

# JMU Sociology: Transferable Skills

If you want to change the world, you need to know how the world works.

Sociology is the scientific study of social life, social change, and the consequences of human behavior. As society becomes more complex, the ability to understand social dynamics becomes more important. Sociology provides a powerful vehicle through which students can acquire transferable skills that are in high demand across the workforce.

JMU Sociology recognizes the challenges that students face when they enter the job market. To better help students articulate the value of their degree, we have identified a key set of transferable skills and mastery of important concepts that are highly marketable. These skills and concepts are emphasized and developed across the sociology curriculum.

## Core sociological concepts and skills:

- Evidence-based arguments and complex problem solving
- Data analysis and research design
- Clear written and oral communication
- Digital/Media literacy
- Critical thinking
- Understanding social institutions and their impact on individuals
- Appreciating diversity and multicultural competence
- Organizational skills and leadership
- Group and team work
- Applied knowledge
- Understanding social problems
- Summarizing and presenting information
- Ethical judgement and decision-making
- Integrity
- The sociological imagination

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Transferable skills are skills learned within the classroom that are applicable across a wide range of industries and careers. These are skills that you can take with you from one job to another.

## KEY COURSES

SOCI 110 (Global Social Problems)

SOCI 140 (Microsociology)

SOCI 200 (Theory)

SOCI 231 (Social Statistics)

SOCI 300 (Sociological Inquiry)

SOCI 480 (Senior Seminar)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information about the JMU Sociology Program and how JMU Sociology prepares students for future careers, visit

[www.jmu.edu/socanth](http://www.jmu.edu/socanth)

# Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce



### Career & Self Development

Proactively develop oneself and one's career through continual personal and professional learning, awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses, navigation of career opportunities, and networking to build relationships within and without one's organization.



### Communication

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization.



### Critical Thinking

Identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information.



### Equity & Inclusion

Demonstrate the awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills required to equitably engage and include people from different local and global cultures. Engage in anti-racist practices that actively challenge the systems, structures, and policies of racism.



### Leadership

Recognize and capitalize on personal and team strengths to achieve organizational goals.



### Professionalism

Knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and demonstrate effective work habits, and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace.



### Teamwork

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals, while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.



### Technology

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.



## What Is Career Readiness?

Career readiness is a foundation from which to demonstrate requisite core competencies that broadly prepare the college educated for success in the workplace and lifelong career management.