

# **INFORMATION KIT FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS**

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
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## **SOCIOLOGY MAJOR INFORMATION KIT**

Welcome to the sociology major! This information kit provides basic information for sociology majors at St. Cloud State University. When you apply for the major, your adviser will review the topics in this information kit with you and will answer any questions that you may have. Some of the topics are dealt with in more depth on the SCSU Sociology web page ([www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc)). If you have suggestions for other topics that should be included, please pass these along to your adviser or to the department chair.

### **WHY SOCIOLOGY?**

Besides being interesting and relevant, sociology prepares you for a wide range of careers. Sociology alumni work in a variety of government, nonprofit, and business organizations. Many enter human service occupations in areas such as corrections, social welfare, and counseling. Many also obtain positions in business organizations, especially in management, human resources, and sales. Other career options include research and education positions.

Like other liberal arts disciplines, sociology provides a strong foundation in general skills such as writing, oral communication, analytical thinking, problem solving, research, and interpersonal relations. Graduates with these skills will have better opportunities for advancement within any career, and they will be better able to adapt if they later decide to change careers.

A collective resume summarizes all of the skills that an academic program provides to students. On the Sociology web page (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc>), you can find collective resumes for the Sociology major and for the Applied Sociology Concentration.

### **WHICH SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM IS BEST FOR ME?**

St. Cloud State University offers four major programs in sociology: Sociology, Concentration in Applied Sociology, Interdepartmental Sociology, and Elective Studies. The first two of these best meet the needs of most students. Interdepartmental Sociology and Elective Studies are more flexible programs that should be selected only by students with unusual needs that can't be met through the conventional majors. Because the Concentration in Applied Sociology requires an internship and several other courses that focus on the uses of sociology in career settings, this program is recommended for most students who plan to work immediately after graduation. An internship is less necessary for students who already have substantial work experience or who plan to attend graduate school immediately after graduation. These students may find the Sociology major more attractive, because it offers more flexibility in course selection.

The most important difference between the Sociology major and the Concentration in Applied Sociology is that the latter requires an internship. An internship allows you to obtain work experience that is directly related to what you will do after graduation. This sort of experience can help you tremendously in your job search.

All college graduates possess many of the skills that employers seek. A well-designed internship gives you an edge over other college graduates, because it provides an opportunity for you to use these skills in a work setting. By performing well in an internship, you can demonstrate your competence to employers. If you already have substantial work or volunteer experience that relates closely to your future career, an internship is less essential, because you will have other ways to demonstrate your competence.

Another important difference between the Applied Sociology Concentration and the regular sociology major are that the applied program is more structured. It has only 6 credits of electives, compared to 15 in the regular sociology program. The electives in the applied program also are more restricted; they must come from a group of courses that focus especially on the uses of sociology in work-related settings. The applied program also requires a course in Complex Organizations. This course is included because knowledge of organizations is useful for virtually all careers.

One final difference is that the capstone course in the regular program (Senior Seminar) is different from the one in the applied program (Introduction to Sociological Practice). Both of these courses seek to integrate what students know about sociology as they near graduation, but the capstone course in the applied program has a stronger emphasis on career preparation and the uses of sociology in work settings.

To sum up, the Applied Sociology Concentration is more structured than the regular Sociology major. Both programs share a strong theory and methods core, but the regular major allows more flexibility beyond the core. The added structure of the applied program is designed to prepare students to use sociology in career settings. The applied program is especially recommended for students who seek employment immediately after graduation and who have little work experience that relates directly to their future career. The applied program also provides good preparation for graduate study, especially for graduate programs that are applied in nature. The regular sociology program may appeal more to students who have substantial work experience, who are double majors and see their other major as more central than sociology to their career goals, or who plan to enter traditional academic graduate programs.

### **ACCREDITATION OF THE APPLIED SOCIOLOGY CONCENTRATION**

Accreditation means that a program has met the quality standards of an accrediting body. In 1998 the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology accredited the Applied Sociology Concentration. This accreditation was based upon a thorough examination of the program, including a lengthy self-study report and a site visit to St. Cloud.

The Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology accredits programs in sociological practice, applied sociology, and clinical sociology. Its accreditation standards are described on its web site ([www.sociologycommission.org](http://www.sociologycommission.org)). Among the requirements are a strong core in theory and methods, a substantial field experience component, an emphasis on the application of sociology,

and attention to ethics and professional identity. According to the Commission, these elements are essential to a quality program in sociological practice, applied sociology, or clinical sociology.

Accreditation is new in sociology. In fact, the Applied Sociology Concentration was the first program to be accredited by the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology. The accreditation of the program gives you some assurance that this is a good program. It does not mean that programs that are not accredited are not also good. The other sociology programs at St. Cloud State also have received some national recognition. These programs are not accredited, because at this time accreditation is only available for programs in sociological practice, applied sociology, or clinical sociology.

### **CHOOSING A MINOR OR SECOND MAJOR TO COMPLEMENT YOUR SOCIOLOGY MAJOR**

Because sociology majors enter a variety of occupations, there is no supporting program of study that is best for everyone. Virtually any major or minor might be a good choice for someone. Some combinations relate to a broader range of careers than others do, however. It is important to narrow down your career options early, so that you can select a supporting program of study that is well suited to your needs. For information about how to narrow your career options, visit the career page on this site or the SCSU Counseling Center.

Those who plan to attend graduate school immediately after graduation should select a minor or second major that reinforces the knowledge and skills needed for success in graduate school—such as theory, research methods, statistics, computer skills, writing skills, and relevant substantive knowledge. Many supporting programs of study offer opportunities to do this. You should assess the types of skills that are most important for the graduate program of interest to you and choose a major or minor that will help you strengthen these skills. The American Sociological Association publishes an annual guide to graduate study in sociology. A reference copy is available in the department office (SH 262). Information about graduate programs also is available on the Internet.

The selection of a supporting program of study is especially important for those who plan to work immediately after graduation. Like other liberal arts majors, a major in sociology provides you with some general skills that are useful in a variety of occupations. To some extent, for example, you will have acquired research, writing, speaking, computer, analytic, and interpersonal skills. Because these are general skills, they will improve your performance in a wide variety of jobs, giving you more flexibility than most people without a liberal arts education. Although these skills will improve your job performance once you have a job, they aren't necessarily the skills that will get you the job in the first place. For entry-level jobs employers typically look for skills and knowledge that are specific to the type of work involved. For example, a business employer may expect applicants to have some coursework or experience

in business, and a government organization may expect applicants to be familiar with social policies that relate to its work.

For this reason, it may be to your advantage to choose a minor or second major that has a narrower career focus. Some programs at SCSU emphasize policies and practices that relate to a particular type of career. Other programs provide skills that may be especially useful in certain careers. You may obtain assistance in selecting a supporting program from your adviser, from the SCSU Counseling Center, or on the Internet.

### **EMPHASIS AREAS IN THE SOCIOLOGY MAJOR**

Five substantive emphases are available to sociology majors: Deviance and Social Problems; Family, Health, and Aging; Politics, Economy, and Society; Social Psychology; and Theory and Methods. To complete an emphasis in one of these areas, you must take two courses from that area. A list of courses in each area is available in the department office (SH 262). Where appropriate, transfer, special topic, and independent study courses also may be used as emphasis courses. You will need the approval of your adviser to do this.

If you are in the regular Sociology major, you must have a substantive emphasis. You may have more than one emphasis, but only one of these will appear on your transcript. This is because the MnSCU record system is capable of recording only one emphasis or concentration in addition to the major field of study. If you are in the Applied Sociology Concentration, you may have a substantive emphasis but you are not required to. If you have an emphasis, it will not appear on your transcript due to the limitations of the MnSCU record system. As long as you fulfill the requirements for an emphasis, you may list that emphasis on your resume, even if it does not appear on your transcript.

Ideally, you should take the Senior Project (SOC 477) in conjunction with a 400-level course in your emphasis area. However, you may take the Senior Project with any 400-level course, except SOC 480 or SOC 488.

### **COURSE SEQUENCING**

In order to foster depth of learning, the core courses in the sociology program are sequenced. Following the prescribed sequence may be difficult for some students—for example, those who don't enter the sociology program until late in their junior year, or those who have had difficulty getting into lower-level courses that are prerequisites for other courses. In such cases it may be permissible to take a prerequisite course at the same time as the course for which it is a prerequisite. If you feel that you must do this, you should first ask permission from the department chair and/or the instructor of the higher-level course. Please plan ahead so that you always can take courses in the recommended order.

## **WRITING PORTFOLIO/UPPER DIVISION WRITING REQUIREMENT**

As you complete your college education, it is important that you monitor your progress toward broad career goals, such as becoming a better writer. Each paper that you write is not just a way to complete a course requirement; it also is an opportunity to improve your writing skills. Keeping a portfolio of all of your writing will make it easier for you to assess the strengths and weaknesses of your writing and to assess how much improvement you are making. You can use your portfolio to market yourself to employers and graduate programs after you graduate. It is important for you to be able to document your writing skills to employers. Keeping a writing portfolio will make it easier for you to do this.

**All sociology majors are required to keep a portfolio of their writing.** The portfolio serves as the upper-division writing requirement in sociology. To meet the upper-division writing requirement, your portfolio must include at least one paper of each of the following types: literature review, summary, analytical paper, and research report. These papers must have an average grade of at least B. By taking the core courses in any of the sociology major programs, you will have an opportunity to write papers in each of the required categories.

Ideally, your writing portfolio should contain all of the written work that you have submitted for your college courses, especially your sociology courses. Please remember to save your papers! If you turn in a paper at the end of a semester, remember to ask the professor for the paper by the beginning of the following semester. When you believe that you have satisfied the criteria listed above, ask your adviser to look at your portfolio to verify that you have met the upper-division writing requirement. It is a good idea to discuss your portfolio occasionally with your adviser, especially if you have questions or if you are having difficulty meeting the requirements.

## **DOUBLE COUNTING AND SUBSTITUTION OF COURSES**

If you have a second major or a minor that includes sociology courses, you may double count these courses in your sociology major. Sometimes you also may be able to substitute a course in your other major for a course in the sociology major. Such substitutions are allowed only when the course in your other major is very similar to the sociology course that it replaces. Methods and statistics (SOC 303 and SOC 304) are the only courses for which this is likely to be the case. For example, double majors in Sociology and Psychology may substitute the psychology statistics course (PSY 201) for SOC 304. Some other majors require a course from the Statistics department that substantially overlaps SOC 304. Sociology majors who also are majoring in Criminal Justice may substitute CJS 287 for SOC 303. All students may double count courses, but substitutions generally are allowed only if you are a double major. Your adviser must approve all substitutions.

### **PETITIONING TO ENTER A CLOSED CLASS**

Sometimes, the department is unable to offer enough sections of a course to meet demand. If a course that you need closes at registration, you may petition for permission to take it. A small number of spaces are reserved for those who fill out the petition forms. At the end of the registration period, the instructor of the class examines the petition forms and decides which students to let in. Whenever you try to register for a sociology class and find that the class is closed, you should submit a petition form. Even if you don't receive permission to enter the closed class, submitting a petition form will help the department to monitor demand for courses and plan course offerings. For example, if a large number of students petition to enter a particular course, in some cases the department may be to offer an additional section of the course.

The instructor has the final say over which students are admitted to a closed class. However, all instructors use certain criteria in making these decisions. For example, declared sociology majors and minors are given preference over intended majors or non-majors, and students that are close to graduation are given preference over those that are not. If you are denied admission to a class, remember that your odds of being admitted increase as you accumulate more credits. If you are planning to major or minor in sociology, also remember that your chances of getting into a closed class increase when you are formally admitted to the program. Please submit your major/minor application form as early as possible.

### **CAREER PREPARATION**

Although some college majors seek to prepare students for a particular career, sociology does not. Instead, liberal arts majors like sociology emphasize general skills that are useful in many occupations. Such skills include writing, oral communication, critical thinking, and interpersonal relations. When students study sociology they not only strengthen these liberal arts skills; they also develop a better understanding of human behavior, become better able to see how broader contexts shape events, and learn how to conduct and interpret research.

Broadly educated graduates who possess general skills such as these are well positioned to succeed in almost any career. They tend to advance more rapidly, because advancement depends more on ability to think, communicate, and get along with people than it does on technical know-how. Broadly educated graduates also tend to be more flexible and adaptable. A broad education provides a type of insurance, in that it makes it easier to change careers later in life.

All college majors have strengths and weaknesses. As noted above, a major strength of sociology is that it prepares you for a whole range of careers rather than any career in particular. This also is a major weakness of sociology as a major. Employers expect college graduates to have general skills, but they also expect them to have knowledge and skills specific to the job. Generally, these specifics must be obtained outside the sociology major—through minors or second majors, volunteer or part-time work, participation in organizations, and so forth. For this reason, sociology majors should think carefully and often about career preparation. They should discuss

their career plans with persons working in the career field and with their adviser on a regular basis. By devoting attention to career preparation, sociology majors can escape the limitations of the major and still reap its benefits.

For more information about careers and career preparation, see the SCSU Sociology web page (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc/>). Also take advantage of the resources of the Counseling Center and Career Services at SCSU. The Counseling Center is especially useful when you still are uncertain about which career field you want to enter. It offers career counseling as well as interest tests to help you narrow your career choice. Career Services is especially useful after you have decided upon a career direction. It offers seminars and lots of information about employers and jobs. The SCSU Sociology web page has links to the web sites of both of these offices.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Sociology majors obtain jobs in a variety of government, nonprofit, and business organizations. Many enter human service jobs in areas such as corrections, gerontology, social welfare, or counseling. Others obtain positions in business organizations, especially in management, sales, and human resources. Still others pursue careers in research, education, or other professions.

Your employment opportunities as a sociology major will depend upon which career field you seek to enter and how much attention you devote to career preparation. In general, employment opportunities for sociology majors are very good. After all, the job market for college graduates has been strong, and sociology majors have skills that employers value.

Unfortunately, many employers do not realize how well qualified you are for the positions that they have available. To reach your full potential, you must aggressively market yourself to employers. You must become familiar with their needs, and you must be able to demonstrate to them that you have the qualities that meet these needs. You should begin this process well in advance of graduation. By researching your future career in your sophomore and junior years, you can learn which skills employers look for in the college graduates that they hire. Once you know this, you can seek out activities that demonstrate your mastery of these skills. For example, if employers want people who have good leadership skills, you could obtain a leadership position in a student organization and successfully complete a project. If employers want people with good research skills, you could look for opportunities to assist in or conduct research in your classes or in organizations such as the St. Cloud State Survey. If you take the time to do this, you will have a strong resume by the time you graduate.

Although the job market for sociology majors is generally strong, demand and salaries are higher in some career fields than others. For example, SCSU sociology majors who have combined sociology with a second major or minor in a more technical field, such as computer science or statistics, have had a great deal of success. Graduates of technical programs often have weaker communication and interpersonal skills than do sociology majors. People who are strong in both areas are very marketable. A person with a sociology major alone, however, would have

difficulty obtaining an entry-level job in these areas. This again shows why it is important to devote some attention to career preparation well before graduation. Your career opportunities will depend upon your minor or second major. If you know what kinds of credentials employers expect, you can make sure that you choose a supporting program of study that gives you these credentials.

When you become a sociology major, your adviser will provide you with a copy of *Careers in Sociology*, published by the American Sociological Association. This brochure describes career opportunities in sociology at the BA, MA, and PhD level, and it provides profiles of sociologists who are working in several types of careers. You can find additional information about careers on the SCSU Sociology web page ([www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc)).

### **SOCIOLOGY INTERNSHIPS**

An internship is a supervised and planned learning-work experience for credit. Internship sites and duties are negotiated among the student, the sociology internship coordinator, and the field supervisor. A learning contract will specify your work responsibilities and your learning goals (skills, knowledge, and application of sociology) for the internship.

The internship program in Sociology at St. Cloud State University has been in existence for over two decades and has come to be recognized as very high in quality. When it announced the accreditation of SCSU's Applied Sociology program, the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology said that the internship program at SCSU was "a model to be emulated."

Internships are important for two major reasons. First, an internship will help you to connect sociology with your future career. As a sociology major you probably believe that you will use sociology in your future career, but you probably won't really understand how this is true until you work in the career. An internship allows you to do this in a supervised setting while you are still in school. Second, an internship will help you find a better job when you graduate. Internships provide you with work experience and personal contacts that will be assets to you when you look for an entry-level job. In recent years about 50% of the students who completed internships have been offered full, part-time, or temporary jobs at their internship sites. Many others found jobs in related organizations. If you take your internship during your last semester in school, you will be eligible for jobs that open up during your internship.

You should start thinking about your internship during your sophomore or junior year and discuss your interests with your adviser and the faculty internship coordinator (currently Tracy Ore). You might consider doing volunteer work first to check out an organization or interest area. Leads from friends, family, and instructors may be helpful, but keep in mind that your friend's successful internship may not be the right experience for you. One of the best ways to identify potential internship sites is to conduct informational interviews with people who are working in jobs that interest you. Through such interviews you can learn about the occupation, typical career paths, and types of organizations. In addition, you will establish personal contacts

with people who may be able to give you leads about openings in their organization or in the organizations of other people that they know. Additional information about internship opportunities may be available on the bulletin board outside of SH 262 or from the Career Services Office in the Administrative Services Building.

A list of places where sociology students have completed internships is available in the department office or on the Sociology web page ([www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~soc)). Internship duties have focused on many areas, including corrections, market research, advocacy, program administration, human resources, and management training. Some students have been asked to develop research projects, such as a survey of older persons' satisfaction with nutrition programs or needs assessments. A recent intern worked to develop a new program on educating the public about Medicare fraud.

Students in the Applied Sociology Concentration must complete at least six semester hours of internship, but you may take up to 15 credits. You may have a wider range of opportunities available to you if you are willing to take more credits. The organization at which you do your internship must train you. The more hours that you can devote to your internship, the more return the organization gets for this training.

It is important that you explore several possibilities before committing to an organization. Finding an internship is similar to looking for a job. You want to make the best match in order to maximize your learning. A good internship experience can help you assess your strengths and how they fit with future employment settings. You will want to consider an internship with an organization that is compatible with your own values, personal growth, and career interests. It is important that you look at several possibilities to make the best match between your interests and the goals of the organization.

## **GRADUATE STUDY**

Compared to bachelor's level sociologists, people with master's or PhD degrees in sociology tend to work in higher-level occupations that are most closely related to sociology. A graduate-level degree is needed for entry into certain careers, such as college teaching and high-level research positions. Although teaching and research are the most common areas of employment for sociologists with master's and PhD degrees, many also are employed in administration, policy analysis, organizational consulting, planning, marketing, and related careers.

A bachelor's degree in sociology provides good preparation not only for graduate study in sociology, but also for graduate programs in social work, business administration, law, and various therapeutic and health professions. Many graduate programs that are interdisciplinary in nature contain a strong sociological foundation. One such program at St. Cloud State University is the master's program in Social Responsibility. For more information about this program, see the program's web site ([www.stcloudstate.edu/socresp](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/socresp)).

Any of the undergraduate programs in sociology at SCSU can provide good preparation for graduate school. If you plan to enter a graduate program that emphasizes sociological practice, you should strongly consider the Applied Sociology concentration. If you plan to enter a more traditional academic sociology program, the regular sociology major offers you more flexibility to take elective courses. Whichever program you choose, you should seek out courses that will provide a good foundation for graduate school. In general, this means courses that emphasize theory and methods and that offer opportunities to write papers and participate in research or other projects.

The American Sociological Association publishes an annual Guide to Graduate Departments in Sociology. A copy of the most recent volume is kept in the department office. This copy is available for your use, but you may not remove it from the office. The ASA also has an honors program that provides an excellent opportunity for sociology students to network with other students, as well as established sociologists. If you have a good grade point average and are interested in graduate study in sociology, you should check out this program. You can learn more about it on the ASA's web page ([www.asa.net](http://www.asa.net)). Other sources of information about graduate programs in sociology include your adviser, other sociology faculty, and the SCSU sociology web page ([www.stcloudstate.edu](http://www.stcloudstate.edu)).

### **APPLIED SOCIOLOGY APPLICATION FORM**

To be admitted to the Applied Sociology Concentration, you must complete an application form for the program, in addition to the major-minor application form. Application forms are available in the department office (SH 262). The application form asks you to identify your academic and career goals. An overall grade point average of 2.5 is required for admission to the Applied Sociology program. If your grade point average is lower than 2.5, you may explain on the application form why you believe that you should be admitted to the program.

When you have completed the application form, you will meet with the Director of the Applied Sociology Concentration to discuss your responses. If you have done a good job outlining your goals, your goals are compatible with the Applied Sociology program, and you have an acceptable grade point average, you will be admitted to the program.

After you are admitted to the program, the Director of the Applied Sociology Concentration will consult with the department chair to determine who your adviser will be. If you have a preference for a certain adviser, your request will be taken into consideration. In your first meeting, you will discuss with your adviser the goals that you listed on the Applied Sociology application form. As you progress through the program, your goals may change or become more focused. You should discuss these changes with your adviser.

## **YOUR SOCIOLOGY ADVISER**

General education adviser – Sociology adviser can help you select sociology courses to take early in the program, as well as offer advice on minors and on what general education courses to take. For questions about general education requirements, it is best to check with the Advising Center in Centennial Hall. No SOC adviser – come to SH 262 and ask to see the Director of the Sociology Program or any sociology faculty member.

When you first enroll at St. Cloud State University, if you indicate an interest in Sociology as a major, there is a good chance that a faculty member in Sociology will be assigned as your adviser. If you do not have a Sociology adviser but would like one, it is possible to change your adviser. For assistance with this, please contact the Office Manager for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in SH 262. By about the middle of your sophomore year, you should formally declare Sociology as your major.

When you complete the paperwork for the Sociology major, the person who signs your form will be your Sociology adviser. This may or not be the same person who was your adviser before you declared your major. Before applying for the major, it is a good idea to clarify your general education status with the Advising Center. The Advising Center can examine your transcript and determine whether you have completed the General Education requirements and, if not, which courses you still have to take. Your Sociology adviser can help you fill out the rest of the form.

Form includes space for major, minor, gen ed, university electives. Forms vary by program. Forms available in the department office. Need to decide which program. See section of Handbook on this and/or see adviser or Director of Sociology Program.

To formally apply for the major, you must have a Sociology adviser. There are two ways to obtain an adviser. (1) You may ask a faculty member to be your adviser. Your request is more likely to be honored if the faculty member has interests similar to yours and does not already have a large number of advisees. (2) The department chair may assign an adviser, based upon your interests and faculty advising loads. If your interests change, or if you just become dissatisfied with your adviser, you can request a change from the department chair.

Once you are admitted to the major, your adviser can help you in several ways. Your adviser can help you to reach your academic goals—for example, by reviewing your writing portfolio and offering feedback on your progress, or by helping you prepare for your senior project. Your adviser also can help you with career development by providing you with guidance about programs of study, writing letters of recommendation for you, critiquing your resume, and providing assistance in career preparation and job-seeking. Finally, your adviser can help you by advocating for you in matters related to the sociology program. Don't overlook this important resource. It is your responsibility to initiate contact with your adviser. You should meet with your adviser about twice per year.

## **SOCIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS**

The following scholarships for sociology majors and minors are available annually:

- Herbert Goodrich Scholarship. Two or three scholarships of \$250 are awarded. At least one of these will go to a senior, and at least one will go to a junior. To qualify, you must be a declared sociology major with at least 15 semester credits in sociology and a grade point average of at least 3.5 overall and 3.7 in sociology.
- H. P. Lohrman Scholarship. One scholarship of \$250 is awarded to a junior or senior, based primarily on academic achievement. To qualify, you must be a declared sociology major.
- Arvid Hansen Scholarship. One or two scholarships totaling \$500 go to juniors or seniors who demonstrate financial need. To qualify, you must be a declared sociology or criminal justice major and have a GPA of at least 3.0.
- Sociology Paper Award. One scholarship of \$150 goes to the student who submits the best sociological paper. To qualify, you must be a declared sociology major or minor.
- Sociology Achievement Award. One scholarship of \$150 goes to the student who makes the strongest contributions to sociology outside of the classroom. To qualify, you must be a declared sociology major.

Not all scholarships are awarded every year. Application forms and further information about scholarships are available in Stewart Hall 262, beginning in about early March each year. Application forms for the Arvid Hansen Scholarship also are available in the Criminal Justice Office in Stewart Hall 257. To be considered for a scholarship, you must fill out an application form. The deadline for submitting applications is in late March or early April. Normally, scholarship checks are distributed at the annual Awards Banquet in April. Scholarship winners are expected to attend the banquet; they receive their meals free.

## **THE SOCIOLOGY CLUB**

The Sociology Club engages in activities related to sociology that promote the welfare of its members, the Sociology program at SCSU, the St. Cloud community, and the larger society. Specific activities vary from year to year, depending upon the interests of members. Activities in recent years have included peer advising, speakers, banquets, potlucks, social events, and social change efforts.

Participating in the Sociology Club will not only help you learn about sociology, it will also help prepare you for the future. Merely belonging to the Sociology Club may lead employers to see you in a more favorable light, because it shows that you are at least somewhat involved in extracurricular activities. However, you will benefit much more from active participation. Very active members have an opportunity to gain experience in planning, organizing, and leadership. This experience can help you to land jobs after graduation. The successful projects that you undertake in the Sociology Club can be presented as evidence to employers that you have the skills that they seek. Active members are also more likely to form relationships with other students and alumni that will be of benefit both before and after graduation.

Your participation in the Sociology Club also can help to create a better university and a better community. As you know, most social problems are deeply rooted in the social conditions that sociologists study. A good way to learn sociology is to use it to promote positive social change. Over the years, the Sociology Club has been involved in several social change efforts. To be effective in such efforts, however, the Club needs a large membership base. Your involvement in the Sociology Club will make it a more effective organization, whether the task is promoting social change or promoting the career development of sociology majors.