**What is Sociology?**

If you are intrigued by how and why people interact as they do with others, then Sociology may be the major for you. Sociology majors learn to think critically about social problems and social phenomena.  Topics in Sociology are very diverse and include topics such as Crime and Deviance, Marriage and Family, Sex and Gender Roles, Social Inequality, Interpersonal and group behavior and so much more.

**What Can You Do With a Sociology Degree?**

A college degree in Social Sciences will put you on the path to many degrees and job opportunities including management positions in business, placement into four year transfer programs (like Sociology), and numerous occupations including the following for Sociology:

**1. Lawyers**
Law Schools love Sociologists. They usually come in with high GPAs and show the writing skills necessary to be successful in the law. Lawyers use critical thinking and analytical skills to research and litigate their cases and Sociology helps prepare them for the field. Ian Bolling, a Sociology faculty member at the Chesapeake campus is also an attorney if you are interested in pursuing this path.

**2. Management Consultants**
Management consultants analyze business issues, research possible remedies or enhancements, and present solutions to clients.

**3. Market Research Analysts**
Market research analysts test products and services and evaluate the effectiveness of marketing campaigns. They utilize social science research techniques including interviews, surveys, and focus groups to gather data.

**4. Media Planners**
Media planners assess the advertising needs of clients and design a media plan to enhance sales to various groups.

**5. Policy Analysts and Lobbyists**

Policy Analysts research issues that affect the public. They recommend legislation to address those problems. Knowledge of sociology helps analysts to assess the impact of legislation on social problems and various populations.

**6. Public Relations (PR) Specialists**
[PR specialists](https://www.thebalance.com/public-relations-job-titles-2061504) need to be the ultimate communicators. As such, they must have the sociology major's ability to understand an audience and its attitudes, needs, and preferences. Writing skills are critical for crafting high impact press releases.

**The list includes many more as well (counselors, diversity managers, advertising, social researchers, college professors, etc). Please flip over this handout to find out more about Sociology classes offered here at TCC.**

**Courses in Sociology**

**We offer Sociology classes face to face and online. Topics in our Sociology courses are incredibly diverse. Here is more information about some of our classes offered and also some specific topics covered within them by Professor Ian Bolling, M.A., Esq:**

[SOC 200 - Principles of Sociology](http://courses.vccs.edu/courses/SOC200-PrinciplesofSociology)

**Topics Covered:**  This course is an introduction to Sociology and includes broad social topics. Professor Bolling’s courses covered topics include Religion and Cults; Destruction of the Environment; Collective Behavior: Fads, Rumors, Riots, Mobs, and Social Movements; Politics (Do you lean Left or Right?); Culture (review of nerd culture and outlaw motorcycle gangs); The Fear of clowns; Sex and Gender, Deviance: What Crimes are committed in the U.S. and how to fix it; Social Class: What would you do with a million dollars? And much more!

[SOC 211 - Principles of Anthropology I](http://courses.vccs.edu/courses/SOC211-PrinciplesofAnthropologyI)

Studies the origins, development, and diversification of human biology and human cultures. Includes fossil records, physical origins of human development, human population genetics, linguistics, cultures' origins and variation, and historical and contemporary analysis of human societies. Professor Bolling’s class answers questions such as Did Neanderthals bury their dead or eat them? How do we gain personality through culture? What is the difference between Arranged and Romantic Love Marriages? How is art expressed differently across cultures and across time? What are the different religious practices of groups in the world?

[SOC 215 - Sociology of the Family](http://courses.vccs.edu/courses/SOC215-SociologyoftheFamily)

Studies topics such as marriage and family in social and cultural context. Addresses the single scene, dating and marriage styles, child-rearing, husband and wife interaction, single parent families, alternative lifestyles, divorce, remarriage, parenting strategies, and communication in personal relationships.

Soc 266 – Race & Ethnicity

Considers race and ethnicity as social constructs that deeply affect personal experience and social institutions. Examines the relationships of racial and ethnic groups with each other and with larger society including ideas of racial inequality both individually and systemically. Introduces significant theoretical approaches to the study of race and ethnicity. In Professor Bolling’s class the topics include: How to Have meaningful Conversations about Race from the perspective of several races.  An introduction to race & ethnicity; discrimination and races; biases, and then we take a closer look at specific racial minorities in the US including Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Arab Americans.  Finally, the class has section on digging deeper where students have the opportunity to explore social justice and police reform or health disparities among races.

[SOC 268 - Social Problems](http://courses.vccs.edu/courses/SOC268-SocialProblems)

Applies sociological concepts and methods to analysis of current social problems. Includes delinquency and crime, mental illness, drug addiction, alcoholism, sexual behavior, population crisis, race relations, family and community disorganization, poverty, automation, wars, and disarmament. In Professor Bolling’s course the class covers the two sides of U.S. immigration; Education Problems in the US; Guns & Gun Control; Terrorism; Legalization of drugs; Environmental Problems; and issues with artificial intelligence.

**Who is Professor Ian Bolling, M.A., Esq.?**

**Education:**

**Bachelor of Science**- Double Major in Sociology & Psychology VWU- Summa Cum Laude (Wesleyan Scholar) (1999)

**Masters in Sociology**- Florida State University; Masters Thesis: “Binge Drinking and the False Consensus Effect.” (2001)

**Juris Doctorate**- William and Mary Law School (2003)

**Teaching Synopsis:**

Professor Bolling is a Full-Professor at TCC and teaches numerous Sociology classes. As the only full-time professor at Chesapeake in Sociology he is the main point of contact for students interested in or taking Sociology courses at TCC-Chesapeake. He previously taught at Florida State University, Florida University-Jacksonville, Christopher Newport University and Old Dominion University. He acted as the Sociology lead for all of TCC for numerous years and as the Social Science lead for Chesapeake in the past. He has won numerous awards for his work in teaching, community service, and research. Ian is known to be a down-to-earth personable individual that is easy to work with and can take the most complex of topics and simplify them in a way that makes them understandable and manageable.

Ian lives in Chesapeake, VA with his wife and five children.  He enjoys spending time with his family, painting, doing renovation projects, and playing tennis with friends in his free-time.

**Legal Background Synopsis**

Ian began practicing law in 2004.  Early in his career he gained valuable experience working for the Virginia Attorney General, a Federal judge as a law clerk, and also prestigious law firms in Virginia and Florida in which he practiced civil, criminal, real estate, family law, estate planning, asset protection, copyright and patents, and corporate law.  During this time he was recognized by his peers at the Virginia State Bar and Virginia Business Magazine as a "Legal Elite."

He then began his own solo-practice that focused mostly on estate planning and asset protection, corporate planning and formation, and contract drafting and negotiation.  Ian subsequently broadened his practice to include representing on-line personalities, content creators and companies, and providing a full-service legal experience for these clients.  Ian acts as the primary attorney for the Law Firm of Bolling & Associates, PLLC today and continues to practice in his primary legal areas of specialization.

Ian is also a certified Guardian ad Litem in Virginia and a known advocate for Children’s Rights.

He has also taught courses on law at Old Dominion University that include Criminal Law, Sex Discrimination Law, and Children's Rights and has been a key note speaker at several events concerning the law and children’s rights and has been published in international journals on the topic.