

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." ~ Plutarch

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Sociology Source

Department of Sociology and Criminology, The College of the Liberal Arts

The new academic year begins

Welcome to the exciting start of the 2013–2014 academic year at Penn State! We hope you have enjoyed your summer and that you are looking forward to the new classes, new experiences, and new connections that the coming semester holds. Please take a few minutes to read through the Sociology Source—it contains important updates and information related to advising, academics, enrichment, and extra-curricular opportunities. You should receive a total of four newsletters during the fall and spring semesters via e-mail—please let us know if you don't.



ATTENTION:

We will hold only drop-in hours August 26th through September 4th for drop/add concerns. Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please note:

During the first two weeks of the semester, we see a much higher volume of students. With that in mind, please request help with your most pressing concerns and try to remember that other students are also waiting for help. If you have other items to discuss that can wait until later in the semester, please plan to stop back in after the first two weeks. We will return phone calls and e-mails as soon as possible—please understand that the response time may be longer than usual. Remember: Students who are waiting in line will receive first priority, and we respond to voice mail and e-mail messages as time permits. If you need more immediate attention, the best way to connect with us is to stop by the Advising Offices.

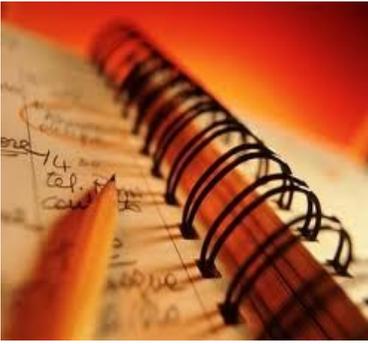
During the first two frantic weeks of the semester, these are the kinds of things we're happy to discuss with you:

- Dropping and adding classes on your fall schedule
• Graduation checks for seniors who plan to graduate in the fall semester
• Emergency situations regarding classes and scheduling
• Questions about particular courses and degree requirements

Some things we typically don't handle during this busy time of the semester are:

- Class schedules for the upcoming semester (unless you're scheduled to register during the first two weeks of the current semester)
• Résumé proofing and editing
• Long-range planning
• Letters of recommendation
• Study abroad plans, change of majors and concurrent majors
• Internship planning for future semesters
• Career concerns

While these advising items are very important, they aren't necessarily time-sensitive, so we ask that you return after the initial two weeks to seek assistance with them.



Advising Clipboard: Scheduling Appointments

You are able to schedule an appointment and see our calendars by visiting the following Web site: www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/

- Click on "Appointments"
- Register

Your username and password do not need to be the same as your Penn State account. Remember to write both down and keep them in a safe place for the next time you want to schedule an appointment.

Appointments are meant for issues that you know will take longer than 10 or 15 minutes. Examples of topics that could be covered in an appointment include:

- Change of major or concurrent major paperwork
- Long-range planning
- Study abroad plans
- Major/career exploration
- Class schedules for the upcoming semester
- Other topics that you want to discuss in detail and would like a designated time to do so

A few important points:

- Appointments are made in ½ hour blocks.
- If you are assigned a specific adviser, you must schedule an appointment with that adviser. You can see any adviser during drop-in advising hours.

FALL ADVISING HOURS

(Beginning Sept. 6th):

DROP-IN HOURS:

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY:

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**ALL OTHER ADVISING BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY**



**The following
SOC courses
are still open:**

005

012

023

110

119

400W

428H

470

Additional Notes:

*SOC 207 and SOC 470 **must** be completed with a "C" or better before a student is permitted to take SOC 400W. This is a **firm** departmental policy.

Scheduling News

Drop until September 4th at Midnight

Drop classes from your schedule without using your late drop credits

Add until September 5th at 8 AM

Add classes to your schedule without paying a late-add fee

September 6th

Marks the beginning of the late drop period. A \$6.00 late fee is assessed EACH time you make changes to your schedule.

September 6–November 15

Dropping any course from your fall schedule involves using your late-drop credits.



Dropping/Adding

If you are planning to re-arrange your schedule, please note that you can drop and add classes in several ways during the first few days of the semester:

- Adjust your schedule online at <http://elion.psu.edu>
- Complete a drop/add slip in the Advising Offices (315, 316, and 317 Oswald)
- Complete a drop/add slip in the Registrar's Office

Internship Central

Spring Internship Information

If you are considering a spring internship, the internship dates are planned for **January 13–May 2, 2014**. Following are key deadline dates:

- September 23** Indicate your intent to complete an internship by this date and send an e-mail to sociology@la.psu.edu to let the SOC department know your plans.
- October 25** Letters must be sent to three possible internship sites by this date. Send an e-mail to sociology@la.psu.edu with the names of the three sites.
- November 22** Placements should be finalized by this date. Send an e-mail to Cynthia Meyers at cab408@psu.edu with your internship site placement. At that point, you will receive instructions on how to proceed. We will also be in contact with your internship site regarding next steps and instructions about your internship duties/activities. For more information about the internship process, take a look at this section of the departmental Web site: <http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships>. Cynthia Meyers (cab408@psu.edu) is the internship coordinator. Karen, Kristie, and Julie are available to discuss the internship process, how an internship fits into your academic plan, potential sites, and your questions about internships.

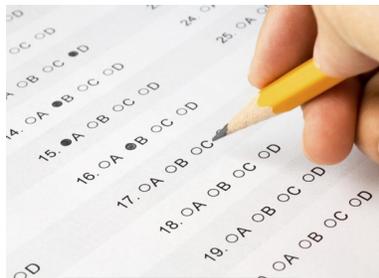


Faculty Changes

We would like to welcome two new Sociology faculty members, **Dr. Corina Graif** and **Dr. Nancy Luke**. Dr. Graif received her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her research interests include urban inequality, neighborhood effects and mobility, population health, crime and justice. Dr. Luke received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of interest are social demography, social and economic exchange, family and gender, sexual, reproductive and child health, migration and remittances, and Africa and South Asia. We are happy to have both of you with us and look forward to meeting you! In other faculty news, Dr. Eric Silver has stepped into the role of Associate Dean for Research, while Dr. Jeffrey Ulmer is transitioning into the Associate Department Head position. Dr. Ulmer will no longer be serving as the honors adviser for SOC students. Dr. Stacy Silver will now be serving as the SOC honors adviser. We thank Dr. Silver and Dr. Ulmer for their hard work and congratulate them on their new positions.

GRE Registration

Wondering when to take the GRE? The GRE exam is offered via computer at various computer centers on a first-come, first-served basis. Since the GRE is now a computer-based exam, if you don't do well the first time, you can retake the exam within a month of your first exam. Visit the GRE Web site at www.ets.org/gre for more information or call 1-800-GRE-CALL to register.



Law School

Considering law school? The Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) in the process of hiring a new Pre-Law Coordinator who will be located in Grange Building. Stay tuned for information and updates on this, as it would be worth a visit to a group advising session or in person if you are interested in pursuing a career in law!

In the meantime, visit <http://dus.psu.edu/students/prelaw/> for Pre-Law information including LSAT prep courses, law school resources, and other upcoming events. Also check out www.lsac.org to get more information regarding law school.

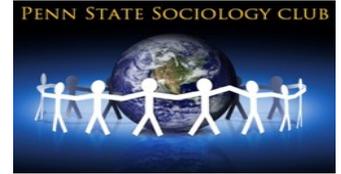


Get Involved!

The Sociology Club

The purpose of the Sociology Club is to better serve our students and the club focuses on perennial questions asked by sociology majors including:

- What can I do with a sociology degree when I graduate?
- How do I get into graduate school?
- What do graduate students think about graduate school?
- What can I do to make myself more marketable after graduation?
- Where can I find a forum to interact and make friends with other sociology students?



What kinds of volunteer and service activities will help me get a job and can the club provide them?

The club sponsors faculty-student mixers, reviews films, raises money for THON, and participates in a Careers in Sociology evening and a Graduate School night. If you would like more information, please contact **Dr. Stacy Silver** (sjr11@psu.edu), faculty adviser.

Alpha Kappa Delta

Sociology majors and minors can strive for membership in the Penn State chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society. To be eligible for membership, majors/minors must be a junior or senior with an overall grade point average of 3.00 as well as a 3.00 grade point average in the sociology major or minor. Qualified applicants must also have completed four sociology courses. Application forms for Alpha Kappa Delta are available outside of 315 Oswald Tower. For more information, please contact **Dr. Stacy Silver** (sjr11@psu.edu), faculty adviser.

Faculty/Staff Fun Fact Did you know.....?

Cynthia Meyers is the new Undergraduate Studies Administrative Assistant in the Sociology and Criminology Department. Her roles include internship coordinator, drop/adds, helping to maintain the department website and Facebook page, Sociology minor help, and graduation checks. She has been working at Penn State since 2009. Cynthia graduated from Penn State in 2006 with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies and spent 5 years working with children until taking this position. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their dog. Cynthia enjoys running, riding bike, antique and thrift shopping, and reading.

Congratulations to all our students who made the Dean's List for spring 2013 semester.! Way to go.! We've posted the names of these students on the bulletin boards by the third floor elevators. We're proud of all of you.



Information for Graduating Seniors



If you are planning to graduate in December, you will need to activate your intent to graduate by **September 9, 2013**. Activating your intent to graduate is easy, simply log on to eLion at www.elion.psu.edu and follow the listed steps. If you don't activate your intent, no one at the University will have any idea that you're planning to graduate—which means we won't review your degree audit, the Dean's Office won't certify you for graduation, and the Registrar's Office won't print a diploma for you. If you miss the deadline date, please contact the Advising Offices at 865-2217 as soon as possible. Fall commencement will be held **Saturday, December 21, 2013** at 12:30 p.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center.

So, you've activated your intent to graduate, but what's the next step? What kinds of things should you be doing? After surveying graduating seniors from spring and summer 2013, we found the overarching words of advice were to **START EARLY** in terms of looking for post-graduation opportunities. Below are some helpful ways to start the process. However, we would encourage you to check out the "What Happens Post-PSU? Planning for Life After Penn State" handout that we advisers put together based on feedback from graduating seniors. Resources about student debt, budgeting, transitioning from student to professional life, job searching, and more are discussed. You can ask your adviser for a copy or check the CRIM/SOC website under the "Career and Professional Development" section.

Other Things You Can Do!

- Go to 111 Bank of America Career Services Building and pick up a Placement Manual.
- Attend the free seminars offered by Career Services that deal with interviewing, résumé writing, and searching the Web for job opportunities.
- Draft a résumé and either upload it for review using the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network Symplicity system (<https://la-psu-csm.symplicity.com/students/>) or to a Career Services counselor for review. Feel free to ask Julie, Karen, or Kristie to review your résumé as well.
- Chat with alumni via LionLink (<http://www.psualumcareer.com/career>); this is a great networking resource.
- Participate in campus events with alumni.
- Make sure that everyone in your network of friends, relatives, and acquaintances knows that you are actively looking for a job.
- Consider ways to expand your network.
- Visit <http://commencement.psu.edu/> for commencement ceremony details.

CAREER NEWS

The People to People Fair is an annual event held on campus geared towards the career interests of many of our students in sociology and many other majors. The event has been very well attended by both our employers and students and we hope you'll continue the trend. This Career Fair includes many employers representing service oriented careers, which we feel will meet the needs of our students! This year's People to People Fair will be held this spring at the Bryce Jordan Center. We will be sending more information to you as the date approaches. Stay Tuned!

Student Spotlight: SOC STUDENT INTERNSHIPS!

Sociology students are qualified to pursue numerous careers, particularly within human and social services. The opportunity to explore multiple career paths is wonderful because there is flexibility to really find a niche within the field. At the same time, it can sometimes be difficult to choose on one particular path. That is why completing an internship can be such a valuable experience for students. It can help validate student interests, provide a direction for the future, allows a chance to apply classroom knowledge in a professional setting, affords networking opportunities, and more. In order to illustrate the diverse internships in which Sociology majors are participating, we would like to highlight a few from summer and fall.

This summer, there were students completing internship programs in the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, Lancaster County Probation and Parole, and the Peacemaker Center, which provides counseling and social services to people in need. This fall, students are receiving credit for working in child advocacy and at the Community Help Centre. While all align with a SOC major's skill set, each internship experience is very different. We highly recommended that students pursue an internship! The fall career fair at the Bryce Jordan Center has a day specifically designed for students looking for internships on Wednesday, September 18th. You can begin to prepare for this by attending the "Marketing your Liberal Arts Degree" workshop on September 9th at 4:00 in 103 Bank of America Career Services Center. Happy internship hunting!



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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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814-863-1150/TTY. U.Ed. LBA 14-38

We're on the Web at:
www.sociology.psu.edu
 and also Facebook,
 search and Like:



facebook



Penn State Department of Sociology



Important Semester Dates At-A-Glance

August 26	Classes begin
August 26–September 4th	Drop/add period
	<i>Adding only may continue until 8am September 5th</i>
September 5	Late drop period begins
September 2	Labor Day; University is closed
September 9	Deadline to activate intent to graduate Fa 13
September 23	Notify Cynthia Meyers of intent to complete Sp 14 internship
September 30 – Oct. 20	Final exam conflict filing period
October 25	Letters sent to possible internship sites for Sp 14
November 15	Late drop deadline
November 22	Finalize Sp 14 internship site
November 24-30	Thanksgiving holiday
December 13	Withdrawal deadline
	Classes end
December 16–20	Final exams
December 21	Fall commencement
January 13, 2014	Spring semester classes begin