

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Sociology program at Utah State University consists of 11 full-time faculty at the main campus in Logan. The program offers BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Sociology, and facilitates an undergraduate certificate in Law and Society and an interdisciplinary Masters of Social Science (MSS) degree. Faculty research strengths currently include Environment and Community, Demography, and States & Markets, and the program has a strong history of comparative international research and training of international students. These interests are reflected in our graduate course offerings and doctoral program specializations.

The sociology program faculty come from strong graduate programs (Wisconsin, Ohio State, Penn State, Yale, Brown, Iowa State, Utah, Washington, and Duke), and have an excellent record of peer-reviewed publishing and external grant funding. Sociology faculty have recently received major grants from USDA and NSF federal competitive grant programs, and regularly engage in applied research with local, state and federal government agencies. Most sociology faculty have partial appointments in the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, which facilitates applied social science research on topics relevant to the state and region. The Population Research Laboratory (PRL) and the Institute for Social Science Research on Natural Resources (ISSRNR) are both housed in the department and serve as research centers and hubs of graduate student activity.

In addition to world-class research and an MS/PhD graduate program that has existed since 1927, the Sociology program is committed to excellence in teaching. Currently, the Sociology program enrolls 200 undergraduate majors, 160 minors, 20 MS students, and 12 doctoral students. Our graduate students are drawn from a competitive national and international applicant pool. All sociology faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. Graduates from our program have an excellent track record of successful careers in government, research, academia and the private sector. The Sociology program also participates in instruction of a number of on-line and broadcast courses delivered to undergraduate students at regional campus locations and distance learning centers through USU's Regional Campus and Distance Education program. In addition, a recent decision to merge curricula and faculty at the College of Eastern Utah with Utah State University will soon bring two criminal justice faculty located at the CEU campus in Price and one sociology faculty member located at the CEU campus in Blanding into the department.

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Utah State University's Social Work Program is committed to excellence in teaching and research. We provide undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work. Our Logan based BSW program graduates an average of 50 students a year. We also offer our undergraduate program in southeastern Utah (Moab) and Tooele. Our Master of Social Work program is moving through the accreditation process with the Council on Social Work Education. We offer both face-to-face and distance education classes in Logan, Brigham City, Ogden, Tooele, and the Uintah Basin. In May 2010 we celebrated the graduation of our first MSW cohort – 30 full-time students (100% graduation rate). Next year (May 2011), we will be graduating 40 part-time MSW students from our four distance education sites.

The social work program is actively engaged in research at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. As part of our commitment to research, we encourage our undergraduate students to participate in the Undergraduate Student Showcase, an event that celebrates undergraduate research from all disciplines. This last year we had 23 students participate in this event. Dr. Derrik Tollefson, our MSW Coordinator, has linked our program to the Federal Title IV-E funds, which provides undergraduate and graduate student stipends and monies for research specific to child welfare activities (annually about \$500,000). As part of this grant, Dr. Tollefson has conducted research on children in both the foster care and juvenile justice system. Dr. Susan Cutler Egbert, PI of another Title IV-E funded grant, is also engaged in child welfare related research--she is evaluating strengths and gaps in support services for foster parents. Findings from these research projects have been used to improve programming that will increase permanency and well-being for children in the foster care system at the state and local levels. Drs. Kondrat and Tollefson are collaborating with the State of Utah on a SAMHA funded program that will aid the transition of youth to the adult mental health system (evaluation revenues are about \$390,000 over five years). Dr. Peak, our program director, is conducting funded research on men's health issues with a focus on improving men's education about health concerns through church-based programs. Drs. Peak and Kondrat are collaborating with the First District Court of Utah on evaluating Mental Health Courts, and co-sponsoring the first ever Intermountain West conference on Mental Health Courts. Other faculty members are conducting research on mental health, mentoring, gay and lesbian adoption, and women's issues.

ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM

The USU Anthropology Program has enjoyed tremendous success and growth in infrastructure and faculty productivity in recent years. Three anthropology faculty members have NSF-funded research programs and a fourth enjoys funding from National Geographic. Five USU anthropologists collaborated last year to win an NSF “Major Research Instrumentation Grant” that infused \$600,000 into the program and established a new, state-of-the-art geospatial lab for faculty and students. Collectively, our publication and granting record is among the strongest of any program in the college. All members of the program actively engage in research, and all are demonstrably excellent teachers, with two “Carnegie Professors of the Year” among us. We have a long tradition of incorporating our students into all facets of our research through, among other venues, one ethnographic and two archaeological field schools. For details, see <http://www.usu.edu/anthro/>.

In 2009, USU anthropologists launched a master’s program in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology and cultural resource management and created the College’s first spin-off (private) business: Utah State University Archaeological Services, Inc. (USUAS) (<http://usuas.com/>). The firm pays a 5% royalty fee to USU, 85% of which returns directly to the anthropology program. The firm also provides paid, hands-on experience to our graduate and undergraduate students. The master’s program is thriving, with our first cohort at our target number and a 33% admission rate for the 2010 class. We are conducting a feasibility study this fall to offer the nation’s first online master’s degree via RCDE, an effort spearheaded by our Brigham City-based anthropologist.

The Anthropology program has direct oversight of the USU Museum of Anthropology, currently housed in the Old Main building. In the last decade, more than \$250,000 in museum-specific granting has increased the museum’s profile, staffing and visitation numbers (13,000 annual visitor contacts) to the point that USU President Stan Albrecht pledged USU’s iconic 1919 “Art Barn” as the new home for a museum that has outgrown its space. A \$4M “Raise the Barn” fundraising campaign is at the mid-way point, launched in 2008 with a \$500,000 private gift endowing a permanent museum operating budget and to be matched with another \$500,000 pledged gift when the museum moves to the Barn in 2012. The “Raising the Barn” initiative is among USU’s top five Advancement priorities, and will be a storefront not only for Anthropology, but also for CHaSS and USU as a whole. For more information on this initiative, see <http://anthromuseum.usu.edu/>.