

Careers

Graduates in **Government and Public Affairs** find careers in a broad array of settings such as law, government service, interest groups, political campaigns, polling, international organizations, journalism and education. Many students immediately pursue a career after graduation, and about one-third of the department's graduates pursue advanced degrees in law or other areas.

A **Sociology** minor is an excellent match for a variety of majors including Government, Psychology, History, Social Work, Criminal Justice, Communication Studies, Economics, Business and others. This adds to the foundation for more specialized careers or graduate work in law, education, counseling, public administration, demographics, health services and other areas.

Recent alumni report positions as lawyers, legislative staffers, Chamber of Commerce employees, business development specialists, school teachers, etc.



Alumni Views

“Over the years I spent at Western, each course, each relationship, and each discussion played a valuable part in developing the person I am today. Having the opportunity to

attend an institution of higher education like Western is, in itself, a ‘golden’ experience.”

*Derek Coats, '02
District Office Director
U.S. Senator “Kit” Bond*

“My minor in Sociology diversified my skill base and better prepared me for my life and career in the federal government. My education provided me with an edge when I entered the working world. The most valuable experience for me at Western was the one-on-one interaction with doctoral level professors - something not often found at other colleges.”

*Tia Meredith-Ash, '01
Business Development Specialist
General Services Administration*

For more information

**Department of Government,
Social Work* & Sociology
Poppewell Hall, Room 212
816.271.4340
www.missouriwestern.edu/gsws**

** A separate brochure is available for Social Work & Gerontology*

Government, Sociology & Social Work

Missouri Western State University



Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507



Government & Sociology Department

Do politics intrigue you? Do you want to make laws? Do you wonder about why societies are different? As a student majoring in **Government and Public Affairs**, you will discover the principles and inner workings of government at

the international, national, state and local levels.

Students with an interest in **Government** have the choice of a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or minor in Government and Public Affairs. The course of study involves an in-depth look at a variety of areas traditionally associated with government including political history, constitutional and policy issues, and interest groups to name a few.

A minor in **Sociology** is available at Western and can be taken with virtually any major subject of study, in fields as diverse as history, economics, law, medicine, nursing, etc. **Sociology** deals with human behavior in social settings, from small units such as family and community to large units such as organizations (hospitals, corporations, government) and whole societies. *Where there are people, there is sociology!* Through the application of sociological theories and scientific research methods, sociology examines such

issues as marriage and family; health and health services; crime and deviant behavior; population dynamics; race and ethnic relations; etc.

Anchored in the principles of a liberal arts education, students in **Government** and **Sociology** learn to critically analyze issues, communicate effectively, and research issues by applying both quantitative and qualitative methods. Small class sizes foster close contact between students and professors and enhance class discussion and interaction. Diverse professors provide a variety of personal and professional experiences, viewpoints and teaching styles that enhance educational experience.

The professors embrace a student-oriented approach to teaching with high expectations for students. All of our classes link real-world examples and relevance to learning initiatives.

Internships & Research

In the **Government** and **Sociology** programs, professors know their students and assist them in gaining practical experience that matches their educational and career goals. Every **Government** student completes an internship to gain real-world experience and learn what type of career in government is right for them. Students have completed internships in the Missouri General Assembly, a U.S. Senator's office, Legal Aid of Western Missouri, among others.

Points of Pride

- **100% of the full-time faculty members have the highest degree in their field. Diverse faculty members provide a wide variety of personal and professional experiences, viewpoints and teaching styles.**
- **Two students in Government presented the findings of their research at regional and national professional conferences.**
- **Through the Archeology courses, students may travel abroad for summer study and excavation experiences.**
- **Recent alumni work as staff members for U.S. Senators and Representatives.**

Students in both **Government** and **Sociology** may also work individually or in small groups with professors to complete research projects on a variety of topics. Summer research programs and independent research courses provide opportunities for research. Students have presented their research findings at regional and national conferences. With a commitment to undergraduate research, students are well prepared for graduate programs.

Furthermore, through the **Sociology** program, students may participate in summer study and excavation experiences in archeology in Israel and Egypt. This provides valuable experiences in examining other cultures and looking at past cultures.

Admission

Applicants for the **Government and Public Affairs** major must have a GPA of 2.0 and complete Government 101 and English 104 with a grade of C or higher. The program is academically challenging and requires students to take the prerequisite courses to polish reading, writing and analytical thinking skills. The minor in **Sociology** requires 18 hours of core and elective courses.