



Sociology and Family Studies

Department of Sociology and Family Studies
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KEY STRENGTHS

- Diverse professional faculty backgrounds
- Faculty/student community activities
- Individualized attention to student progress
- Integration of faith, learning and service as a preparation for professional careers

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

- Active, ongoing faculty/student research and community service, which include Hispanic immigration, aging, religion, leadership development among African American women, urban studies and urban ministry, and administration of child and family services.
- Faculty backgrounds in ministry, child and family services, and aging provide students a rich atmosphere for professional development.
- All students develop personal skills in professional settings. Each year, these experiences lead to professional employment for graduates and help build strong applications for graduate school.
- Job opportunities exist in human service fields in all areas of the U.S. and international settings. Opportunities are expected to continue expanding in number and diversity from 2000-10.

DEGREES AND MAJORS OFFERED

- Bachelor of Science in Sociology
- Bachelor of Science in Sociology (criminal justice emphasis)
- Bachelor of Science in Family Studies
- Master of Science in Gerontology

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Mental health, health care, child care and family services
- University and secondary teaching careers
- Community, policy, and social research and planning
- Social services administration
- Criminal justice – probation and parole, administration
- Gerontology – nursing home administration, services
- Marketing, public relations, business organization and consultant
- Demography, international studies, law, ministry

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community field internships and experiences

- Department of Human Services
- Medical centers
- Attorney General's office
- Child and family services
- Abilene community planning
- Probation and parole offices
- Mental health and counseling centers
- Drug treatment programs
- Business organizations
- Programs for older adults
- Community research projects
- International studies
- Mission field placements
- Adoption and maternity services
- Public school programs
- Inner-city and neighborhood revitalization programs
- Crow Nation summer intern program

Scholarships available

- ACT/SAT Academic Scholarships
- Family Studies Scholarships

Please consult with your admissions counselor for details on these and other scholarships available to you.

FACILITIES

The department occupies the first floor of the south side of the Hardin Administration Building. All departmental classrooms are equipped for computer-assisted instruction. The department introduces each student to the latest in contemporary concepts, theories and experiences for the student's chosen area of interest.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Majors in the 2006-07 school year: 109

2006-07 graduates with jobs or graduate school

acceptance by commencement: 90 percent

Percent of 2006-07 graduates with jobs in their field or admitted into graduate/professional school within

12 months: 100 percent

Percent of those who applied to graduate/professional school and were accepted for the following year

within one month of graduation: 100 percent

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Jennifer Hamil Luker, class of 1994; Ph.D., sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.; has received a prestigious teaching fellowship.

Marie Henderson, class of 1982; child and adolescent coordinator, West Central Mental Health Center, Salida, Colo.

Michael Holly, class of 1993; enrolled in Texas Tech University School of Law under the U.S. Army Adjutant General scholarship program, Lubbock, Texas.

John Newton, class of 1981; budget analyst, Legislative Budget Committee, Austin, Texas.

Karen Trevathan, class of 1992; law degree, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., 1997.

RECENT GRADUATES

Mark Bruner, class of 2004; North Richland Hills police officer, North Richland Hills, Texas.

Krystal Scott, class of 2004; Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas.

Cameron Witte, class of 2004; graduate study, Master of Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Amanda Maxwell, class of 2004; graduate study, Master of Public Administration program, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

Laura Trammell, class of 2004; pharmacy school, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

Amanda Carroll, class of 2000; M.A., University of Memphis, Ph.D. study in sociology, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.

Amy Forest, class of 2000; M.S. in sociology, 2002; Ph.D. study in family studies, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

FACULTY

Amanda Carroll, *instructor of sociology*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 2000; M.S., University of Memphis, 2002.

Jennifer Dillman, *instructor of sociology*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1985; M.A., ACU, 2000; Ph.D. study at University of North Texas.

David J. Gotcher, Ph.D., *associate professor, interim chair*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1973; M.A., Memphis State University, 1993; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2000.

Heidi Morris, *adjunct professor of family studies*; M.M.F.T., Abilene Christian University, 2000; Ph.D. study at Texas Woman's University

Charlie D. Pruett, Ph.D., *assistant professor of gerontology*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1991; M.S., ACU, 1992; Ph.D., University of North Texas, 2002.

Steven Wages, Ph.D., *assistant professor of family studies*; A.A., Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, 1976; B.S., University of Southern Mississippi, 1978; CPA, 1978; M.M.F.T., Abilene Christian University, 1994; CFLE, 1998; Ph.D., Florida State University, 2003.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

David Gotcher – Serves as the department and university liaison to the Crow Nation in Montana in a program that sends students to the Crow Reservation for a summer of work with “at-risk” children. He was recently named chair of the Bachelor of Applied Studies program, and received the 2005 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award.

Steven Wages – Classroom Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, April 2003.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Department

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About ACU and Admissions

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