Bachelor of Arts
Sociology

Sociology helps us to see patterns of social relationships. Sociological insights help to explain how social institutions such as the family, the workplace and the economy all shape wider social life, and how we in turn influence and even change the society around us.

Sociologists observe behaviour with the goal of understanding significant social forces. Students in the Sociology program will examine issues that range from individual matters such as gender, identity and aging to social issues like social inequality, consumer culture and the social determinants of health. Studying these topics will help students to develop keen observation and analytical skills that will enhance their understanding of the impact of social structures on individual life chances.

- Our teaching approach focuses on providing a solid classical and contemporary theoretical background while developing applied research skills. That means that students will gain theoretical knowledge while being offered hands-on research opportunities and experiential learning.
- Our emphasis on data collection, research and analysis will prepare students to do research in real-world situations. In our qualitative and quantitative research courses, students will learn valuable job-related skills like conducting interviews, focus groups and survey research, as well as using specialized data analysis software like Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

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Why Nipissing?
Our faculty have professional experience outside of the university working at organizations including Statistics Canada, Corrections Canada, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Employment and Social Development Canada, and more. By bringing their applied experience into the classroom, students will learn how sociological studies play a part in all work environments.

The Statistics Canada Research Data Centre at Nipissing University provides access to detailed data of Canadian surveys and censuses for research, promotes the use of data through associated training and assists in the dissemination of research results.

We specialize in a wide range of teaching and research fields including education and inequality, school-to-work transitions, mental health and illness, family transitions, childbearing and reproductive health, aging workforce, palliative care, consumer culture, and science and technology studies.

Students often have opportunities to work with professors as a research assistant, an opportunity that helps students gain valuable hands-on experience.

We also offer a certificate in Health Studies and Gerontology. This certificate specializes in the economical, physiological, cultural, social and spiritual aspects of aging, wellness and illness.

What does my first year look like?
First and second year courses provide a foundation in sociological inquiry and include introductory courses in research methods, techniques of social data analysis and sociological theory. Students will learn about social issues in contemporary societies and will develop their writing and critical thinking skills.

Where Can I Go After Graduation?
Students in the Sociology program will be well-prepared for a variety of professions in the public and private sectors including health care, education, social work, occupational therapy, business and policy analysis. Students who choose to go on to graduate school or into a career in applied social research will have a competitive edge with the strong background in research methods and social data analysis techniques that they gain in our Sociology program.

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