**The Department of Sociology**

**Mission Statement**

**Revised 8.22.13**

The Department of Sociology is committed to providing students with the breadth and depth of knowledge that should be the hallmark of a Radford University graduate. A central part of our mission is to provide opportunities for students to apply their skills.

Sociology faculty promote a challenging atmosphere in which students are encouraged to recognize, understand, and think critically about social processes, social issues, and cultural diversity. Through exposure to the intellectual tools of Sociology and Cultural Anthropology, the department fosters the development of four vital skills: the ability to think logically and critically about U.S. and global forces that shape human experience; the ability to develop, organize, and communicate ideas, orally, visually, and in writing; the ability to gather, analyze, and interpret qualitative and quantitative data; the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real-world problems and issues.

We strongly believe that active engagement in research projects builds students’ curiosity, confidence, and professional identity. Through research-in-service, internships, and applied courses, we encourage our majors to hone their skills while realizing the value of their skills in the wider world. We teach from the philosophy that active engagement in research enhances employment opportunities, opens doors to graduate school after Radford, and prepares students for a lifetime of civic engagement.