

Sociology Source

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” ~Nelson Mandela

Welcome Back!

We hope your spring break revitalized you for the second half of the spring semester! Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter thoroughly. It includes important information regarding scheduling, advising information, and graduation. As always, feel free to contact an adviser if you have any questions. Scheduling is underway, so begin planning **now!** Don't wait until the last minute to see an adviser—schedule your appointment today!

Spring Advising Hours:

DROP-IN HOURS:

Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.
Fridays
9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

All other advising by Appointment ONLY

To schedule an appointment, please visit:
www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/

Important note:

Please understand that advisers are unable to see students during appointment hours who **DO NOT HAVE** a scheduled appointment. Please respect your peers and your advisers by scheduling an appointment or coming during our regularly scheduled drop-in hours listed above. A quick question is something that should be addressed at drop-ins or via email. Advisers' time between appointments is spent entering contact reports, completing substitution requests, responding to student emails, committee and program planning, and other important administrative work.



When it's Summertime!

Remember when you went through summer freshmen orientation (now called New Student Orientation-NSO)? Part of our advising responsibilities in the summer includes afternoon NSO advising sessions. This means that we will have limited availability from the middle of May through the middle of July. We will be sending more information about our summer advising hours towards the end of the spring semester.

Scheduling an appointment versus dropping-in:

Drop-in advising is a great option if you have questions that can be answered in a relatively short amount of time. 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:

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

A few important points about scheduling an appointment:

- Appointments are made in 30 minute 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.

Contacting your advisers

Karen Sones

(klo1@psu.edu)

317 Oswald Tower

Matt Sinclair

(mjs77@psu.edu)

316 Oswald Tower

Suzanne Decker

(svb2@psu.edu)

315 Oswald Tower

Phone number: 814-865-2217

Department Website:
www.sociology.psu.edu

Inside the Sociology Source:

Registration Information	2
Internship Central	3
Announcing the SOC Student Marshal	4
SOC Club/AKD	4
Graduation Information	5
Important Semester Dates	6
Summer Advising Hours	6

Information about Summer Courses

Summer Scheduling

Are you thinking about taking a few credits this summer? Summer scheduling for all students began on February 3rd—so schedule now! Head to <http://schedule.psu.edu/search.cfm> for a full listing of summer courses.

Not sure if you can commit to a resident instruction course at University Park? You could consider taking courses through the World Campus or a Commonwealth campus. When viewing courses on the Schedule of Courses website, be sure to select "World Campus" or the appropriate Commonwealth campus to see what is offered.

Transferring Courses from Other Institutions

Summer is often a convenient time for students to complete courses at an institution near their homes. If you're thinking about taking a summer course elsewhere, please take the following steps to make sure the class will transfer to Penn State:

Go to: https://www.admissions.psu.edu/my_admissions/tas/.

Follow the instructions.

Print out the transfer evaluation form from the Admissions Web site.



After you complete the course:

Have an official copy of your transcript from the college/university you attended sent directly to the Penn State Admissions Office. When Admissions receives the transcript, they will post the course(s) to your Penn State transcript.

Fall Scheduling

Fall scheduling has also begun, so please review your audit and consider the degree requirements that you still need to satisfy. Below are a few scheduling tips to keep in mind:

- Remember you need to schedule SOC 207 and successfully complete it before you are permitted to complete a departmental internship for credit.
- SOC 470 **MUST** be successfully completed prior to SOC 400W if you are a BA student. Keep in mind that you'll take SOC 400W during your senior year; it's a senior seminar course. Students often think SOC 470 is also a course for seniors only, but taking SOC 470 as a junior is fine. Once you've completed SOC 207 and STAT 200, go ahead and schedule SOC 470. If you are a BS student you must complete a 300 or 400 level STAT course prior to taking SOC 400W.

Late Drop Deadline

The deadline to late drop a course for this semester is **Friday, April 10, 2015 BEFORE midnight**. **This deadline is FIRM.** If late-dropping a class sounds like an option you want to consider, make an informed decision about it. Meet with your professor to accurately assess your progress in a course before you late-drop it. Discuss with your adviser the possible consequences of late-dropping a class, such as the amount of late drop credits available to you and how it may affect your full-time status (which can, in turn, affect your student aid and/or health insurance). If you determine that late-dropping a course is in your best interest, you can late-drop through eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/> or at the Registrar's Office.

Additional Note

SOC 207 and SOC 470 **must** be completed with a "C" or better before a SOC BA student is permitted to take SOC 400W. SOC BS students may use the required 300 or 400 level STAT course to meet the pre-requisite for SOC 400W rather than SOC 470. This is a **firm** departmental policy.

As always, please feel free to contact your adviser about any scheduling concerns.

Withdrawals

Those who are experiencing significant difficulties this spring may consider withdrawing for the semester. The last day to withdraw from the Spring 2015 semester is **Friday, May 1, 2015**. After this date, no student will be permitted to withdraw. You can easily process a withdrawal using eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/>, but it is highly recommended you talk to your assigned advisor about your plans prior to submitting your withdrawal.



Internship Central

Summer Internship Information

If you haven't already contacted Amy Schmoeller (als63@psu.edu), the internship coordinator, about completing a summer internship, you will need to postpone your plans until the fall semester. For those students who have submitted their plans to Amy, the remaining deadline date for summer internships is as follows:

April 20 Placements should be finalized by this date. Email Amy with your internship site placement.

Funding is Available for Summer Internships

One of the goals of the Department of Sociology and Criminology is to involve undergraduates in internship opportunities. Accordingly, the College of the Liberal Arts and the department have modest funds to provide financial assistance to students who participate in internships. Preference for funding is given to students with demonstrated need and to students completing the internship for academic credit. If you're interested in applying for these enrichment funds, go to the Career Enrichment Network website at laus.la.psu.edu/network and click on Enrichment Funds to apply.

Fall Internship Information

If you're considering a fall internship, the internship dates are planned for **August 24 – December 11, 2015**. The following are key deadline dates:

- March 6** Indicate your intent to complete a Fall internship by this date by emailing Amy Schmoeller (als63@psu.edu) to let her know your plans.
- May 25** Letters must be sent to three possible internship sites by this date. Send an email to Amy Schmoeller with the names of the three sites.
- July 20** Placements should be finalized by this date. Send an email to Amy Schmoeller with your internship site placement. At that point you will receive instructions on how to proceed. Amy will also be in touch with your internship site supervisor with information and instructions about your internship duties and activities.

For more information about the internship process, take a look at this section of the departmental Web site: sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships. Your advisers are available to discuss the internship.

Student Spotlight:

Megan Wisniewski

During the 2014 spring semester, I studied abroad in the beautiful city of Prague in the Czech Republic. Prague is straight from the pages of a fairytale; the city is lined with cobble-stoned streets, spires, and red roofed houses. At the center of the city lies the castle quarter, marked by the huge towers of St. Vitus Cathedral. I wanted to study in Prague not only for its beauty, but also for its history. Long an area of conflict, the history of Prague is one of turmoil, with hundreds of battles fought for political and religious freedom. I took three history classes in Prague, revolving around Czech history, transatlantic relations, and the history of Jews in Bohemia. These classes fulfilled my one area of specialization for the Sociology, B.S. major. I also taught English at a local orphanage. In the beginning, it was extremely difficult because my Czech was spotty at best. By the end of my semester, however, I had learned enough Czech and taught enough English to make small talk with the residents. The language barrier definitely taught me the power of a smile! Due to Prague's central location, I was lucky enough to visit eight countries in total,



exploring much of Eastern Europe. I plan on visiting Prague once again after I graduate and reconnecting with my Czech friends. Studying abroad was an amazing experience, and I would recommend it to anyone! St. Augustine said it best: "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."

Announcing the 2015 Sociology Student Marshal

Every year a Student Marshal is selected to represent all graduating seniors in Sociology during commencement. We are proud of all who were nominated and are pleased to announce **Jacqueline Roa** has been selected to serve as the 2015 Sociology Student Marshal. Student Marshals must select a Faculty Marshal to accompany them during commencement, and we are happy to announce that Jacqueline has asked **Dr. Samar Farage** to take on this role. Part of the honor of a Student Marshal is recognition in the commencement bulletin and during the program, as well as attending a special reception held earlier that day.

Upon graduation, Jacqueline hopes to work for a social services agency alongside licensed social workers so that she can gain valuable experience prior to her attendance to graduate school for a Master's in Social Work. Jacqueline feels there are few things more enriching and valuable than providing therapy or direct services to individuals and families who have not been afforded the same opportunities she has been so fortunate to have.



Congratulations, Jacqueline!



Get Involved!



The Sociology Club

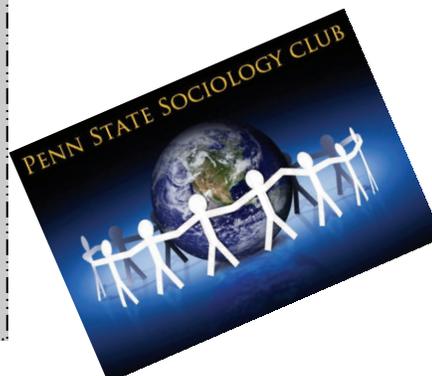
The purpose of the Sociology Club is to better serve our students, and the club focuses on perennial questions asked by sociology majors including:

- 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 with 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 the SOC club adviser, Dr. Stacy Silver (sjr11@psu.edu).

Fun Fact—Laurie Scheuble

Laurie Scheuble has had many wonderful memories during her tenure at Penn State. Some of her most favorite memories involve her work with students and learning of their diverse interests, especially in her SOC400W class. She has also appreciated the 'free education' she has received on all of the latest 'hip language' which always brings a smile to her face when she thinks about it. Overall, she feels so fortunate to have been enriched by the amazing students she has had over the years and all of the wonderful conversations she has gotten to have. Her words of wisdom—"Be a nice person and be cheerful even when you feel very much the contrary. There is not a whole lot else in life that matters."



Congratulations Graduates!

Commencement Information

Seniors, you're in the home stretch. The graduation ceremony for the College of the Liberal Arts is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Bryce Jordan Center. If your family and friends ask about needing tickets to attend, please tell them that tickets are not required for the ceremony. However, we recommend you and your supporters arrive early to find your seats. Any last minute questions about the ceremony? Be sure to check this Web site: <http://commencement.psu.edu/future.html>.

Department Reception

You've worked hard, and it's time to acknowledge the end of your undergraduate career at Penn State and the beginning of the next phase in your lives. We'd like to celebrate with you and your families, so please plan to join us at our departmental reception before the graduation ceremony, on the lawn in front of the library; the time will be announced soon. Faculty and staff will be on hand to congratulate you and wish you well. Enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun before we head to the Bryce Jordan Center for the ceremony.

You're Invited!

What: Departmental Reception

Who: SOC and CRIM graduating seniors and their families

When: Saturday, May 9, 2015 - Time and location will be announced soon!

Hope to see you there!

August 2015 Graduation

If August is when you plan to graduate, please **activate your intent to graduate from May 11 - June 19, 2015**. Activating your intent to graduate is very simple and very important! If you don't activate your intent, we have no way of knowing that you're planning to graduate and your audit will not be checked to make sure you have met all the requirements for graduation. Activate your intent to graduate as soon as the summer session starts via eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/>. Summer commencement will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, **August 15, 2014**, in the Bryce Jordan Center.

*Remember if you have been approved to walk in May graduation, but are taking summer classes to finish requirements, this applies to you.



Important Semester Dates At-A-Glance

April 20	Finalize Summer 2015 internship site
April 10	Late drop deadline Last day for graduating seniors to declare a minor
May 1	Withdrawal deadline Classes end
May 4-8	Final exams
May 9	Spring commencement

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, contact the SOC club adviser, Dr. Stacy Silver (sjr11@psu.edu).



Find us and LIKE us!

Search:

Penn State Department of Sociology and
Criminology



This publication is available in alternative media on request. The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-0471/TTY. U.Ed. LBA 15-267.