Sociology Department

Portrait of the Major
Sociology is the social science that focuses on the behavior of social groups and social organizations in society. All that humans create can be studied by sociologists, such as social stratification, art, music, film, marriage and family, community, urbanization, deviance, criminology and social movements.

Curriculum Highlights
The Department of Sociology offers two degree programs: sociology and criminal justice studies. Many students choose to double major in these programs, which are complementary and share foundational coursework. As a sociology major, you'll learn to convey basic knowledge of human societies and social relations leading to the development of a perspective for understanding and appreciating the diversity and potential of human cultures and develop skills in collecting and analyzing social data, in speaking and writing clearly and effectively and in thinking logically and critically.

Special Features
By studying sociology and/or criminal justice studies at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:
• Experience a diverse faculty—our faculty members are passionate about a vast array of sociology specializations: from law to victimology and film analysis to gender and race and ethnicity to urban and rural sociology and globalization—and everything in between!
• Receive personal attention—thanks to our small class sizes, students and faculty get to know each other well. Faculty members are able to assess your strengths and weaknesses and help you select a viable career or further educational options.
• Engage in practical experiences—we emphasize internships to our students as a vital way to enhance your education and to prepare you for a career. The interplay between theory and practice is important in understanding how the classroom relates to the real world. All of our students take a professional seminar that helps get them prepared for future careers.
• Benefit from unique support services—our faculty is willing to help you and is available to meet with you to discuss academic and career issues.

Career and Graduate School Outlook
As a sociology major, you will be prepared for graduate study in sociology, social work or a related field or employment in the social services. As a criminal justice studies major, you will be prepared for graduate study in criminal justice, criminology, law or social work or employment in law enforcement or corrections. Our students leave Thiel well prepared to enter the workforce and students often find jobs in social service occupations, law enforcement, corrections and graduate study in counseling, law, social work, sociology and criminal justice.

Contact Information
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“Thiel College is small enough that you can know or recognize everyone, but large enough to offer a variety of activities and academics. The ‘one on one’ with my professors made all the difference! I was exposed to a large variety of subjects, which allowed me to have a well-rounded education and to keep an open mind. All of my jobs have been in sociology and education.”

Amy Tua ’90, adoption caseworker
Allegheny County Children, Youth and Family Services, Harmony, Pa.
Major: Sociology
Clubs and Activities: Forensics and International Students Organization

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Jane E. Cullen Marsteller ’77, family adviser
Major: Sociology
Minor: Elementary Education
Clubs and Activities: Thiel Players and Bible study

Jerome Von Young II ’07, deputy sheriff
Cobb County Sheriff’s Office, Lawrenceville, Ga.
Major: Criminal Justice Studies
Clubs and Activities: Football

“I majored in Criminal Justice Studies. Normally, one wouldn’t need a college degree to join law enforcement outside of the federal level. I see firsthand that my degree will help me become a supervisor because most other candidates do not have the background in white collar crime, deviance and sociology that Thiel gave me. Thiel’s liberal arts education taught me to think differently. That’s the biggest benefit you will gain from Thiel College. I had such a closed minded view on important topics—the different views from people from all over the world found at Thiel will quickly have you questioning your old ways of thinking.”

Go to www.thiel.edu/visit
and schedule your individual academic visit today!