

Fuel innovation & collaboration

Our faculty are highly sought after in the field. To retain top talent, we want to offer research funding and grant support for our most productive faculty, fueling their discoveries and investing in their continued growth. Your gifts will also provide critical resources for faculty to conduct primary research and partner with our communities to ensure people who benefit most from our discoveries are involved from the start in shaping them.

Endowed chairs, professorships, and competitive research awards

With your support, we'll continue building one of the top sociology programs in the country. Your gifts for endowed chairs, targeted term professorships, and seed grants for innovative new research projects will help us recruit and retain field-shaping scholars.

Research and engagement grants

Our goal is to make discoveries that improve lives. Your gifts will help build bridges between campus and community.



“My research on felon voting rights has taken me and my students from the courthouse to the White House. We're seeing firsthand how knowledge of crime, law, and punishment helps us build a more just and peaceful world.”

— Christopher Uggen, Regents Professor, Distinguished McKnight Professor of Sociology and Law, and a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology

SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS The Campaign for Liberal Arts

DEPARTMENT of SOCIOLOGY CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



With research interests that span nearly every human endeavor and a foundation in both scientific and humanistic traditions, sociology has been called the “big tent” of the social sciences. At the University of Minnesota’s Department of Sociology, that description is more than a metaphor; it’s a hallmark.

We have earned our reputation as one of the nation’s top sociology programs with our expansive approach: a unique embrace of both quantitative and qualitative research methods; our commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration both within and beyond the department; our insistence on developing teachers as well as academicians; and our faculty and graduate students who thrive and excel in a flagship research university with multiple opportunities for creative collaboration.

Through these and countless other efforts, the department defines and expands the meaning of public engagement.

As scholars explore and synthesize issues that affect almost every aspect of human life, they sustain the department’s historic commitment to translating and delivering that knowledge to communities outside the University. They are providing public testimony and consultation on numerous social issues, launching initiatives like the new curriculum for Baby Boomers transitioning to retirement, and publishing *The Society Pages*, an open-access social science project that brings social science to the broader public view.

Building on our strengths

For Minnesota students and rising-star faculty, this major research university offers unlimited opportunities to explore interests and participate in research. For example, we lay claim to one of the top sociological criminology programs in the world, conducting pioneering work in areas like felon disenfranchisement, punishment and reentry, citizenship, substance use and treatment, discrimination, and domestic violence.

The University's Minnesota Population Center, one of the top population research centers in the country, is the largest distributor of census and demographic data to the academic community, serving some 600,000 researchers world-wide.

Sociology faculty not only lead the Center, but also collaborate with each other and with colleagues throughout the University, contributing their expertise in areas that include demographics and populations, migration, social and political networks, and disaster response, as well as digitizing census records from all over the world and making the data publicly accessible.

Through our partnership with the Life Course Center, scholars, practitioners, and students from all over the world come to Minnesota to study life stages from birth to death, from child well-being to mid-life health, to issues around retirement and aging.

At the University's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, sociology faculty who specialize in areas such as nationalism, racism, religious discrimination, transnational social movements, and anti-Semitism contribute their research to understand and share expertise about the causes, consequences, and prevention of mass violence and the expansion of human rights on a global scale.

This is an exciting time for our discipline, especially here in Minnesota where we view our field through a broad lens and are committed to a visible, influential, and engaging future.

Your gifts will help activate and continue our vision in the following ways.

Support graduate students

Over the past 10 years, Sociology has been able to attract a diverse and increasingly talented pool of students to our graduate program, successfully competing with top-ranked departments. A placement rate of over 90 percent for our recent PhD graduates, as well as the positions our former students have attained at many notable institutions across the country and around the globe, speak to the success of our intellectually rigorous and collegial program. With your help, we can continue to attract and retain these top-tier graduate students.

Competitive recruitment and funding packages

Your fellowship gifts will enhance our five-year funding packages and allow us to compete effectively for top-tier graduate students.

Summer fellowship support

By supporting graduate students during the summer months, you'll keep their research on track. You can also provide support for students to advance their outreach and public engagement work, building bridges between campus and community.

Building a diverse community of scholars

We've joined forces with Howard University and Morehouse and Spelman Colleges to develop intellectual exchanges and collaborative recruitment initiatives. Your gifts will expand partnerships like these to ensure we're building a diverse and inclusive community of scholars.

Support undergraduate students

Your **scholarship gifts** will help us recruit the brightest minds to Minnesota and provide critical access to experiential learning opportunities like internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad. With your help, every one of our students will chart a path to success.



"My passion for health equity combined with my internship experiences have given me the agency to bring about change for healthcare reform, minority health, engagement for LGBTQ+ communities, and workplace wellness."

— Prashasti Bhatnagar, BS, '18, sociology, with minors in neuroscience, public health, and social justice

"In today's political climate, doing research that speaks to the public is more important than ever. My research on religion and politics has been featured in The Huffington Post, The Independent, ThinkProgress, and on CNN. I'm also the editor and primary author at Sociological Images, the largest sociology blog in the country. We reach over 500,000 visitors each month and over 160,000 readers through social media."

— Evan Stewart, Ph.D. candidate, eEditor and principal author of Sociological Image

