Sociology examines stability and change in social life by addressing the underlying patterns of social relations in formal organizations, in legal institutions, and in the family, economy, and political arena.

Coursework focuses on the criminal justice system and criminal behavior, mental health, families and close relationships, education, urban and rural communities, politics and policy formation, social movements and social change, diverse racial and ethnic groups, and social psychology. Faculty interests in the comparative study of social relations and institutions in various countries add an international emphasis to these areas of study. All sociology courses emphasize the skills of social inquiry necessary for analyzing patterns of social relationships.

The Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance is for students interested in developing a rigorous mathematical concentration in research methodologies. This option builds on course requirements for the Sociology B.A. program by featuring 12-16 additional credits of upper-division coursework in one of four clusters: (1) Organizations, Business, or Non-Profits, (2) Health Care and Careers, (3) Policy Analysis, or (4) Quantitative Emphasis.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Sociology of Law, Criminology, and Deviance at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another;
it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts prepare students for the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.

Meet Our Students

Undergraduate Atosha Rypa uses spoken word to bring awareness to social issues, tell her story, and inspire others. Her words aim to educate people about the American Black experience and the power that language has to perpetuate discrimination. Rypa’s words heal her own past and provide motivation for future change.

Read more about Atosha's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad for Sociology-LCD majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

  • University of Minnesota Sociological Association
Meet Our Faculty

Associate professor Joshua Page seeks to understand the complex factors obstructing changes in the criminal justice system. “Understanding is the first step towards generating a will to change,” says Page.

Read more about Joshua’s story.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman
You might also explore

- Social Justice Minor
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Associated Careers

Clinical Psychologists, Correctional Officers, Government Lawyers, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers, Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists, Research Psychologists

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below:

- Course plans before transferring
• Estimated time to graduation
• Career preparation in CLA
• Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
• Connecting with major/minor departments