

- Major, BA
- Minor

At UMass Dartmouth, studying Sociology and Anthropology (SOA) gives students a new perspective on society and culture by considering the impacts of global, regional, and national development within local communities. Drawing upon comparative and historical perspectives, and emphasizing how the systemic nature of inequality and power is interrelated to both global and local processes, the major will prepare students for in-demand positions in the growing economy. The major offers students a unique opportunity to explore the social world through distinct but related branches of knowledge in the social sciences.

Skills developed

SOA majors will learn to understand society and culture through a comparative and historical perspective. Students will gain an understanding of the social construction of difference; entrenched systems of inequality and oppression; and the dynamics of local and global distributions of power. Students also learn how to apply theoretical debates in sociology and anthropology to the investigation of social life, and develop critical insights into possibilities for social change.

Curriculum overview

The SOA curriculum features multiple opportunities for connecting classroom learning, community engagement, and individual exploration. Students are encouraged to pursue issues of interest to them through community-based research, internships, seminars, as well as independent study and thesis options. A central goal of the curriculum is to help students develop the essential skills of thinking critically, and expressing themselves clearly and persuasively.

Popular courses include:

- Social Movements
- Food, Feast, and Famine
- Environmental Justice
- Race and Ethnicity
- Sustainability in Action

Top Jobs

SOA majors learn to communicate effectively, speak persuasively and synthesize a variety of information, positioning them as leaders in a number of key professions. Many students pursue careers in social services, research, public policy and communications.

- Sociologists (median salary: \$79,650)
- Anthropologists (median salary \$62,280)
- Archaeologists (median salary \$76,970)
- Social workers (median salary \$47,980)
- Archivists, curators, museum staff: (median salary \$47,360)
- Communications specialist (median salary \$55,988)
- Juvenile probation officers (average salary \$40,832)
- Social Science High School Teachers (average salary \$50,529)
- Community Organizers (average salary \$40,594)
- Immigration Consultants (average salary \$66,883)

Graduate School Placements

- Harvard Law School
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Mount Ida College
- UMass Dartmouth
- Yale University School of Medicine

Career Placements

- Action for Boston Community
- Alingsås kommun (Sweden)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- Family Service of Greater Boston
- Fulbright Commission (Brazil)
- The May Institute
- The New England Center for Children
- Southcoast Hospital Group

More Info

- Minors and double majors in fields like Aging and Health, Black Studies, Urban Studies, History and more
- Research with faculty who have expertise in societies in Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S.
- Honors College
- Study abroad
- Semester-long internships in Boston focused on social sectors through the College for Social Innovation program