# Department of Sociology Student Handbook

2023 - 2024

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www.sociology.ccsu.edu



Clockwise from top right: Senior Seminar Conference, Fall 2019; Noah Cross, Senior Seminar Conference, Fall 2019; Study Abroad – London, Winter 2020; Doug Martin, URCAD Spring 2019



## A 21st century major

The 21st century labor market is fast-changing, increasingly global, and technology-driven. The jobs that you may apply for as a graduate may not even exist yet. To navigate the 21st century means being able to keep up with the changing world.

As society evolves, you as a sociology major will have the tools to critically analyze the world and your place within it. You will also learn the practical skills you need to succeed there.

Conduct Research and Analyze Data. In sociology you use both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Learn to recognize trends and patterns and produce social statistics such as those used in market research, opinion polling, program evaluation, sales, and countless other applications.

**Communicate Skillfully.** Learn how to convey your ideas effectively in writing and in presentations. Strong communications skills are essential for success in the 21st century.

**Practice Critical Thinking.** Learn to look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why." Build your analytical skills. Solve problems and identify opportunities.

**Gain a Global Perspective.** Learn about different cultures and how to analyze the interaction of groups and societies through a global and historical perspective.

**Prepare for Graduate School.** An undergraduate major in sociology provides an excellent foundation for graduate study in a wide range of fields including law, business, social work, medicine, public health, public administration and, of course, sociology.

# How are recent sociology graduates using their degree?

As a broad social science, an undergraduate degree in sociology provides you with the technical and analytic skills and the global perspective you need to navigate the 21st century successfully and succeed in many careers.

#### Social Services/Public Services

"I am a caseworker for incarcerated mothers and their infants."

#### Program Support

"I am an immigration specialist for a large company.

I write petitions for people to receive their Green Cards."

#### Management

"I provide management and financial analysis.

The work involves forecasting and tracking revenue for large multimillion dollar efforts as well as labor relations."

#### Education

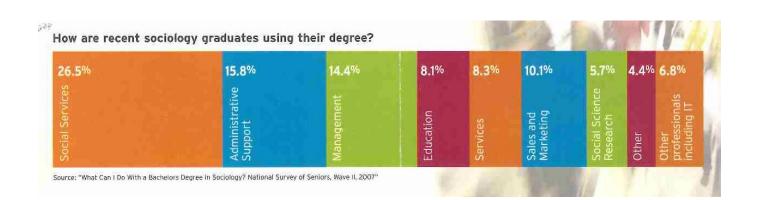
"I teach Conversational English and American Studies classes at a secondary school in Southeastern Ukraine."

#### Sales Marketing

"I am a marketing consultant. I assist with the planning and development of marketing strategies for my organization."

#### Social Science Researcher

"I am a statistician in the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch of the US Census Bureau."



The good we secure
for ourselves is
precarious and
uncertain until it is
secured for all of us
and incorporated into
our common life.

# Welcome to Sociology!

-Jane Addams

Congratulations on declaring sociology as your major. We are excited to have you join the many CCSU students who have also chosen to study the discipline of sociology during their time at the university. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

This student handbook is meant to be an introduction to the major as well as giving you important information about the sociology program and our department. We hope you will find it to be a valuable resource that you can turn to throughout your time as a major in sociology.

Please keep in mind that this handbook is not a substitute for meeting with your department advisor or getting to know the faculty responsible for your major. Much of your success in the sociology, as well as at CCSU, will be dependent on being an active citizen in the department and taking advantage of resources the university has to offer beyond the classroom. We are here to guide you and aid in your future success but we need to work together to achieve these goals.

Again, welcome to the major!

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For Additional Information Please Refer to the Department Website at: www.sociology.ccsu.edu

# 1. Curriculum Planning Sheet

General Education (44-46cr.)	Sociology Major (38 credits)	
Study Area I- Arts & Humanities (9 cr.)	Required Courses (19 credits)	
Literature	Core (11 credits): SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology OR	(3)
	SOC 111 Social Problems	(3)
Study Area II- Social Sciences (9 cr.)	SOC 300 Sociological Theory	(4)
Hist	SOC 310 Research Methods	(4)
	Advanced methods (4 credits):	
	SOC 410 Quantitative Analysis	(4)
	or SOC 411 Oral History for the Social Sci.	. (4)
Study Area III- Behavioral Sciences (6 cr.)	or SOC 412 Qualitative Analysis	(4)
	or SOC 413 Community Research	(4)
	Capstone (4 credits):	
Study Area IV- Natural Sciences (6-7 cr.)	SOC 499 Senior Seminar in Sociology	(4)
Skill Area I - Communication Skills (6 cr.)  WRT 110 or WRT 105	SOC     SOC     SOC	-
WRT 110 or WRT 105   Skill Area II - Mathematics (6 cr.)   Stat 215   Stat	SOC	-
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# 2. The Major in Sociology

The sociology major provides an overview of the theories, methods of research, and topic areas that are central to this academic discipline. Students who major in sociology gain a skill-set that prepares them for a wide variety of careers and/or continued graduate study. Sociology provides a perspective on the world that is essential for being an informed global citizen, shedding light on issues regarding politics, the economy, diversity, social institutions, and the many nuances of group and social relations. No matter where a major may find themselves, their knowledge of group and individual relations and social structures will prepare them for careers in service, teaching, activism, and/or research.

Students admitted to CCSU and who declare Sociology as a major must complete 38 course credits in Sociology. This includes completing 19 credits in the required core courses. Beginning with:

SOC 110 Introductory Sociology 3 credits

OR

SOC 111 Social Problems 3 credits

After completing SOC 110 or 111 and 6 additional elective credits, majors will then have the prerequisites necessary to take:

SOC 300 Sociological Theory 4 credits SOC 310 Research Methods 4 credits

Students must also complete 4 credits consisting of one following advanced research methods courses. (SOC 310 is a prerequisite for all advanced research methods courses. SOC 310 cannot be taken concurrently with any of the advanced research methods courses).

SOC 410 Quantitative Research Methods	4 credits
SOC 411 Oral History for the Social Sciences	4 credits
SOC 412 Qualitative Research Methods	4 credits
SOC 413 Community Research Methods	4 credits

(Continued on next page)

Students finish the core required courses by taking the 4 credit capstone course. (Completion of an advanced research methods course is a prerequisite for the SOC 499 Senior Seminar. Advanced research methods courses and SOC 499 cannot be taken concurrently).

SOC 499 Senior Seminar in Sociology

4 credits

Additionally, students must complete at least 19 credits of sociology electives, which must include at least 12 course credits at the 300 or 400 level, as well as complete:

STAT 215 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences 3 credits

Please note that the prerequisite for STAT 215 is either 1. Completion of MATH 102 (or a more advanced math course) with a grade of C- or higher; or 2. passing the Math placement exam.

# 3. The Minor in Sociology

Students are required to take 18 credits of course work in Sociology, including:

SOC 110 Introductory Sociology

OR

SOC 111 Social Problems

#### **Electives:**

3 Credits at the 200 Level

12 Credits at the 300 or 400 level (3 courses)

All students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 and receive grades of C- or better in all classes for the major or the minor. Residency Requirements: Major-15 credits must be taken at CCSU.

Minor-9 credits must be taken at CCSU.

# 4. The Faculty

**Stephen D. Adair**, Ph.D., Northeastern University, Professor (1997). *Social Theory; Quantitative Methods; Social Movements; Stratification; Class, Power & Status.* 

**Bruce P. Day**, Ph.D., University of New Hampshire, Associate Professor (1998), *Organizations, Occupations and Work; Social Theory; Sociology of Art; Cultural Studies; Oral History; Symbolic Interactionism.* 

**Christina Barmon**, Ph.D., Georgia State University, Associate Professor (2016). *Gerontology; Aging Through the Life Course; Intimacy and Aging.* 

**Charisse Levchak**, Ph.D., University of Iowa, Associate Professor (2013). *Macro/Micro Aggression and Race; Social Movements*.

**Jessica B. Greenebaum**, Ph.D., Syracuse University, Professor (2000). Gender; Sex and Sexuality; Qualitative Methods; Animals and Society; Culture & Politics of Food.

**John R. Mitrano**, Ph.D., Boston College, Professor (1994).

Research Methods; Qualitative Analysis; Sociology of Consumption; Organizations, Occupations and Work; Sport; Men and Masculinity; Italian-American Studies; Social Economy; Sociology of Emotions; Visual Sociology.

**John O'Connor**, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Associate Professor (2003). Social Welfare; Race, Class & Gender; Class, Status, Power; Globalization; Revolutions; Labor; Genocide; Marxist Sociology.

**A. Fiona Pearson,** Ph.D., Georgia State University, Professor (2006). *Sociology of Culture; Education; Political Sociology; Quantitative Analysis.* 

**Heather Rodriguez,** Ph.D., Purdue University, Associate Professor (2012). *Sociology of Health; Race, Class & Gender; Latina Identity; Men, Masculinity, & Manhood in American Society.* 

### **Part-Time Faculty**

Brian Becker, M.A. Boston University, Sociology

Christopher Doucot, M.A., Yale Divinity School

Anthony Huaqui, M.A. UMASS – Amherst, Sociology

Andrew Ianni, M.S. UMASS- Amherst, Labor Studies

Latisha Nielsen, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Sociology

William Pilkington, Ed.D., St. John's University

**Dustin Rader, M.A.** Central Connecticut State University

Sarah Reilly, M.A. Syracuse University, Sociology

Sterling White, M.A. Southern Connecticut State University, Sociology

Stephen Valocchi, Ph.D. Indiana University, Sociology

# 5. Department Statement on Discrimination, Civility, and Ethics

The discipline of sociology requires a diversity of viewpoints, reasoned debate, empirical evidence, and civil social discourse, particularly in the classroom. The faculty of the sociology department is committed to establishing the classroom as a lively and engaging space for the exchange of ideas but this also is based on a fundamental understanding that faculty and students alike will conduct themselves professionally and ethically in accordance with the guidelines set out by our discipline, the university, and the Connecticut university system. Below you will find statements that further specify our expectations as well as outlining the expectations you may have of us. Please read and consider these guidelines carefully so that we may all have a mutual understanding of the policies that we support and use to create a dynamic and successful experience for you as a sociology major.

#### **American Sociological Association: General Principles of Ethics**

The following General Principles are aspirational and serve as a guide for sociologists in determining ethical courses of action in various contexts. They exemplify the highest ideals of professional conduct.

#### Principle A: Professional Competence

Sociologists strive to maintain the highest levels of competence in their work; they recognize the limitations of their expertise; and they undertake only those tasks for which they are qualified by education, training, or experience. They recognize the need for ongoing education in order to remain

professionally competent; and they utilize the appropriate scientific, professional, technical, and administrative resources needed to ensure competence in their professional activities. They consult with other professionals when necessary for the benefit of their students, research participants, and clients.

#### Principle B: Integrity

Sociologists are honest, fair, and respectful of others in their professional activities—in research, teaching, practice, and service. Sociologists do not knowingly act in ways that jeopardize either their own or others' professional welfare. Sociologists conduct their affairs in ways that inspire trust and confidence; they do not knowingly make statements that are false, misleading, or deceptive.

#### Principle C: Professional and Scientific Responsibility

Sociologists adhere to the highest scientific and professional standards and accept responsibility for their work. Sociologists understand that they form a community and show respect for other sociologists even when they disagree on theoretical, methodological, or personal approaches to professional activities. Sociologists value the public trust in sociology and are concerned about their ethical behavior and that of other sociologists that might compromise that trust. While endeavoring always to be collegial, sociologists must never let the desire to be collegial outweigh their shared responsibility for ethical behavior. When appropriate, they consult with colleagues in order to prevent or avoid unethical conduct.

#### Principle D: Respect for People's Rights, Dignity, and Diversity

Sociologists respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all people. They strive to eliminate bias in their professional activities, and they do not tolerate any forms of discrimination based on age; gender; race; ethnicity; national origin; religion; sexual orientation; disability; health conditions; or marital, domestic, or parental status. They are sensitive to cultural, individual, and role differences in serving, teaching, and studying groups of people with distinctive characteristics. In all of their work-related activities, sociologists acknowledge the rights of others to hold values, attitudes, and opinions that differ from their own.

#### Principle E: Social Responsibility

Sociologists are aware of their professional and scientific responsibility to the communities and societies in which they live and work. They apply and make public their knowledge in order to contribute to the public good. When undertaking research, they strive to advance the science of sociology and to serve the public good.

(For Full Text See: <a href="http://www.asanet.org/membership/code-ethics">http://www.asanet.org/membership/code-ethics</a>)

### **Central Connecticut State University Nondiscrimination in Education Policy**

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in education. No person shall be discriminated against in terms and conditions of personnel practices, or access to or participation in programs, services, and activities with regard to: age; ancestry, color; gender identity and expression; intellectual disability; learning disability; mental disability; physical disability; marital status, national origin; race; religious creed; sex, including pregnancy, transgender status, sexual

harassment and sexual assault; sexual orientation; or any other status protected by federal or state laws. Discrimination in employment-based on genetic information is prohibited. In addition, CCSU will not refuse to hire solely because of a prior criminal conviction, unless that refusal is permitted by Connecticut law.

Harassment on the basis of any of the above protected classes is prohibited. Harassment may occur in a variety of relationships, including faculty and student, supervisor and employee, student and student, staff and student, employee and employee, and other relationships with persons having business at, or visiting the educational or working environment.

This policy is directed at verbal or physical conduct that constitutes discrimination/harassment under state and federal law and is not directed at the content of speech. In cases in which verbal statements and other forms of expression are involved, CCSU will give due consideration to an individual's constitutionally protected right to free speech and academic freedom.

Retaliation is illegal. No individual who opposes an allegedly discriminatory act or practice shall suffer retaliation as a result of such participation. Complaints of retaliation may be filed within a reasonable time of the alleged retaliatory act with the Chief Diversity Officer or any manager not directly involved in the alleged retaliation who will then notify the Office of Diversity and Equity.

This policy shall apply to all individuals affiliated with CCSU including, but not limited to, students, employees, applicants, agents and guests and is intended to protect the rights of concerned individuals.

(Edited from the "CCSU Nondiscrimination in Education and Employment Policy." For full text see: <a href="http://www.ccsu.edu/diversity/files/ODENonDiscrimPol14-15.pdf">http://www.ccsu.edu/diversity/files/ODENonDiscrimPol14-15.pdf</a>)

#### **CSCU Student Code of Conduct**

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. In line with this purpose, the Board of Regents for Higher Education ("BOR") in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities ("CSCU") has the duty to protect the freedoms of inquiry and expression, and furthermore, has the responsibility to encourage all of its members to develop the capacity for critical judgment in their sustained and independent search for truth.

CSCU has certain self-defined institutional values. Principal among these values is respect for the safety, dignity, rights, and individuality of each member of the CSCU Community. The opportunity to live, study, and work in an institution which values diverse intellectual and cultural perspectives and encourages discussion and debate about competing ideas in an atmosphere of civility is a basic component of quality higher education.

All members of CSCU must at all times govern their social and academic interactions with tolerance and mutual respect so that the students who pass through a CSCU door are enriched by these experiences and are prepared for full and enlightened participation in a multi-cultural society. Because of the BOR's and CSCU's commitment to principles of pluralism, mutual respect, and civility, certain activities are not acceptable on CSCU campuses. Acts of intolerance, of hatred or violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation or expression, disability, gender, age, or ethnic background are antithetical to the BOR's and CSCU's fundamental principles and values. It is the BOR's and CSCU's responsibility to protect our students' right to learn by establishing an environment of civility.

(Preamble from "BOR/CSCU Student Code of Conduct; 1/15/2015. For full text see: http://web.ccsu.edu/studentconduct/codeofconduct.asp?redirected)

# 6. Sociology Courses

For an up-to-date list of Sociology Courses, please refer to: http://ccsu.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Undergraduate-Graduate-Catalog/All-Courses/SOC-Sociology

# 7. Opportunities in The Sociology Major

There are many opportunities for service, teaching, activism, and research within the sociology department. The faculty are working toward creating more of these opportunities to help our students develop the skills and experiences that will enhance their classroom work as well as contribute to their career paths after graduation. We have highlighted a few programs here but communicating your aspirations and career goals to your advisor is essential for taking advantage of other opportunities within the community, university and/or our department.

## **Study Abroad Programs**

The Center for International Education (CIE) assists CCSU students who wish to study and live abroad to gain valuable educational and first-hand experiences with foreign languages and cultures. Study Abroad includes three categories of programs: "Semester" (to year-long) programs, "Summer" programs, and "Courses Abroad" programs. The Semester (to a yearlong) programs are available to students through a network of university partnerships around the world. "Courses Abroad" are intense, credit-bearing University classes taught by faculty, include courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, and offer for credit in many majors and in all regions of the world.

For more information about study abroad opportunities, visit the CIE's web page which can be found <u>here.</u>.

## The Internship Program

The Sociology Internship is a 4-credit, unpaid work placement designed to provide qualified junior and senior sociology majors/minors the opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts in an applied, community-based organizational setting. Student participants will be required to contribute 8 to 10 hours a week in service to an organization and meet once a week in a seminar with other internship participants. During the seminar, knowledge and experiences gained from your internship experience will be shared and analyzed.

#### Eligibility

The internships are awarded on a competitive basis. Students who are selected must have at least a 2.5 GPA, junior or senior status, and two letters of recommendation.

#### What Can You Expect from the Program?

You will work with a member of the sociology faculty to find an appropriate placement with an organization in the central Connecticut region. The organizations will provide interns the opportunity for a valuable learning experience. This means not only the chance to experience the daily micro-level operation of an organization, but also the opportunity to be exposed to the macro-level workings of the organization as well.

This may take the form of participating in organizational meetings, attending formal and informal organizational functions, "shadowing" supervisors, executive directors, and other decision-making personnel. Interns will be expected to serve their organization in the capacities that the organizations deem most useful. This may include, but not be limited to, such tasks as clerical/administrative, community outreach/education, or research and development. Interns SHOULD NOT expect that they will be sentenced to thirteen weeks of only answering phones or filing folders. And while these job placements are unpaid, students are required to approach the work with maturity and a professional attitude. The organizations expect the interns will be punctual, responsible, and courteous to co-workers and clientele. Your length of service to the organization will be approximately 100 hours.

#### How to Apply

Download the application materials from the sociology website at www.sociology.ccsu.edu, fill them out, and return them to the Sociology Department for review. If accepted, you will be contacted before preregistration so that you can be scheduled for the SOC490 Community Internship Experience and Seminar and register for the course. You will work with the faculty member to find an appropriate placement before the end of the Fall semester. You will also be required to interview with your prospective organization and supervisor to see if you are a good "fit" and so you can start to work immediately at the beginning of the Spring semester.

We look forward to your interest and participation!

For more information contact: Heather Rodriguez <a href="https://hrodriguez@ccsu.edu">hrodriguez@ccsu.edu</a>



#### The International Sociology Honor Society

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is the International Sociology Honor Society. AKD was founded in 1920 at the University of Southern California by Dr. Emory S. Bogardus and became affiliated with the <u>Association of College Honor Societies</u> (ACHS) in 1967. AKD is also affiliated with the <u>American Sociological Society (ASA)</u>.

The purpose of Alpha Kappa Delta is to seek to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

Alpha Kappa Delta is a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the ideal of Athropon Katamannthanein Diakonesin or "to investigate humanity for the purpose of service."

Membership is open to undergraduate students and faculty members from active chapters who meet the minimum standards of the Honor Society.

- Must be an officially declared **sociology major or demonstrate a serious interest in sociology** within an official program of the host institution.
- Sociology minors are eligible.
- Must be at least a **junior** (third year) by standards of the host institution.
- Shall rank in the top 35% of their graduating class in general scholarship.
- Must have maintained the equivalent of a **3.0 GPA** in sociology courses taken at the host institution prior to initiation
- Must have completed at least **four regular courses in sociology at the host institution** prior to initiation (exclusive of extension or courses graded pass/fail)

For more information about membership and benefits, contact your advisor or Chapter Representative, Bruce Day <a href="mailto:dayb@ccsu.edu">dayb@ccsu.edu</a>

# 8. The Sociology Portfolio Program

All Students Declaring Sociology as their Major are required to complete and submit a Portfolio of your Work as a Sociology Major.

The Sociology Portfolio Program is designed to give Sociology majors the opportunity to develop a comprehensive overview of the work they have completed as a major and to assess the knowledge and skills the student has acquired as a result of their degree work. Each student will save work from the sociology courses they have completed. These papers will be organized in a binder and reviewed during the "Senior Seminar of Sociology" (SOC 499) which is the last core requirement of Sociology majors. During the Senior Seminar you will be fine-tuning your portfolio prior to it being reviewed by members of the Sociology Faculty. Successful completion of the seminar is a requirement of the major, and the quality of the portfolio is graded as part of the seminar. The portfolio is meant to give students the opportunity to consider connections they have made throughout their coursework so that they may have a complete picture of how each class has contributed to their understanding of the discipline, and to better prepare sociology majors to communicate with potential employers and/or graduate schools about the skills they have gained through pursuing a sociology major at CCSU.

The success of this program for the student is wholly dependent on the vigilance of each individual student. When saving materials from classes you should always follow this basic guideline:

- Save all writing assignments by making an extra copy of papers before you hand them in for grading.
- If you are not sure an assignment should be included in the portfolio, include it anyway and it can always be removed during the review process.
- Students are also encouraged to include any special projects, independent studies, internship work and/or representations of creative projects. Papers submitted for classes, other than sociology classes, that you feel demonstrate how you have incorporated a sociological perspective through other disciplines may be also included. These should be a small selection of your best work..

You can discuss the portfolio and ask questions you may have about the program with any of the full-time sociology faculty at any time.

# 9. Mission Statement and Program Objectives

#### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY MISSION STATEMENT

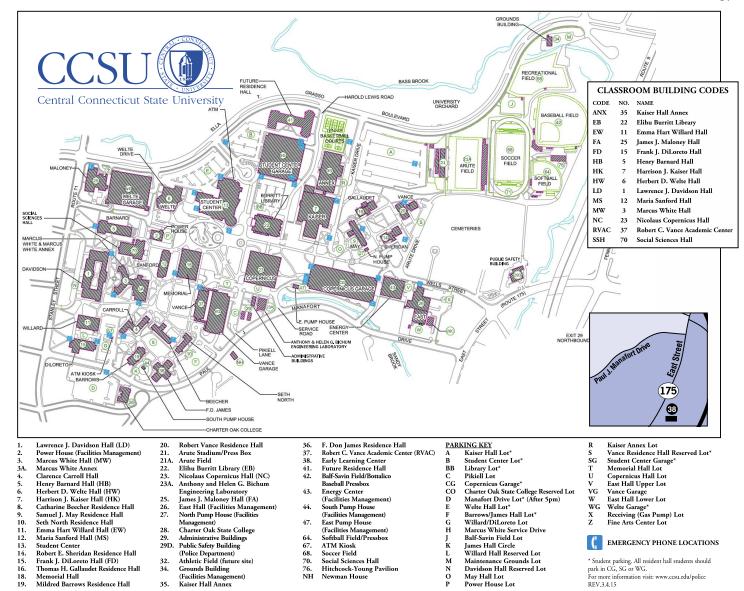
The Department of Sociology prepares students to become thoughtful, engaged, and responsible citizens in an interdependent world. Students are provided with a firm understanding of the complex social structures and processes that connect their private lives and experiences to their present society as well as to the multi-varied characteristics of a global society. More specifically,

the mission of the department is to foster logical and analytical reasoning, social scientific inquiry, a socio/historical consciousness, and an understanding of the relationship between social inequality and matters of social justice.

The integrating principle underlying the curriculum is the linkage between theory, methods, and specific areas of sociological inquiry. This process involves developing the capacities for conceptualizing problems, locating them within general sociological paradigms, and evaluating solutions based on empirical analysis, established research, and the diverse needs, interests, and identities of affected communities.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIOLOGY BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

- 1) To help students acquire the sociological perspective with its three central aspects: the link between private troubles and public issues (i.e., the individual experience and larger social processes); the preeminence of social structures and their influence; and the value of empirical analysis.
- 2) To contribute to students' liberal education characterized by: literacy; numeracy; skills in abstract logical thinking; historical consciousness; understanding science and scientific inquiry; values and their relationship to a variety of life situations; international and multicultural experience.
- 3) To help students develop knowledge and analytical skills necessary for successful careers in community agencies, government, private employment, and not-for-profit organizations.
- 4) To provide a foundation for graduate and professional education.



Newman House

#### Contact Us:

Memorial Hall

Mildred Barrows Residence Hall

Department of Sociology Ebenezer D. Bassett Hall, Suite 317 Central Connecticut State University 1615 Stanley Street New Britain, CT 06050 (860) 832-3135

\* Student parking. All resident hall students should park in CG, SG or WG. For more information visit: www.ccsu.edu/police

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