

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

A SNAPSHOT OF INITIATIVES AT



COURSES

SOC offers a variety of courses that aim to broaden understanding about issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in communications.

FILM & MEDIA ARTS

- Cross-Cultural Cinema
- Gay and Lesbian Documentary
- Community Documentary

JOURNALISM

- Identity, Power, and Misrepresentation
- Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Media
- Backpack Journalism in Español
- Foreign Policy and the Press
- Global Journalism in the 21st Century
- Advanced Data-Driven Journalism:
The Data of Divides
- Censorship and Media
- Reporting on Immigration
- Race, Ethnicity, & Community Reporting

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

- Multicultural Strategic
Communication Campaigns
- International Strategic Communication
- Communication and Social Change
- The Sixties in America
- Documentary Storytelling & Social Change

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

- Musical Cultures and Industries
- Digital Media and Culture

IN-CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

COMM 588 RACE, ETHNICITY AND COMMUNITY REPORTING class taught by [Professor Sherri Williams](#) produces stories for a national publication each year. In 2021 students produced "[Racial Reckoning: A Year After a Movement Rocked the Nation](#)" a series of five stories published in Teen Vogue that prioritize racial and social justice reporting on the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd.

COMM 700 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM PRACTICUM class taught by Professor and Washington Post Investigative Reporter-in-Residence [John Sullivan](#) provides graduate students with opportunities to work with Washington Post on an investigative story. In 2021, six graduate journalism students built a [database](#) to track each federal case related to the Capitol riot suspects.

DEMOGRAPHICS

UNDERGRADUATE



International Students

11%



Students of Color

42%

GRADUATE



International Students

11%



Students of Color

45%

Source: SOC Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Services

STUDENT GROUPS

SOC is home to student chapters and media organizations aimed at broadening access, expertise, and career development in communication such as:

[NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS](#) is an organization that serves to ensure the advancement of journalists of color in newsroom diversity.

[NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC JOURNALISTS](#) is an organization that is dedicated to the recognition and professional advancement of Hispanics in the news industry.

[THE BLACKPRINT](#) is a student-run publication that serves as a platform for raising minority issues and an amplifier of marginalized voices.

[VISIBLE](#) is a student-run publication that seeks to amplify queer voices by providing a platform as unique and dynamic as the community itself.

[THE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA \(PRSSA\)](#) is the foremost organization for students interested in public relations and communications.

CONTACT US

SOC DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

is composed of faculty, staff, and students works to provide meaningful discussions about issues related to race/ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, and more, both in the classroom and in the workplace.

Contact SOCinclusion@american.edu for inquiries, suggestions, or funding requests related to DEI at SOC.



Priya Doshi

SOC Inclusion Officer | doshi@american.edu
Leads & coordinates SOC's diversity, equity, and inclusion work

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



RIDDHI SETTY was a recipient of the AU SOC White House Correspondents' Investigative Journalism scholarship. The award is given to a student in journalism at SOC who shows promise in the field of investigative journalism. As part of her investigative broadcast journalism class, Setty chose to look into the improper disposal of biomedical waste in New Delhi.



STEPHANIE MIRAH was selected for the Streitmatter Journalism Award for Excellence for her dedication to the field of communication. This award acknowledges and inspires students pursuing journalism careers. In addition, 11 students have been invited to be inducted into the Kappa Tau Alpha (KTA) national honor society.



CARMENLUCIA ACOSTA received the American News Women's Club Award. This award is given to students who exemplify merit and professional commitment to journalism. Carmenlucia plans to work in fashion journalism and better represent Mexican Americans and other underrepresented groups in the fashion and editorial industries.



ZACHARY GRADISHAR was selected for the Television Academy Foundation's prestigious 2021 Summer Fellows Program. This fellowship is dedicated to educate and encourage individuals who seek to preserve the legacy of television.



SOPHIE AUSTIN served as the first Black woman Editor-In-Chief of The Eagle, AU's award-winning student-run newspaper. Austin diversified staff and ensured that the organization's coverage became more reflective of people of color and the LGBTQ+ community on campus. She also launched a Spanish-language version of the publication. After graduating in spring 2021, Austin was named as the AU SOC Fellow at the Center for Public Integrity for Fall 2021.



AMRUTHA CHATTY served as the first woman of South Asian descent to be director of the Kennedy Political Union, the student-run and -funded speakers bureau committed to bringing the most politically relevant and impactful speakers to AU. She focused on bringing a greater diversity of voices to the AU community including a series on Black Lives Matter, to ensure representation of speakers reflected the needs of students.



MAYA SMITH was selected for a Report for America job covering health in Black Communities for The Washington Informer. She also contributed to Washington Post stories through the Investigative Practicum on topics such as election-related litigation and the January 6 Capitol riot.

SOC CENTERS

CENTER FOR MEDIA & SOCIAL IMPACT is an innovation lab and research center creates, studies, and showcases media for social impact. The Center offers research assistantships, screenings, masterclasses, and volunteer opportunities to SOC students.

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND PUBLIC POLICY is a cross-campus research center that creates and disseminates knowledge that enables all persons to participate effectively in local, national, and global governance through the use of accessible information and communication technologies. Research Assistant positions are available to students.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING WORKSHOP (IRW) has published hundreds of stories won a dozen national awards and trained more than 180 students. The work focuses on government and corporate accountability. IRW also has reported numerous stories on immigration, police shootings, and sexual assault. IRW pairs graduate students as researchers and reporters with professional staff at The Washington Post and PBS FRONTLINE.

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING provides programs that focus on the theory and practice of wildlife, nature, conservation, environmental justice, climate, and science filmmaking. Our faculty, alum, and students create award-winning films and media that raise awareness about key issues, represent diverse voices, promote solutions, and inspire action.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

POLITICO JOURNALISM INSTITUTE is a partnership with the Maynard Institute and POLITICO to focus on "training the next generation of journalists and supporting diversity in Washington newsrooms." Undergraduate students can apply to take part in this intensive mentoring and professional development program.

SOC DEAN'S INTERNSHIPS offer exceptional SOC students significant opportunities to earn bylines, production credits, and professional recognition for their work through internships at news organizations and media companies.

AU-PULITZER CENTER INTERNATIONAL REPORTING FELLOWSHIP This fellowship program is open to all SOC students. Students are selected for international reporting projects involving underreported systemic issues.

MWWPR Z SUITE PARTNERSHIP WITH SOC gives students the opportunity to provide insights and ideas to MWWPR account teams. It's an opportunity for students to get real-world experience virtually while being paid for their ideas and insights.

For a full list of [graduate and undergraduate fellowships and scholarships](#) visit soc.american.edu.