SOCIOLGY

Many transferable skills such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork, and written communication are associated with the sociology degree. Internships, part-time jobs, summer jobs, and/or volunteer experiences are highly recommended towards career goals. Research fields of interests and gain the right skill levels, experiences, and advanced degrees if necessary.

An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions in non-profit organizations, business, and government. An bachelor’s in sociology prepares students for graduate programs in sociology but also in sociology law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college student personnel, higher education administration, planning, and other related fields. Research prerequisites for graduate or professional programs of interest. There are two main types of master’s degree programs in sociology including traditional programs and programs with an applied, clinical, or professional track. Traditional programs are to prepare students to enter academia and a Ph.D. program, Applied, clinical, and professional programs are vocationally oriented and prepare students to enter the workforce by teaching job skills.

To enhance graduate or professional school opportunities, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, join student or professional organizations, and get relevant experience outside of the classroom through work, internship, volunteer, and research opportunities. Get involved with a population of interest (e.g., children, college students, elderly, adults) and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding. Talk with professionals working in areas of interest and build a network of contacts.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Counseling
- Case management
- Mental health services
- Crisis work
- Testimonial Assessment
- Behavioral analysis
- Rehabilitation services
- Advocacy
- Programming
- Community relations
- Development
- Grant writing
- Non-profit management

Common Employers

- Federal, state, and local government
- Advocacy groups
- Religious-based organizations
- Non-profit/social service agencies
- Private foundations
- Adoption and care agencies
- Nursing homes and retirement communities
- Senior citizen's centers
- Residential treatment facilities
- Hospitals and wellness centers
- Mental health
- Correctional facilities
- Vocational services
- Educational information services
- Hostel agencies
- Research
- Detention centers
- Help centers
- Airports and other transportation facilities
- Crime laboratories
- Catholic Charities
- National Institutes

Professional Organizations

- American Sociological Association Resources for Students
- American Society for Criminology
- Global Studies Association of North America
- International Sociological Association
- Justice Studies Association
- Society for the Study of Social Problems

Strategies on Entering the Field

- Concentrate course work or earn a minor in an area of interest such as youth, gerontology, or poverty.
- Develop helping and communication skills through volunteer positions.
- Obtain related work experience through an internship, part-time or summer job with a non-profit or social service organization.
- Serve as a Peer Mentor, Resident Assistant, or other student leader.
- Gain experience in social service positions.
- Learn a second language in order to interact with non-English speakers and increase marketability.
- Enhance entry-level positions require some related experience, volunteering, part-time jobs, and internships can typically fulfill this requirement.
- Obtain a graduate degree in a social science discipline such as social work, counseling, or psychology to increase employment opportunities.
- Most states require licensed social workers to have licenses making it necessary, earning a graduate degree in forensic science or a related discipline may be necessary.
- Become familiar with the government application process and seek assistance from the campus career center.
- Learn a second language for increased marketability.
- Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluations for entry into law enforcement and military careers.
- For Federal government positions with organizations such as the FBI, CIA, DEA, etc., additional work experience is often required before becoming an agent.

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