

## Social Sciences, Division of

253.535.7669

[www.plu.edu/social-sciences](http://www.plu.edu/social-sciences)

The faculty within the Division of Social Sciences seek to provide a challenging education in the social sciences that critically analyzes the past and the present social history and structures of human interaction. Instruction is vibrant and relevant to the time and world in which we live and encourages responsible citizenship for today and tomorrow. Through classroom learning and applied settings such as supervised internships, students in the social sciences acquire an understanding of society while developing the analytical tools with which to provide solutions to a diverse range of social problems.

The Division of Social Sciences fully supports interdisciplinary programs. The programs in Legal Studies and Women's and Gender Studies are housed within the division. In addition, Social Sciences faculty also participate actively in other interdisciplinary programs including Chinese Studies, Environmental Studies, Global Studies and the International Honors Program.

The Forest Foundation Severtson Undergraduate Fellowship supports students conducting research in the social sciences.

**Faculty:** Peterson, *Dean*; faculty members of the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Marriage and Family Therapy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Social Work.

As a division within the College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Social Sciences offers programs in each constituent department leading to the B.A. degree. Additionally, a B.S. degree is offered in psychology and an M.A. degree is offered in Marriage and Family Therapy. Course offerings and degree requirements are listed under:

Anthropology	Political Science
Economics	Psychology
History	Sociology and Social Work
Marriage and Family Therapy	

See also sections specific to affiliated degrees and programs for Chinese Studies, Environmental Studies, Global Studies, Legal Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies.

## Sociology and Social Work

253.535.7595

[www.plu.edu/sociology-social-work](http://www.plu.edu/sociology-social-work)

Sociology and social work, as distinct disciplines, are concerned with understanding contemporary social issues, policies, and solutions. While sociology emphasizes research, interpretation, and analysis, social work emphasizes intervention and practice. The disciplines share an interest in human relationships and experience, contemporary family life and family policies, ethnic diversity and race relations, poverty and social stratification, social justice and community organization. Both disciplines encourage hands-on learning through field placements, internships, and service learning projects.

Students may major or minor in either sociology or social work, or complete a double major in sociology and social work. Social work majors are encouraged to minor in sociology.

**Faculty:** Gregson, *Chair*; Ciabattari, Fieland, Keller, Leon-Guerrero, Keller, Luther, Russell (*Social Work Director*).

### SOCIOLOGY

Sociology examines the processes and structures which shape social groups of all sizes, including friends, families, workplaces, and nations. The study of sociology provides students with unique interpretive tools for understanding themselves and others in a changing world. Sociology has broad appeal to those who are interested in developing practical skills and analytical talents. Some of the practical pursuits enabled by sociological training are in the areas of program development, counseling, research, criminal justice, management, and marketing. The academic preparation is valuable to those interested in pursuing degrees in law, administration, social work, theology, or the social sciences.

The department's curriculum offers a variety of courses in sociological analysis while permitting an optional concentration in the specialized areas of family/gender or crime/deviance. The curriculum is deliberately flexible to permit students to study individual subject areas, or to pursue majors or minors in the field. Students majoring in business, nursing, education, and computer science find the sociological minor particularly useful for broadening their understanding of social rules and relationships, programs and solutions, and continuity and change.

The faculty is attentive to the individual needs of students in their efforts to provide academic excellence to a diverse student body.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

- **General Major**  
**40 semester hours, including:**
  - SOCI 101, 232, 240, 330, 496, 499
  - 12 semester hours in sociology chosen in consultation with the department
  - STAT 233 for Sociology and Social Work majors
- **Major with Concentration in Family/Gender**  
**40 semester hours including:**
  - SOCI 101, 232, 330, 440, 496, 499
  - 12 semester hours in sociology chosen in consultation with the department
  - STAT 233 for Sociology and Social Work majors
- **Major with Concentration in Crime/Deviance**  
**40 semester hours including:**
  - SOCI 101, 232, 336, 413, 496, 499
  - 12 semester hours of sociology chosen in consultation with the department
  - STAT 233 for Sociology and Social Work majors
- **Requirements for those majoring in both sociology and social work**  
**80 semester hours including:**
  - SOCW 245, 250, 350, 360, 460, 465, 475, 476, 485, 486, and 499
  - SOCI 101, 232, 496, 499

- 16 elective credits (recommended courses include: SOCI 240, 296 and 330)
- STAT 233 for Sociology and Social Work majors
- BIOL 111 and PSYC 101

### Minor

#### 20 semester hours, including:

- SOCI 101
- 16 semester hours of sociology chosen in consultation with the department
- STAT 233 may be included in the minor
- Sociology minors are required to attain a minimum grade of C- in sociology classes

#### • Continuation Policies

To remain in the major, junior and senior level students must: maintain a minimum 2.50 overall grade point average, and maintain a minimum 2.50 grade point average in sociology courses.

#### Transfer Student Policy

The department accepts, for transfer credit from another college or university, only those courses equivalent to SOCI 101 (Introduction to Sociology) and SOCI 240 (Social Problems). If students wish to have additional courses considered for transfer to either their major or minor requirements, they must first meet with the department chair. The student should bring to this initial meeting the following:

- College/university transcripts
- College catalogs
- Course syllabi and other supporting materials (from the term when the course was completed)
- Completed coursework (exams, papers)

Declared majors/minors will be required to fill out one petition per transfer course.

#### HONORS IN SOCIOLOGY

Departmental honors are awarded by vote of the sociology faculty to outstanding majors. Criteria for selection include a high grade point average, election to Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, and exceptional performance in senior seminar.

**Prerequisite Note:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor is prerequisite to all 300- and 400-level courses.

To view Sociology (SOCI) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 214.

## Social Work

Within a program that is firmly based in the liberal arts, the social work major is designed to prepare students for beginning professional social work practice. Social work has both a heavily multidisciplinary-based body of knowledge and its own continuously developing knowledge base. The complexity of social issues and social problems that confront the modern-day social worker require this broad theoretical perspective. Social

workers are involved in areas that are influenced by political, economic, social, psychological, and cultural factors. To that end, the program stresses an understanding of social science theories and methods. The curriculum provides a foundation for understanding the interaction of individual, family, and community systems, as the basis for generalist practice. Students learn a multi-method approach to social work practice that enables them to address a wide range of individual, family, group, and community needs. Students enhance their commitment to informed action to remove inequities based on race, ethnicity, culture, gender, social class, sexual orientation, disability, and age.

The social work faculty place a high value on the integration of academic and experiential learning. The program provides fieldwork experience in community settings. Social work majors have access to a rich variety of social service agencies in Tacoma and Pierce County that provide field-learning sites. Students work with experienced, caring supervisors who help make these placements valuable learning experiences. Students are prepared to work in a variety of settings, including child welfare, health, mental health, corrections, aging, and community-based agencies.

Social work majors should consult with a departmental advisor to plan their course of study. The faculty encourage students to take advantage of learning opportunities that emphasize multicultural awareness and diversity, including study abroad.

The social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

**Admission to the Social Work Program:** Students seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work must first apply and be accepted into the program. The social work program welcomes diversity and invites interest and applications from persons who seek to participate in a profession committed to helping people, now and in the future. Students may begin taking social work courses before being admitted to the program, but only admitted students are allowed to take 400-level courses. Students will be admitted to the Social Work Program for fall semester only. The priority date for applications is April 10, though applications will be accepted until available positions are filled. Enrollment is competitive based on intended graduation date.

**Admission** is determined by faculty evaluation of student applications on the basis of the following criteria:

- Transcript that documents the completion of at least 40 semester hours of prescribed course work with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. In addition, the student must show successful completion of the following prerequisites: ANTH 102 or 334, BIOL 111, PSYC 101, SOCI 101, WRIT 101, and the PLU math entrance requirement. (Note: grades below C- do not transfer);
- A personal essay which addresses (a) interest in social work as a career, (b) life experiences shaping an interest in social work, (c) professional social work goals, and (d) an evaluation of personal strengths and limitations (details may be obtained from Social Work Program);
- A summary of work and volunteer experience;

- Two letters of recommendation that evaluate and document the applicant's potential for success in social work education and practice;
- Washington State Patrol Criminal History clearance (Applicants with a criminal record will be urged to explore their prospects for registering as a counselor or later being licensed as a social worker with the State of Washington);
- Written agreement to comply with the National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics (a copy of which is available from the Social Work Program);
- Personal interview (may be requested).

Any falsification in the application for admission is grounds for dismissal from the program. Applicants who are not admitted to candidacy for the degree may reapply without prejudice.

Application materials are available directly from the Social Work Program in Xavier Hall, may be requested by calling 253.535.7294 or are available on the Social Work home page at the PLU website.

#### **Continuation Policies**

To remain in the program, a student must: 1) maintain a 2.75 grade point average in social work courses and a 2.50 overall grade point average; and 2) demonstrate behavior which is consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics and University Code of Conduct.

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS MAJOR**

##### **36 semester hours in social work, including:**

- SOCW 245, 250, 350, 360, 460, 465, 475, 476, 485, 486 and 499
- 12 semester hours in sociology, including SOCI 101, 232
- Four semester hours in elective SOCI or SOCW
- Additional requirements include : ANTH 102 or 334, BIOL 111, PSYC 101, STAT 233 (must be completed at PLU).

#### **Social Work Minor**

##### **18 semester hours including:**

- SOCW 101, (190) or 201
- Eight hours from the following: SOCW 245, 250, 350 or 360
- Four hours from the following: SOCI 232, 330, 362 or STAT 233 (Sociology)
- Two hours of SOCW 375.

To view Social Work (SOCW) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 215.

## Special Education

To view curriculum requirements, go to Department of Instructional Development and Leadership, page 65.

To view Special Education (SPED) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 217.

## Statistics

253.535.7595 (Economics, Psychology, and Sociology)  
253.535.7400 (Mathematics)

Statistics (STAT), a branch of applied mathematics, studies the methodology for the collection and analysis of data and the use of data to make inferences under conditions of uncertainty. Statistics plays a fundamental role in the social and natural sciences, as well as in business, industry, and government.

The statistics program is offered cooperatively by the Departments of Economics, Mathematics, Psychology, and Sociology. The program is administered by an Interdisciplinary Statistics Committee headed by the Statistics Program director, who is appointed by the dean of the Division of Social Sciences. The statistics minor is administered by the Department of Mathematics. Students interested in a statistics minor are encouraged to discuss course selection with a statistics faculty member from any discipline.

**Faculty:** Selected faculty from the Departments of Economics, Mathematics, Psychology, and Sociology.

#### **MINOR**

##### **16 semester hours minimum**

STAT 231 or 341

At least eight semester hours from the other statistic courses  
CSCE 120 or 144

##### **Typical Programs for a Minor**

The statistics courses chosen for a statistics minor will vary with the interests of the student. Some typical programs leading to a statistics minor are listed below:

- **For students interested in mathematics, graduate or professional work in statistics, or an actuarial career:**  
STAT 341, 342, 348  
CSCE 120 or 144
- **For students interested in economics or business:**  
STAT 231, 341  
ECON 344  
CSCE 120 or 144
- **For students interested in other social sciences:**  
STAT 233, 341  
ECON 344 or STAT 232  
(Psychology students should choose STAT 232)  
CSCE 120 or 144
- **For students interested in natural sciences:**  
STAT 341, 342, 348  
CSCE 120 or 144

To view Statistics (STAT) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 218.

## Theatre

For curriculum information, see Department of Communication and Theatre, page 46.

To view Theatre (THEA) courses, go to the PLU Directory of Approved Courses on page 219.

objectives with student experience through initial development of portfolio projects and other assignments. Not repeatable. (1)

***SOAC 495: Internship***

Provides junior-level and senior-level School of Arts and Communication students with an opportunity to apply curricular theory and practice to professional and social arenas. Students will work with the School of Arts and Communication internship coordinator to design and complete an internship, its learning goals and contract. May be repeated for credit. (1-12)

***SOAC 496: Media Lab Internship***

Junior- and senior-level students apply curricular theory and practice to professional and social arenas under the auspices of PLU's MediaLab. Students work with the SOAC coordinator to design and complete specific projects with predetermined learning goals and contracts. Course registration restricted to SOAC students who meet specific requirements. Repeatable. (1 -12)

***SOAC 499: Capstone - SR***

Capstone course for undergraduate degrees in the School of Arts and Communication (Art, Communication, Music and Theatre). Focus is on integrating student learning objectives with student experience through development and presentation of portfolio projects and other assignments. (2-4)

**Sociology (SOCI)**

***SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology – A, S2, SO***

An introduction to the discipline of sociology. Features an analysis of contemporary American society with emphasis on the interconnections of race, class, and gender. Sociological concepts include socialization, social roles, stereotypes, power, and stratification. (4)

***SOCI 232: Research Methods – S2, SO***

An overview of the methods to explore, describe, and analyze the social world. General issues in the design and implementation of research projects, as well as specific issues that arise in conducting interviews and field observations, constructing and administering surveys, analyzing existing data, and planning program evaluations. Required for junior sociology and social work majors. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101, junior status. Instructor consent is required. (4)

***SOCI 240: Social Problems – A, S2, SO***

Critical examination of poverty, discrimination, drugs, crime, homelessness, violence, and family breakdown. Course addresses contemporary social problems, an analysis of their social roots, and an evaluation of the policies designed to eradicate them. (4)

***SOCI 296: Social Stratification – S2, SO***

An examination of the forms, causes, and consequences of social stratification. The course focuses on inequality based on class, race, and gender, exploring how and why individuals have different access to society's valued resources, services, and positions, and the consequences of these opportunities (or

blocked opportunities) for different groups of people.

**Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or 240. (4)

***SOCI 326: Delinquency and Juvenile Justice***

An examination of juvenile delinquency in relation to the family, peer groups, community and institutional structure. Includes consideration of processing of the delinquent by formal agencies of control. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor. (4)

***SOCI 330: The Family***

An examination of the institution of the family from historical, multi-cultural, and contemporary perspectives, with emphasis on how families and family life are affected by social forces such as the economy, race and ethnicity, religion, and law. Topics include: relationships, love, authority, conflict, sexuality, gender issues, child rearing, communication patterns, and violence in the context of family life. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor. (4)

***SOCI 332: Race and Ethnicity - A, S1, SO***

A critical examination of racial/ethnic structures and inequalities in the United States. The course will explore the social construction of race and ethnicity, the development of racial and ethnic identities, and how race and ethnic inequalities shape social institutions, such as the economy, families, education, and politics. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor.(4)

***SOCI 336: Deviance***

A general introduction to a variety of nonconforming, usually secretive, and illegal behavior, such as corporate crime, drug dealing, prostitution, industrial spying, child abuse, and suicide, with emphasis on the conflict of values and life-experiences within a society. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor. (4)

***SOCI 343: Sociology of Health and Illness***

An examination of medicine as a social institution from historical, contemporary, and multi-cultural perspectives. Includes attention to social structural factors affecting health, illness experience, health care providers and health care systems. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or consent of instructor. (4)

***SOCI 387: Special Topics in Sociology – S2, SO***

Selected topics as announced by the department. **Prerequisite:** Departmental consent. (1-4)

***SOCI 391: Sociology of Religion – S2, SO***

An investigation of the American religious scene with particular emphasis on the new religious movements, along with attention to social settings and processes which these new religions reflect and produce. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or one religion course or consent of instructor. Cross-listed with RELI 391. (4)

***SOCI 413: Crime and Society***

An examination of criminal behavior in contemporary society in relation to social structure and the criminalization process with particular attention to the issues of race, gender, and class. **Prerequisite:** SOCI 101 or 336, or consent of instructor. (4)

***SOCI 440: Gender and Sexuality – A, S2, SO***

An analysis of sexuality and gender from individual and cultural perspectives. Gender stereotypes and socialization; transsexuality and cross-gender systems; communication and relationships; sexual attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyles; work and family issues; violence; gender stratification and feminism. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 101 or WMGS 201, or consent of instructor. Core course for Women’s and Gender Studies minors. (4)

***SOCI 491: Independent Studies***

Readings or fieldwork in specific areas or issues of sociology under supervision of a faculty member. **Prerequisite:** Departmental consent. (1–4)

***SOCI 495: Internship***

Students receive course credit for working in community organizations and integrating their experiences into an academic project. Placements are usually arranged by the student and may include the public school system, private and public social service organizations, criminal justice system agencies, local and state governmental agencies, and businesses. Departmental consent is required. (1–4)

***SOCI 496: Major Theories***

An analysis of influential sociological theories of the 19th and 20th centuries with attention to the classic theories of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber, to the recent contemporary schools, and to the underlying patterns of thought which both unite and divide the sociological tradition. Required for senior majors. **Prerequisites:** 16 hours of sociology including SOCI 101 and 232, senior status, declared major or minor. Instructor consent is required. (4)

***SOCI 499: Capstone: Senior Seminar – SR***

Students design and carry through an independent research project involving the collection of data and the analysis of findings. Students demonstrate their mastery of the field by relating their research to the existing body of sociological literature and knowledge. Required for senior majors. **Prerequisites:** SOCI 232, 496; STAT 233; senior status; declared major or minor. (4)

**Social Work (SOCW)**

***SOCW 101 (190): Introduction to Social Work – A, S2, SO***

An introduction to human need and the field of social work. Provides an overview of services, models of service delivery, and professional social work values. Students visit agency settings and meet with social work practitioners. A volunteer experience in the field is a required component of this seminar-style course. (4)

***SOCW 175: January on the Hill – A, S2, SO***

An intense experience of community work on Tacoma’s Hilltop District and/or Tacoma’s east side where students learn first hand about poverty and participate in community projects. (4)

***SOCW 245: Human Behavior and the Social Environment – S2, SO***

Examination of the biological, psychological, cultural, social, and spiritual influences on human behavior and development. Provides an ecological systems perspective for applying developmental

theory to individuals, families, groups, institutions, organizations, and communities and for understanding various systems in the context of their environment. Explores meaning and interpretation of development, family, and community from different perspectives, with an emphasis on ethnicity and gender. Studies impact of social and economic forces on individuals and systems from a global perspective. Volunteer experience is required. (4)

***SOCW 250: Social Policy I: History of Social Welfare – S2, SO***

Social policy course required of all social work majors. Exploration of interdependence of social, cultural, political, and economic factors in the history, theory, and practice of social welfare, with special reference to the development of the social work profession in response to global social problems. Examination of the relationship among the social welfare systems, the problems and issues addressed by social services, and the role of the professional social worker. The impact of political ideology and process on service delivery is also discussed. (4)

***SOCW 320: Child Welfare - A Global Perspective***

An examination of child welfare, including child abuse and neglect; child welfare services, including CPS, permanency planning, foster care, adoption; and the current status of child well-being around the world, exploring the impact on children of such issues as poverty, war, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, access to education, access to health care, care for orphans, street children. (4)

***SOCW 325: Social, Educational and Health Services in Tobago - C***

Explore strengths and needs of Tobago and effects of history and colonialism on the development of community problems. Through service learning, interaction with agency staff and community members, readings and reflections, develop an understanding of the meaning of service in another culture and deepen one’s own ethic of meaningful service. (4)

***SOCW 350: Social Policy II: Social Policy Analysis***

An in-depth examination of contemporary social welfare structure, functions, policy, and programs. Legislative process, social justice and strategies for political advocacy are discussed. An examination of the impact of administrative and organizational structures at various governmental levels on social policy implementation, especially as they affect services to vulnerable populations. Introduces students to applications of theoretical frameworks to social work policy in such areas as income maintenance, health, mental health, child welfare, and housing and homelessness in the U.S. and other countries. **Prerequisite:** SOCW 250. (4)

***SOCW 360: Social Work Practice I: Interviewing and Interpersonal Helping***

An introductory practice course that provides students with the conceptual framework of generalist social work practice. Application of the ecological systems perspective to direct practice. Provides students with the opportunity to learn intentional interviewing skills and apply those skills within various models of practice and across cultures. Assists students toward mastery in assessment, goal setting, contracting, development of intervention plans based on theory and assessment information, evaluation, and termination. Must register concurrently for lab. **Prerequisite:** SOCW 245. (4)

***SOCW 375: Social Services in the Community***

Completion of a minimum of 50 hours of work in a community setting. Through written work, students reflect on their experiences, their personal growth, and the mission of the agency. May be repeated for credit up to 2 semester hours. **Prerequisites:** SOCW 175, 245, or 360. (1)

***SOCW 387: Special Topics in Social Work***

Selected topics as announced by the department. Topics relevant to current trends and issues in the field of social work. (2-4)

***SOCW 460: Social Work Practice II: Families and Groups***

Grounded in the framework of generalist social work practice, the second social work practice course examines theoretical models and practice skills for assessment and intervention with families and groups. Emphasizes the importance of culturally sensitive practice. Explores how the meaning and definition of family differs across cultures. Introduces students to group dynamics and group development. **Prerequisites:** SOCW 245, 360. (4)

***SOCW 465: Social Work Practice III: Macropractice***

Grounded in the framework of generalist social work practice, this course develops skills for practice with groups, organizations, and communities. Emphasis on macropractice assessment, intervention, and change strategies at organizational, community, institutional and global levels. Students complete a community assessment and examine community development from a global perspective. **Prerequisites:** SOCW 245, 250, 350, 360, 460. (4)

***SOCW 475: Field Experience I***

Students are assigned to a social service agency and participate, under supervision, in the delivery of social work services.

**Prerequisites:** SOCW 245, 350, 360; to be taken concurrently with SOCW 460 and 485; requires consent of instructor. Pass/Fail. (3)

***SOCW 476: Field Experience II***

Continuation of SOCW 475. Students receive more advanced field assignments in a social service agency setting. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 465 and 486. Pass/Fail. (3)

***SOCW 485: Field Experience Seminar I***

This seminar provides students with the opportunity to learn about the intake and assessment process at various social service agencies. Students develop a plan to monitor and evaluate their practice in their field experience setting. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 475. (1)

***SOCW 486: Field Experience Seminar II***

Students learn about the strengths perspective as it relates to social work practice and present a case from their field setting. Students implement a plan evaluating their own practice and learn about the applicability of research to social work practice. Must be taken concurrently with SOCW 476. (1)

***SOCW 499: Capstone: Senior Seminar – SR***

Students examine the evolution of their own personal style of social work practice, the theories and models for practice which they have developed, the ethical and value foundation which underlies social work, and how these are integrated with their personal and professional experiences and prior coursework. The product of this final synthesis is presented to the class and is open to others within the university community. **Prerequisites:** SOCW 460 and 475. (4)

