Sociology, Anthropology,
and Social Work

The Juniata Advantage

- Gain experience in a multidisciplinary department: Participate in a wide array of internship, field experience, and service-learning opportunities. At Juniata, we have study abroad programs on every continent except Antarctica, all benefitting sociology, anthropology, and social work students. And speaking of social work, social work students combine their extensive field experience, with required coursework to earn a bachelor’s degree in social work (or B.S.W.), a credential that helps our graduates land professional employment quickly and pursue graduate studies with advanced standing.

- Research: Explore vital social science questions through research and, while you do, gain knowledge of research theory and methods. Research is a strong foundation for graduate school or a host of career pursuits.

- Find support: Develop collaborative working relationships with faculty, peers, and the community. Most introductory classes have fewer than 30 students, and upper-level classes have between five and 15 students.

- Experience expertise: Juniata’s social work program recently had its accreditation reaffirmed, meaning that students who graduate from our program can often complete a master’s degree in social work in one year instead of two.

Juniata’s Outcomes

From transforming a small community through social work, counseling, analysis or consulting to careers on a global scale, Juniata’s graduates in anthropology, sociology, and social work make a difference.

Our Recent Graduates

- Brendan Cohn ’14 is currently working as a community service liaison at the Prince William County, Va., Police Department.
- Catherine Friant ’15 is employed at Allegany Reproductive Health Center.
- Kelsey Morgan ’13 is currently studying anthropology at the graduate level at the University of Kentucky.
- Leo Scalia ’14 is currently employed at Mainstream Counseling where he runs an anger management group.
- Laura Whitman ’14 is a bachelor of social work (B.S.W.) graduate serving with the Brethren Volunteers.

“I like studying sociology, anthropology, and social work at Juniata because the social world is all around us and we live it everyday. Juniata’s courses create an environment for me to really think and question, while transforming me into a better person.”

—Micah Dowdy ’15

SOCIOLOGY

A Sampling of Courses

American Families
Anthropology of War and Peace
Archaeology & Human Prehistory
Child and Family Services
Cultural Ecology
Cultures of the World
Death and Dying
Gender and Society
Intro to Social Work Practice
The Life Cycle
Minority Experience
Modern Ethnography
Social Deviance
Social Welfare Policies
Wealth, Power & Society
A Social Work, Sociology and Anthropology POE Story

First, choose from three Programs of Emphasis (or POEs): sociology—to understand how social institutions like politics, economics, religion, and family shape your society and your own life experience; anthropology—to question the physical evolution of the human species, paying close attention to environmental adaptation, language, and culture, and globalizing processes as well as kinship, politics, religion, social organization, and artistic expression; or social work—to master the professional knowledge, values, and skills to empower individuals of all ages, families, groups, organizations, and communities. (You can even add a focus to your social work POE in one of three areas: justice, children and multi-generational families, or medicine and behavioral health.)

Or, blend those areas of study. No matter which POE you choose or design, pursue hands-on experience and undergraduate research in the social work, sociology, and anthropology department at Juniata, where students have interned at a broad range of organizations and conducted research on and off campus. Several have even presented their research at professional conferences, with faculty. But don’t just take our word for it.

“I enjoy studying sociology at Juniata because I am able to apply what I learned to real life settings and use my learning professionally in my internships and my work outside of class,” says Rounida Shwaish ’15. “This department has a great community with professors who are always willing to help and talk to us on an individual basis.”

Student Opportunities

Internships: Engage in experiential learning in field experiences that are tailored to your interests. In and around Huntingdon, Pa., students have enjoyed field experiences at Mainstream Counseling, the State Correctional Institution, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, the Huntingdon Office on Aging, the Youth Forestry Camp, United Way, and Axis Research. Senior social work students spend a semester interning in a professional agency.

Urban Immersion: Complement Juniata’s rural learning opportunities in social work, sociology, and anthropology with an urban experience or two. In the past five years, Juniata’s Urban Immersion has taken place in Philadelphia, Pa., Washington, D.C., and Buffalo, N.Y.

Study Abroad: Use the opportunity to study another culture for pure enjoyment or as a comparison to our own society. Many students have—and their resulting research has been intriguing.


Faculty

At Juniata, 93 percent of faculty hold the highest degree in their field. In the Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work department, 100 percent of faculty have earned a Ph.D. or an M.S.W., and they serve, first and foremost, as professors. They’re members of professional associations and two are licensed social workers. They volunteer and they’ve even been supported by the Council on Social Work Education, the Hartford Foundation, and Rotary International Foundation.

To read more about the faculty and their research, published in journals like Marriage and Family Review and American Ethnologist and independent publications like They Treated Us Just Like Indians and A Citizen’s Guide to Hate Crime in Pennsylvania, visit: www.juniata.edu/academics/departments/socio/research.php

Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Department Chair:
Susan Radis, B.S., Penn State, M.S.W., Bryn Mawr College.

Check out the sociology, anthropology, and social work department web page to explore your career path.