

Crime, Law and Justice Concentration

Phone: (216) 368-2700
Mather Memorial, Room 226

Concentrations in Sociology

Students majoring in Sociology have the option of either selecting one of 4 concentrations areas, or majoring in Sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours, or 4 courses. The 4 concentrations are:

- Crime, Law and Justice
- Health, Medicine and Aging
- Gender, Work and Family

Crime, Law and Justice Concentration

Sociologists who study crime (also called criminologists) understand the dynamic social processes that lie beyond the headlines, processes that involve the complexities of human motivation and action, both on the part of those who make the laws and those who break the laws.

Criminologists study crime, criminals, and their relation to society with the goal of achieving scientific understanding of these phenomena. How is crime defined, and how much crime is there, and what are the major issues with measurements and findings? Who commits criminal and delinquent acts, and how do we know? What are the characteristics of offenders and of the victims? What are the causes of crime, and what can be done to prevent crime and delinquency, and do we even have any concrete answers to these questions? What types of punishment are appropriate for offenders, and do we know how to rehabilitate them, and who makes these decisions, and how are law and society relevant to these issues?

This concentration is designed with the purpose of providing the student with the opportunity to become aware of the persistent advancement of knowledge in the fields of crime, law and justice, and to acquaint the student with the basic tools for critically evaluating the existing information. The courses offered explore a range of competing theoretical perspectives and research methods and are studied with special emphasis on their implications for criminal and juvenile justice policy and practice. A Sociology major with a concentration in crime, law and justice prepares students for pursuing advanced degrees in graduate studies, in professional schools, or for seeking employment opportunities in law related agencies, criminal justice agencies, counseling, and many other areas related to public and private human services.

Required Core Courses:

12 CREDIT HOURS

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- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology
 - SOCI 300: Modern Sociological Thought
 - SOCI 306: Logic of Social Inequality

One of the three statistics courses listed below:

- STAT 201: Basic Statistics for Social and Life Sciences
 - PSCL 282: Quantitative Methods in Psychology
 - ANTH 319: Introduction to Statistical Analysis in the Social Sciences
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Crime, Law and Justice Concentration
requires four (4) of the following courses:
12 CREDIT HOURS

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- SOCI 204: Criminology
 - SOCI 250: Law & Society
 - SOCI 320: Delinquency and Juvenile Justice
 - SOCI 333: Sociology of Deviant Behavior
 - SOCI 349: Social Inequality
 - SOCI 360: The Sociology of Law
 - SOCI 366: Racial Inequality & Mass Imprisonment in the US
 - SOCI 374: Using Law to Dictate Public Private Dichotomy
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As the major requires a total of 30 credits, 6 additional credits (two electives) will need to be taken. These credits can either be within the concentration or from any of the other sociology courses.

In addition to the requirements listed above for Sociology major, Case Western Reserve University also requires all undergraduate students to participate in courses through SAGES. These requirements include First Seminar (first year), two University Seminars (by the end of the second year), a Department Seminar (third year) and finally a Senior Capstone.

Concentration Coordinator

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