**
Examining race/ethnicity and immigration policy in Canadian Society
- **Media and Power**
Analysing the social role and impact of different mass media

Careers & Experiential Education

- Participate in paid internships, a tuition-free career planning course, academic placements, and job shadowing through Careers & Experiential Education programs
- Take advantage of upper year research courses to gain valuable technical skills
- Work with community groups in SOCIOL 4KK3 (Sociology through Community Engagement and Service)

Skills development

- Understanding questions associated with social issues
- Solving problems using critical, reasoned thought
- Fostering communication skills through verbal presentations, discussions and debates
- Acquiring knowledge of social research, quantitative methods, research ethics and fieldwork
- Enhancing writing skills through descriptive reports and analytical papers
- Generating the ability to analyse the root causes of social problems while working towards solutions with diverse groups of people

Honours Sociology Specialist Option

The Honours Sociology Specialist Option is a four year program designed for students who are considering graduate work in sociology or students who are seeking to develop enhanced academic skills in preparation for other areas of study or employment.

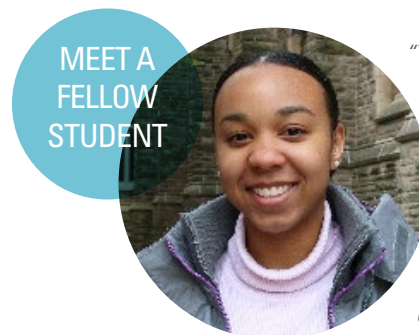
Potential careers

- Education
- Data analysis
- Human rights
- Journalism and media
- Law and criminal justice
- Social services
- Research and policy analysis
- Human resources
- Counselling
- Public relations
- Administrative roles
- Publishing

A sociology degree also provides the foundation for post-graduate studies in sociology, medicine, law, MBA programs and education.

"Sociology is a window into the invisible social forces that shape our reality, produce inequalities, and constrain and enable our choices as individuals."

It's a powerful set of tools for understanding the world. I enjoy helping students sharpen their critical thinking, writing and analytic skills." – Tina Fetner



"The beauty of McMaster's Sociology program is the various fields of thought and the opportunity to delve into all kinds of spheres of sociology. You're not limited to just the basic sociologists and theories. It's more than Marx and Weber! My advice to fellow or future sociologists is to go into every course with an open mind and with the idea that your perspective can and will change with new information you learn."

Amanda Warmington, Honours Sociology