

Dear Potential Applicant:

Thank you for your recent inquiry about our graduate program. I am enclosing some materials about our department, faculty, and program of study that I hope will be useful to you.

Let me take this opportunity to tell you about some of the most notable features of our department. Nationally, we are ranked as one of the top departments in the country. All of our faculty members are actively engaged in research projects, many of which are funded by external grants, and all faculty members involve students in these projects.

With about 17 regular faculty members and 57 graduate students, we combine the best features of larger and smaller departments. On the one hand, we are large enough to offer training in a wide range of substantive areas in sociology--a particular advantage for students who are uncertain about their specific interests. The major areas represented in our department include culture, economic sociology, gender, law and society, methods, organizations and networks, race and ethnicity, social psychology, stratification, political sociology, theory, and world systems. In each of these areas we have faculty members who are nationally recognized authorities.

At the same time, we are small enough to maintain a close intellectual community that fosters collaboration between faculty and students. One of our greatest assets is our commitment to the department as a collectivity. Although faculty and students specialize in sub-areas, the department has consciously worked to create an environment that transcends our different areas and perspectives. Intellectually, this means we encourage work that bridges and combines different substantive or theoretical interests. Interpersonally, it provides a very supportive and collegial atmosphere. Our vitality as a community is most evident in our highly successful brown-bag colloquium series, which brings the entire department together every Friday noon for lunch and intellectual nourishment.

The first year of graduate study provides rigorous training in the fundamentals of sociology inquiry. Required courses in theory, statistics, and methods provide a strong foundation for advanced course work. As students progress through the program, they are encouraged and expected to engage in research projects, both independently and in collaboration with faculty members. Faculty members are very accessible to students and many publish articles and papers with students. This program of study prepares students well for careers in sociology, and we have been very successful in placing our students in good positions.

We guarantee financial support for the overwhelming majority of our full-time students up to three years. Graduate teaching or research assistants are assigned to work with individual faculty members for 20 hours a week. Currently, assistantships provide stipends of \$14,734 for students with Bachelor's degrees and \$15,698 for those with Master's degrees, and waive nonresident tuition fees. Advanced students may serve as teaching associates in charge of a course or as research associates working on a faculty member's research project. In addition, outstanding applicants are

considered for a limited number of non-service fellowships. We are deeply committed to equity and diversity in our graduate program and follow affirmative action guidelines in our selection and funding of graduate students.

We hope you will seriously consider Arizona for your graduate study. An enclosure describes our application and admission procedures. Should you have any questions about the admissions procedure, the department, or the university, please feel free to contact me. You may also direct your questions to Vienna DeLuca, the Graduate Coordinator at (520-621-3014) or vienna@email.arizona.edu. Also, should you wish, you can access the department home page at <http://sociology.arizona.edu/> which gives informal information about the department.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Robin Stryker
Professor and
Director of Graduate Studies