About the Program
The undergraduate curriculum provides students with the tools for understanding and critical analysis of a broad array of institutions and cultures. 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.

Learning Goals
Sociology focuses on core questions of group and societal organization to explore how order is maintained and how social change occurs. Our department seeks to develop what C. Wright Mills referred to as the “sociological imagination,” by investigating how broader social forces shape life trajectories, how social categories such as race, class, gender, and sexuality structure social experiences, and how individuals and groups confront, and sometimes alter, institutional systems of power.

Sociological inquiry is central to many of Brandeis’ interdisciplinary programs, including Health: Science, Society, and Policy; International and Global Studies; Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies; Religious Studies; Social Justice and Social Policy; and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

The department focuses on four core areas: health and illness; politics and social change; gender and family; and institutions, communities, and culture. In each of these areas, students integrate critical scholarly analysis, foundational research techniques, and “hands-on” experiential learning to hone their abilities to engage in the community and the world as active, self-reflective change agents.

Academics and Research
Interdisciplinary Study
The Sociology Department participates in numerous interdisciplinary programs including Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality 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.

Website: http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology/undergrad/index.html
Academics and Research Continued
Outstanding Research Opportunities
Undergraduates have worked with faculty to research environmental organizations; patterns of racial inequality for the Mississippi Truth Project; laws applying to an integrated Indian reservation; and policies and practices around religion and spiritually 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 religions organizations.

Beyond the Classroom
Experiential Learning
Students combine classroom learning with active engagement in community organizations; 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 violence education and referral program; and developing leadership skills with the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

Faculty and Select Courses

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Cadge</td>
<td>Sociology of Birth and Death, Sociology of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordie Fellman</td>
<td>Deconstructing War, Building Peace, Marx and Freud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen V. Hansen</td>
<td>Migration, Dislocation &amp; Dispossession, Families, Kinship, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>Laura Miller</td>
<td>Culture of Consumption, Mass Communication Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandler Rosenberger</td>
<td>Nationalism and Globalization, Democracy and Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Shostak</td>
<td>Sociology of Body and Health, Senior Seminar: So You Want to Change the World</td>
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<td>Michael Strand</td>
<td>Sociology of Celebrity, Morality and Market Society</td>
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<td>Carmen Sirianni</td>
<td>Sustainable Cities and Communities, Environmental Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gowri Vijayakumar</td>
<td>Protest, Politics, and Change, Social Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derron Wallace</td>
<td>Sociology of Education, Sociology of Race, Gender and Class</td>
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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 sociology 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 advisor to technology venture capitalists.

Fast Facts
- Current number of majors: 85
- Number of faculty: 12
- Can you minor in this program?: No
- Emphasis within the major: Politics and social change; institutions, communities, and culture; gender and feminist studies; health, illness, and life course
- Popular second majors: International and Global Studies; Health: Science, Society and Policy

Website: [http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology/undergrad/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/sociology/undergrad/index.html)