Western Michigan University has been designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research university with high research activity. The department offers one of the University's oldest and strongest graduate programs, dating back to the mid-1960s. We are committed to building a diverse community of scholars, each dedicated to quality teaching and innovative research. Program options include:

The **Master of Arts in Sociology** (M.A.) aims to develop an advanced understanding of the significant features and processes of human society through a focus on both research and teaching. The program prepares competent professionals for careers in research, education, government and private enterprise.

The **Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology** (Ph.D.) includes a strong core curriculum of theory and methods. Electives, area examinations and dissertations typically focus on designated areas of concentration such as critical criminology, sociology of religion, power and inequality, and research methods/applied sociology.

The **Kercher Center for Social Research** is the research arm of the department. It was founded in 1956, and it has since operated as a research and consultation center. Currently, the Kercher Center houses the Western Michigan University Wrongful Conviction Program, the public education section of The Western Michigan University-Cooley Law School Innocence Project, funded in part by grants from the National Institute of Justice. Several other federal, state and locally-funded projects are also in progress.

**Points of Pride**

- Ph.D. graduates since 2002: 95.7 percent are employed full time and 88.6 percent hold tenure-track/tenured positions in colleges and universities, with 50 percent being in institutions that award graduate degrees.
- The Kercher Endowment funds additional research, evaluation, travel and teaching opportunities.
- Graduate students present their research at prestigious professional associations like the American Society of Criminology, Society for the Study of Social Problems and the Midwest Sociological Society.
- We offer a low faculty-student ratio.
- The department is housed in Sangren Hall, a state-of-the-art classroom building with LEED gold certification as a ‘green’ building.
Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas
Founded in 1945 and as one of the oldest graduate programs at WMU, the department has evolved and expanded to offer an array of coursework, research and practical application opportunities to master and doctoral students. We emphasize strong faculty-student relationships as a means of cultivating informed, experienced and driven social scientists. Our award-winning faculty have diverse interests and expertise which we are eager to share.

Industry Highlights
Graduates are well qualified for careers in research, evaluation, education, government, private enterprise, community organizing and the non-profit sector.

Funding
Generous financial aid packages are available. Students may receive such support for two years at the M.A. level and three years at the Ph.D. level. These packages provide a stipend, tuition scholarship and various other fringe benefits in return for 20 hours per week assisting in departmental activities. Funding through several University programs is available as well. Additionally, the department’s endowment supports graduate student scholarship through research grants and conference travel funding.

Admission
The department accepts fall semester applications only.
Domestic
Fall 2018: Jan. 15, 2018
International
Fall 2018: April 1, 2018

Department of Sociology
wmich.edu/sociology
(269) 387-5270

Dr. Susan Carlson
Graduate Director
susan.carlson@wmich.edu

Western Michigan University est. 1903
Offering over 100 world class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly $52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan
The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.