Concentrations in Sociology

Students majoring in Sociology have the option of either selecting one of 4 concentrations areas, or majoring in Sociology without choosing a concentration. The concentration consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours, or 4 courses. The 4 concentrations are:

- Crime and Delinquency
- Health and Aging
- Gender, Work and Family
- Social Inequality

Gender, Work and Family Concentration

Traditionally, work and family were considered separate spheres, with individuals maintaining a distinction between responsibilities to their employees and to family members. During the past several decades, however, changes in both families and the economy have encouraged sociologists to address the permeable boundaries between these two institutions. This concentration provides an opportunity for students to explore these changes and understand their consequences for women and for men. How have downsizing, declining wages and increasing work hours impacted the increasing number of one-parent and dual-earner families? How does location in the occupational structure affect the strategies available to families providing care to young, elderly or disabled family members? How do couples negotiate the division of household labor? The courses in this concentration challenge assumptions that balancing work and family obligations are individual responsibilities. Instead, attention is directed to the hidden assumptions in paid work and to the imbalance between market and non-market activities. Students will also explore the ways in which gender structures our experience of work and family in different ways depending on our racial or ethnic background, our social class, our age and our sexual orientation.