Sociology is the study of group life—ranging from the analysis of passing encounters between individuals on a city street to the examination of current trends in globalization. As a social science, it combines scientific and humanistic approaches to study the diversity of social relationships in our modern world. As a liberal arts major, sociology represents excellent preparation for future graduate work by developing critical thinking and research skills, and it similarly provides fundamental grounding for students planning careers in law, business, social work, criminal justice, medicine, and international affairs. The scope of the discipline is quite broad, satisfying a variety of interests. A major or minor in sociology also offers a good background for students whose career goals involve marketing research, teaching, communications, government work, or extensive contact with the public and business. As such, sociology will provide a deeper understanding of the complex social and cultural world that shapes life experiences. The wide selection of courses offers students the opportunity to study crime and criminal justice, urban issues and public policy, social institutions, including education, the economy, religion, the family, and media, as well as social inequalities, including those of class, race, ethnicity, and gender.

Program Activities

Honors and Awards

The department offers the opportunity for students to become members of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international honor society for sociology students. Each spring, students are inducted into Fordham’s Chapter Iota. At Rose Hill, the department honors its seniors at the end of year awards ceremony, Encaenia, by bestowing the Rev. Joseph P. Fitzpatrick, S.J. Memorial Award and the Rev. J. Franklin Ewing, S.J. Memorial Award for the best submitted essay by a graduating sociology and anthropology major, respectively. At Lincoln Center, the department also recognizes excellence in its graduating seniors with departmental honors in sociology and anthropology at its own diploma ceremony. The department also sponsors a Sociology Club, a Criminology Club, and an Anthropology Club at Rose Hill, and a Society for Sociology and Anthropology at Lincoln Center, all organized and governed by students.

Internships

Both sociology and anthropology majors and nonmajors are encouraged to take advantage of the Internship Seminar offered by the department. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in social analysis, policy development, program evaluation, and interpersonal relations while being of service to others in a real-life setting outside the classroom. Employment opportunities include agencies and corporations in the New York metropolitan area, ranging from organizations in the public sector, including the New York State Department of Corrections, the Legal Aid Society, and the Puerto Rican Family Institute—to organizations in the private sector—including CBS, Merrill Lynch, and IBM. Each student is required to spend a minimum of eight to 10 hours per week in an agency (public or private) or organization chosen to fit the individual student’s interests and expertise. All students who enroll in the program are required to do both the internship placement and to take SOCI 4900 Internship Seminar. Field placements must be obtained through the internship program coordinator located in the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

For more information

Visit the Sociology and Anthropology department web page.

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