Sociology is the study of individuals, cultures, and groups. We study the social characteristics of individuals, the power dynamics that emerge, inequality among members, and how groups, institutions, and societies change over time. Sociology at RU focuses on Applied Sociology, a field that provides high-demand skills and training for successful careers in a diverse and global society. Sociologists produce knowledge that is useful to organizations, businesses, and communities in their efforts to build programs, make decisions, assess actions, and solve problems. Through our Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) and our required practice experience students have the opportunity to apply what they learn in classes and to gain research skills and experience.

### Undergraduate Program

The Department of Sociology promotes a challenging atmosphere in which students are encouraged to recognize, understand, and think critically about social processes, issues, and cultural diversity. Sociology at RU teaches students how to gather, analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.

We teach from the philosophy that active engagement in real-world research enhances employment opportunities and opens doors to graduate school. Sociology at RU is dedicated to graduating practitioners able to infuse their research with an understanding of the complexities of social issues. Leaders of the 21st century will possess the ability to synthesize seemingly disparate ideas and information, see relationships and patterns in that material, and bring meaning to observations. Sociology at RU teaches these skills.

### Bachelor’s Degree Requirements

The department offers the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree program in Sociology.

#### B.A. (Bachelor of Arts)

120 hours
The B.A. program consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six to eight hours of study in one foreign language, and 36 hours in required Sociology coursework.

#### B.S. (Bachelor of Science)

120 hours
The B.S. degree consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six to eight hours of additional coursework from a selection of approved courses, and 36 hours in required Sociology coursework.

### Required Sociology Coursework

36 Hours

- SOCY110. Introduction to Sociology
- SOCY250. Social Inequality.
- SOCY365. Society and Individual.
- SOCY480. Survey Research Methods.
- SOCY497. Senior Seminar

and

15 credits in Sociology Electives with four courses at the 300-400 level to focus your area of expertise. Three hours must be an internship or applied sociology experience selected in consultation with your advisor. See Catalog for details.
Sociology Faculty

- Dr. Jeanne Mekolichick, Professor, Department Chair & CSCR Director, Sociologist, jmekolic@radford.edu
- Dr. Carla Corroto, Assistant Professor, Sociologist, ccorroto@radford.edu
- Dr. Lawrence Eppard, Assistant Professor, Sociologist, lmeppard@radford.edu
- Dr. Joanna Hunter, Assistant Professor, Sociologist, jhunter35@radford.edu
- Dr. Mary B. LaLone, Professor, Cultural Anthropologist, mlalone@radford.edu
- Dr. Elizabeth Lyman, Associate Professor, Internship Coordinator Sociologist, elyman@radford.edu
- Dr. Mary B. LaLone, Professor, Cultural Anthropologist, mlalone@radford.edu
- Dr. E. Roby Page, Assistant Professor, Sociologist, erpage@radford.edu
- Dr. Melinda Wagner, Professor, Cultural Anthropologist, mwagner@radford.edu
- Dr. Allison Wisecup, Assistant Professor, Sociologist, awisecup@radford.edu

RU Alumni Profiles

They [the folks at RTI, International] were all incredibly impressed by the amount of experience that I had in the CSCR and on my own project. Nearly everyone that interviewed me said that we must have a phenomenal department (which we do)!

-Caitie Hennessy, class of 2011, Public Health Analyst, RTI International

I feel like I had the upper hand in my graduate classes because of my coursework in Sociology at RU

-Amy Dove, class of 2011, Counselor Education Masters student at Virginia Tech

You have faculty really willing to help you and build your skills. I had the opportunity to do my own research as part of the major; other students don’t have that opportunity.

-Aysha Bodenhammer, class of 2010, Sociology Ph.D. student at NC State

Internship Opportunities

Students are required to participate in an applied Sociology experience. Recent placements for internships include:

- Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley
- National Opinion Research Center
- US Patent and Trademark Office
- Boys & Girls Clubs SW Virginia
- AFLAC
- New River Community Services
- RU SustainABILITY Office
- Center for Survey Research at Virginia Tech

The RU Sociology Club is open to all students, a Sociology major or minor is not required. Club members participate in field trips and social activities as well as attend conferences and guest lectures.

Faculty-Student Research

Students are encouraged to get involved in collaborative research with faculty and the community through the Center for Social and Cultural Research. Recent projects include:

- Center for Family Health, Inc. Needs Assessment Project
- New River Fitness Client Satisfaction Survey
- RU Office of SustainABILITY, Campus Carbon Footprint Survey
- Wilderness Road Museum
- Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley, Program Evaluation

Careers in Sociology

Sociology is a cutting-edge discipline. Organizational leaders depend on survey data and statistical analysis for making sound decisions. Equally important, workplaces are culturally diverse settings serving a clientele with varied and multiple needs. In our data-driven and globalized world, Sociology is a high demand career field. Careers of recent graduates include:

- Survey Researcher
- Research Assistant/ Data Analyst
- University Admissions Counselor
- Human Resource Assistant
- Market Researcher
- Recruiter
- Community Development/Urban Planner
- Environmental Specialist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Graduate student in Sociology

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