

SOCIOLOGY

“The focus on research is one of the reasons that this degree is so valuable. Students get first-hand experience working with social research, and we even conduct our own research. The professors are all dedicated and invested in their students”.

- Amanda, Sociology Major



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Graduates receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology. A minor in Sociology is also available. Students may combine their Sociology major with several different minors because of its interdisciplinary nature. Examples of current combinations include Spanish, Child and Family Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and Peace and Social Justice. A major or minor in Sociology equips students with social research tools and theory for understanding and responding to complex social problems and engaging with the public toward meaningful solutions. Graduates of the program are well-equipped to be agents of social change in a variety of fields, including social work, law, education, and public policy.

OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS

- The Berea College Department of Sociology supports the initiative of the American Sociological Association to infuse undergraduate research training into the sociology curriculum.
- We have been selected as one out of twelve departments nationally to address the “scientific literacy” gap for undergraduate students in sociology through participation in the Integrating Data Analysis project.
- Every person majoring in sociology carries out an independent research project in their senior capstone course; every major must design and complete a project in which they demonstrate

their research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students select this “capstone” based upon the courses they have previously completed and their individual interest for independent research work.

- All students are highly encouraged to spend at least one summer in an internship for academic credit that fuses students’ academic and professional interests.
- We also highly encourage Sociology majors to consider a summer or semester studying abroad.

CAREERS & OUTCOMES

Berea Sociology graduates, distinguished by their unique work-study and internship experiences, find employment in a wide variety of occupations and career fields, including:

- Social work
- Counseling
- Policy Analysis
- Education
- Government
- Research
- Nonprofit work
- Human Resources
- Law
- Journalism



WHY IS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION VALUABLE?

A liberal arts education at Berea College, combined with our work study program, equips students with highly employable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Beyond offering a degree program, we help our students develop social responsibility and prepare them to successfully navigate diversity, change, and the complex demands of a modern work place.



80

percentage of employers who want colleges to emphasize critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and oral and written communication.

#1

Berea College's ranking as "Best Liberal Arts College" by Washington Monthly Magazine, 2018.

75

percentage of employers who believe successful college graduates should have both liberal arts training and experience in the field.

90

percentage of Berea students who credit liberal arts and work study for developing their communication, critical thinking, & problem-solving skills.



"People with a liberal arts education are able to think and view the world from several different perspectives . . . This ability to understand and adapt is very valuable in today's workplace."

Edward B. Rust Jr.
Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies