

SOCIOLOGY



Many transferable skills such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork, and oral/written communication are associated with the sociology degree. Internships, part-time jobs, summer jobs, and/or volunteer experiences are critical to reaching career goals. Research fields of interests and gain the right skills, 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 or professional education in sociology, law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college student personnel, higher education administration, planning, and other related fields. Research pre-requisites 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 gain relevant experience outside of the classroom through work, internship, volunteer, and research opportunities. Get involved with a population of interest (i.e., 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
- Testing/Assessment
- Behavioral analysis
- Rehabilitation services
- Advocacy
- Programming
- Community relations
- Development/Fund raising
- Grant writing
- Non-profit management

Federal, state, and local government
Advocacy groups
Religiously-affiliated organizations
Non-profit/Social service agencies
Private foundations
Adoption and child care agencies
Nursing homes and retirement communities
Senior citizens' centers
Residential treatment facilities
Hospitals and wellness centers
Halfway houses
Correctional facilities
Vocational services
Educational information services
Hospice agencies
Prisons/Jails
Detention centers
Youth corrections facilities
Airports and other transportation facilities
Crime laboratories
Colleges and universities
Banks

COMMON EMPLOYERS



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 essential practical 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 with diverse populations.
- Learn a second language in order to interact with non-English speakers and increase marketability.
- Many 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 service discipline such as social work, counseling, or psychology to increase employment opportunities.
- Most states require licensure or certification for positions involving the direct provision of therapeutic services to clients.
- Coursework related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, biochemistry) is often necessary for career opportunities in forensics. Additionally, 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.