

Crime and Delinquency 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 concentration 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 and Delinquency
- Health and Aging
- Gender, Work and Family
- Social Inequality

Crime and Delinquency Concentration

When people read about crime in their daily newspapers or watch the television coverage on the evening news, their interest is likely to be rather general, and their understanding of crime is usually based on simplistic and preconceived ideas about crime and punishment. However, 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. Academicians, practitioners, policy makers, and legal scholars have devoted their efforts to basic questions about the nature of laws, of crime and delinquency: 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 and delinquency, 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 and delinquency 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

- SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 300: Modern Sociological Thought
SOCI 303: Social Research Methods
STAT 201 or PSCL 282 Statistics

Crime and Delinquency Concentration **requires four (4) of the following courses** **(12 credit hours)**

- SOCI 204: Criminology
SOCI 320: Delinquency and Juvenile Justice
SOCI 328: Urban Sociology
SOCI 333: Deviance
SOCI 349: Social Inequality
SOCI 360: Sociology of Law

Approved Sociology Elective: 6 credit hours

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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