



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The undergraduate curriculum provides students with the tools for understanding and critical analysis of a broad array of institutions and cultures, from the everyday level of interpersonal and community interaction to large-scale political and social systems and public policies. Students are engaged as active learners and encouraged to develop knowledge that can make a difference in the world, gaining the potential for leadership development and action for social justice. Undergraduate study in sociology prepares students for a wide array of careers in human services, education, law, health, public service, communications, business and social-change organizations.

What makes the program distinctive?

The Department of Sociology has nurtured a distinguished culture of engaged scholarship. Its faculty and graduates have conducted path-breaking research in the discipline and influenced movements for

democratic change. While the department offers a range of methods, including historical, quantitative and comparative, it specializes in qualitative analysis.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors: 68

Number of faculty: 15

Can you minor in this program? No

Emphasis within the major: gender and family studies; institutions, culture and religion; politics and social change; sociology of health and illness

Popular second majors: international and global studies; health: science, society and policy

Website: brandeis.edu/departments/sociology

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Interdisciplinary study

The sociology department participates in numerous interdisciplinary programs including women's and gender studies; health: science, society and policy; international and global studies; social justice and social policy; and peace, conflict and coexistence studies. The Heller School for Social Policy and Management also offers cross-listed courses on topics ranging from disabilities to wealth and poverty.

Outstanding research opportunities

Undergraduates have worked with faculty to research environmental organizations; patterns of racial inequity for the Mississippi Truth Project; laws applying to a newly integrated Indian reservation; and policies and practices around religion and spirituality in hospitals. Often, these research collaborations result in papers published or co-presented at professional conferences. Recent topics include the medicalization of baldness; race and school desegregation in Mississippi; and conflicts over homosexuality in religious organizations.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Experiential learning

Students combine classroom learning with active engagement in community organizations; social movements; human service and healthy community coalitions; and peace, environmental and social justice groups.

Summer internships

Recent internships include conducting peace games for volunteers in Roxbury, Mass.; developing a hunger-relief curriculum for Waltham Community Farms; providing services to the Springwell Senior Citizen Center; providing support at Emerge, an anti-domestic battering education and referral program; and developing leadership skills with the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished faculty

Faculty members have won multiple teaching awards and research grants from the American Sociological Association, the National Science Foundation, the John Simon and Harry Frank Guggenheim

Foundations, the Louisville Institute and the Kellogg Foundation and have participated in an Entrepreneurship Bootcamp.

Student awards

Shaina Gilbert '10 was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace to launch a free day camp called Empowering through Education, to serve less fortunate youth in Haiti. Becky Sniderman '10 was accepted into the nationally competitive Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program. Her work with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton extended her senior thesis research on race and health care disparities in Mississippi.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Real jobs

Recent sociology alumni have gone on to become the manager of online marketing at Showtime Network Inc.; a staff writer at the Post Tribune; a project manager at the United Nations' International Labor Organization; the social action project coordinator at Stanford's Hillel; an attorney for the Food and Drug Administration; a co-founder of Anyclip.com, a movie clip search engine; and a trend adviser to technology venture capitalists.

Prominent alumni

Brandeis sociology alumni include Mitch Albom '79, sports columnist, screenwriter, and author of "Tuesdays With Morrie"; Sidney Blumenthal '69, former aide to President Bill Clinton; Nicole Karlebach '04, an attorney for Human Rights First; Ben Brandzel '03, a pioneer in developing online political campaigns for MoveOn.org, Greenpeace, Oxfam and the Obama administration; and Devika Mahadevan '00, CEO of Mumbai Mobile Creches, which provides early childhood care and education to children of construction workers in India.

Graduate programs

The department operates a vibrant doctoral program in sociology, as well as two joint Ph.D. programs, one linking social policy and sociology with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, and one in sociology and Near Eastern and Judaic studies. The department also offers two master's programs: a stand-alone sociology M.A. and a joint M.A. in sociology and women's and gender studies.

"Professor Cunningham is an outstanding mentor, one of the smartest, most modest people I have ever met, and a great teacher. He is always willing to get involved in the Brandeis community outside of the classroom, and he has been an inspiration to me."

A former student of sociology professor David Cunningham, recipient of the 2007 Lerman-Neubauer Prize for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring



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