

STUDY AWAY GUIDELINES

SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Study away in a demanding academic program can contribute substantially to a major in Sociology and Anthropology and to a student's overall education. Programs with a well supervised fieldwork component may be especially valuable. Ordinarily, we advise students to plan study away for the junior year.

The quality of a study-away experience depends in large measure on preparation for it before departure and on integration of it into course work upon return. When applicable, courses should be planned before departure that provide instruction about the culture, history, and/or language of the area in which one will study. In addition, a student should, if at all possible, complete either the Sociology or Anthropology research methods course before studying away. Upon return from study away students should consider designing academic programs that build on that experience. The Department expects students to take advantage of Sociology and Anthropology courses offered elsewhere which are not available at Bowdoin. Ordinarily, no more than one of the core courses (i.e., those specifically required) in the Sociology major may be taken away from Bowdoin, and in these cases the student should be careful to have the equivalency course approved in advance by the Department. Ordinarily, Anthropology majors may not take any of the required core courses while studying away.

Receiving credit for off-campus study:

All students who wish to substitute courses taken at other colleges and universities for courses offered in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology must receive approval from the Department. This requirement applies to domestic study, foreign study, and summer school. All students should be prepared to meet the following criteria:

1. Receive instruction by a sociologist to receive credit in Sociology and by an anthropologist to receive credit in Anthropology.
2. Obtain provisional approval in writing by one of the members of the Department before studying away. To obtain provisional approval, the student should supply, if possible, a description of the course, a reading list and information about the organization of the course.
3. Request final approval upon return from study away. Students should submit a syllabus and reading list (or list of texts) and completed assignments (e.g. papers, exams, field notebooks, etc.) to the Department Chair at the time that final approval is requested.

Final approval will be given by the Department Chair upon completion of the course or courses and will not be given if the course content, assignments, or instructor do not meet Department standards. **Students should discuss their study away plans in detail with Department members ahead of time.**