Three integral programs in the social sciences with long histories of cooperation and collaboration merged to form the Department of Sociology, Gerontology, and Gender (SGG) in the fall of 2015. SGG provides new opportunities for student learning, community engagement, and research.

Our standard degrees in Sociology (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/sociology) (BS, BA and a minor), Gerontology (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/gerontology) (MS, graduate certificate, undergraduate minor and certificate), and Gender Studies (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/genderstudies) (undergraduate and graduate certificates, and a minor) continue as in the past. To these, we have added new “tracks” for combined learning across two or more disciplines at once.

At a basic level, sociology is the study of social behavior, groups, and institutions. We explore these topics across the full spectrum of the human experience. Our newly integrated department allows us to offer focused explorations of the issues of aging and gender on both individual identity and the structure of the wider society.

Sociology and Gerontology have cross listed classes that work together to enhance scholarly understanding of the opportunities and challenges of human aging. Whether you seek a career in health care, social services, policy, business, or criminology, aging will impact your efforts. The Minor in Gerontology adds a formal credential for future work with and for older adults. Students pursuing a BA or BS in Sociology might consider a minor in Gerontology (15 credits) including Aging in America: Concepts & Controversies (GERON/SOC 2170) and 12 additional credits (6 credits at the 4000 level), chosen from classes that are cross listed with Sociology. An 18 credit Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology is also available.

Sociology and Gender Studies have cross listed classes that work together to enhance the scholarly understanding of how society and its institutions regulate and dispense power. The focus of Gender Studies scholarship is on how what we call “race,” gender, and socioeconomic status intersect to form not only personal identities but also social values and structures. Students who plan a career in business, human resources, medicine, education, social work, or the many facets of the justice system will find themselves better prepared for the job market as well as with a developed sense of how institutions function both nationally and globally. This understanding is an invaluable tool for the workplace and for personal growth. Students pursuing a BA or BS in Sociology might consider a minor in Gender Studies including 12 credits chosen from classes that are cross listed with Sociology. Nursing and Pre-Med students might also consider the minor since it is designed to fit into their curriculum.

Please visit our Programs’ bulletin listings to learn more: Sociology (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/sociology), Gerontology (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/gerontology), and Gender Studies (http://bulletin.umsl.edu/artsandsciences/sociologygerontologygender/genderstudies).

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