

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The variety of skills that students gain through the Sociology program enable students to plug into many roles, such as clinicians (with further study) and researchers who implement the theory in day-to-day life. Students who major in Sociology find themselves in a variety of career fields including public administration, education, social work, business, politics, protocol and personnel work. Students with degrees in Sociology can also work in health and human services-related fields or in the criminal justice system. In addition, a number of graduates seek postgraduate degrees such as law, M.S.W. and M.B.A. degrees.

## THE FACULTY

The Sociology department boasts a caring faculty who understand and work toward the uniqueness of each individual student. In addition to four full-time faculty members, the Sociology department is complemented by a number of adjunct professors. All faculty members in the department have practical experience.

### **Dr. Tom Lopez**

*Teaching interests:* cold case files and research methods

### **Dr. Kathy Stolley**

*Teaching interests:* applied sociology, introduction to sociology, small groups and social problems

### **Prof. Thomas Scott Liverman, J.D.**

*Teaching interests:* the justice system and the law

### **Dr. Harold Dorton**

*Teaching interests:* pop culture and social change



## THE COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Home to only 1,400 students, both resident and commuter, the 300-acre campus rests on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach in the heart of the historic Hampton Roads area.

Virginia Wesleyan provides a prime opportunity for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, offering more than 30 majors and more than 50 clubs and organizations. Additionally, the College boasts 17 intercollegiate sports and competes in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

### VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

757.455.3200

[www.vwc.edu](http://www.vwc.edu)

### ADMISSIONS

757.455.3208

800.737.8684

[admissions@vwc.edu](mailto:admissions@vwc.edu)

### SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

757.455.3394

## SOCIOLOGY

*The Division of Social Sciences*



## THE FIELD

Sociology is a social science dealing with the study of social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology concerns itself with the social rules and processes that bind and separate people not only as individuals but as members of associations, groups and institutions. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations and societies and how people interact within such contexts. Because all human behavior is social, the field of interest ranges from the analysis of short contacts between anonymous individuals on the street to the study of global social processes. Sociology offers a rich source of conceptual frameworks into which the most pressing issues of our times can be placed, and a powerful set of methodological tools with which to study them. A focus on sociology as an “applied” discipline emphasizes the discipline’s applicability in areas such as non-profit organizations and nursing homes.

## THE PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the Sociology program at Virginia Wesleyan College is to provide concrete occasions and intellectual resources that can help students understand the social and cultural dimensions of human behavior. The program is a community-oriented program that provides students with the “toolkit” they need and the ability to apply their acquired skills at the next level. The applied, action-oriented nature of the program gives students hands-on experience and exposure to community involvement as well as valuable skills that employers seek. In addition, the program seeks to equip students

with the skills necessary in the field of sociology: a focus on systems and situations that gives a “big picture” of issues in social context, training in problem identification and problem solving, experience in synthesizing multiple sources of information and data and understanding the importance and impact of, and communicating with, different audiences and cultures in an increasingly interconnected world.

## THE COURSES

With a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, the classes at Virginia Wesleyan are small and interactive. Courses within the Sociology program include the following:

- Introduction to Sociology
- Applied Sociology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Social and Cultural Change
- Understanding Other Cultures
- Complex Organizations
- Deviant Behavior and Social Control
- Pop Culture
- Marriage and Family Interaction
- War, Peace and Society
- Sociology in Film and Music
- Foundations of Sociology
- Medical Sociology
- Introduction to Social Research
- Social Problems
- Sports and Sociology
- Internships

## THE MAJOR

The Sociology major is a strong supporter of the liberal arts and complements the liberal arts curriculum. The department can also model the major around the individual needs of the student. A student majoring in Sociology at Virginia Wesleyan is required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in specified coursework.

## THE MINOR

To minor in Sociology requires that a student complete 18 hours in Sociology coursework. Six credits are to be completed through specified coursework while the remaining 12 may be completed in any Sociology courses.

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## THE INTERNSHIP

Students may elect to complement the classroom experience with an internship opportunity supervised by the department. The 9-credit-hour semester-long internship is a practiced, supervised experience in direct student learning in applied social settings in which students learn how sociological knowledge and research writing skills can be applied to the workplace. Practical and applied learning through student performance in the applied setting gives the student a “competitive edge” for future community and workplace contribution.

