

SOCIOLOGY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HUMAN SERVICES

Direct Care:

Counseling
Case Management
Mental Health Services
Crisis Work
Community Organizing

Administration:

Advocacy
Programming
Community Relations
Development/Fund Raising

Federal, state, and local government
Advocacy groups
Religiously-affiliated organizations
Non-profit agencies
Community service organizations
Private foundations
Adoption and child care agencies
Nursing homes and retirement communities
Residential treatment facilities
Hospitals and wellness centers
Halfway houses
Correctional facilities
Vocational services
Educational information services
Insurance companies

Concentrate course work in an area of interest such as youth, gerontology, or poverty.
Understand goals and missions of social service work.
Develop helping skills through volunteer positions.
Spend summers working at camps, YMCA's, or other social service agencies.
Serve as a Peer Mentor, Resident Assistant, or other student leader.
Gain experience with diverse populations.
Develop excellent communication skills.
Learn a second language in order to interact with non-English speakers and increase marketability.
Relate your background to what the employer needs.
Earn a master's degree in social work, counseling, or other related field to increase employment opportunities.
Most states require licensure or certification for positions involving the direct provision of therapeutic services to clients.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

See also What Can I Do With This Major in Criminal Justice?

Court Reporting
Court Administration
Law Enforcement
Corrections
Probation and Parole
Rehabilitation
Prevention Programming
Victim Services
Forensics
Investigation
Security
Loss Prevention/Asset Protection

City/County Government Organizations including:
Police departments
Correction facilities
County sheriff departments
Liquor Control Commission
Animal control offices
State Government Organizations including:
State troopers
Crime labs
Penitentiaries
Federal Government Organizations including:
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Choose criminal justice courses or concentration in sociology.
Attend a post-secondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting certification programs.
Volunteer to work with at-risk youth and families.
Gain experience working with diverse populations.
Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.
Consider obtaining experience in a branch of the military.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONTINUED

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
Department of Homeland Security
Postal Service
Federal Marshals
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Parks Service
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and
Explosives (ATF)
Armed services
Prisons
Detention centers
Youth corrections facilities
Airports and other transportation facilities
Crime laboratories
Colleges and universities
Banks

For forensics, take a significant number of science classes and plan to earn a master's degree in forensic science or related discipline.
Become familiar with the government application process and seek assistance from the campus career center.
Learn a second language for increased marketability.

LAW

Research the many specialties of legal practice to find ones of interest

Prosecution

Defense

Contractual

Corporate

Nonprofit or Public Interest

Government

Mediation

Lobbying

Law Assistance

Law firms
Federal, state and local government
Corporations
Public interest organizations
Private practice
Colleges and universities

Supplement curriculum with classes that help prepare students for the rigors of law school.
Participate in a debate or forensic team to hone communication skills.
Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.
Gain experience with mediation and conflict resolution.
Get involved with pre-law organizations.
Obtain a summer or part-time job in a law firm.
Plan to shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.
Look for ways to get experience in field of interest, e.g. sports, juvenile justice, environment, etc.
Attend law school and earn a JD from a school accredited by the American Bar Association to become an attorney. Maintain an excellent grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations to gain law school admittance. Plan to take the LSAT.
Complete a certificate program to prepare for paralegal positions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

K-12:

Teaching (Elementary, Middle, Secondary)
School Counseling
Administration

Higher Education:

Teaching
Research
Administration
Student Affairs
Information/Library Services

K-12 schools, public and private
Boards of education
Four-year colleges and universities
Two-year and community colleges
Technical schools
Medical and professional schools

Complete a college level teacher preparation program to teach in the public school system.
Obtain teaching certificate/license for desired subject area and/or grade level. Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state.
Gain multiple certifications to increase employability. Private schools may not require certification or licensure. Obtain master's degree in subject area for increased employability.
A master's degree in school counseling and appropriate certification are required to practice counseling in the schools.
Earn Ph.D. to teach and research at four-year institutions. Master's or Ph.D. degree is required to teach at two-year schools.
Participate in research as an undergraduate. Take research coursework, become involved with faculty research, get to know graduate students.
Join appropriate professional organization and attend conferences as a student.
Obtain a master's degree in student personnel, student development, counseling, or library/information sciences for student affairs and librarian positions.
Gain related experience on campus through student leadership opportunities such as Peer Mentors, Resident Assistants, or Orientation Leaders.

GOVERNMENT

See also What Can I Do With This Major in Public Administration?

Social Statistics
Program Analysis
Demography
Public Administration
Policy Analysis
Research
Program Development
City Planning

Federal government:
There are over 170 federal departments and agencies
State and local governments

Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and social research.
Develop exceptional computer, communication, and research skills.
Gain work experience via government internships, part-time jobs, or summer work.
Develop a specialty such as aging, family, criminal justice, or healthcare.
Seek leadership roles in relevant student groups.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GOVERNMENT CONTINUED

Become involved in student government.
Participate in cross-cultural organizations. Interact with the international community on campus.
Research government agencies and identify federal job titles that are right for your combination of education and experience.
Maintain a strong grade point average.
Obtain a graduate degree for advanced positions.
Learn the federal job application process and seek assistance from campus career centers.
Consider beginning a career with the government by joining the military or Peace Corps. Such experiences can open doors to government positions.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Research

Data Analysis

Policy or Program Analysis

Demographics

Market Research

Information Sourcing

Universities

Government agencies

Research institutes

Non-profit agencies

Private industries

Advertising and marketing firms

Consulting firms

Information brokers

Newspapers, magazines, news agencies

Public opinion research polls

Develop exceptional quantitative, statistical, writing, and organizational skills.

Learn to use statistical software packages as well as database, spreadsheet, and presentation programs.

Volunteer to help a professor with a research project or complete original research through an independent study class.

Develop an area of expertise through relevant experience, coursework, or advanced degree.

Obtain an advanced degree in sociology for research administration positions.

Earn certification in applied social research by The American Sociological Association.

Network with professionals working in areas of interest.

Gain experience working on teams and communicating ideas with others from varying disciplines.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BUSINESS

Human Resources:
 Training and Development
 Recruiting
Management
Sales
Marketing
Public Relations
Office Administration

Insurance firms
Retail stores
Banks
Staffing agencies
Manufacturing companies
Service industries
Non-profit organizations
Healthcare organizations
Government
Education

Supplement curriculum with appropriate coursework (accounting, finance, management, etc.) or earn a minor in business or communications.
Gain relevant experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships.
Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and presentations.
Hone written and oral communication skills.
Join related professional associations.
Seek leadership roles on campus.
Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.
When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."
Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

Land and Water Conservation
Planning
Law
Preserve Management
Natural Resource Management
Land Acquisition
Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Environmental Education
Advocacy/Lobbying
Administration and Management
Recreation Planning
Research
Site Operations and Maintenance
Ecotourism

Waste management firms
Health agencies
Local planning agencies
Environmental advocacy groups
Non-profit organizations
Local, state, and federal government agencies
National Park Service
State, county, or city parks
Consulting firms
Private industry
Media companies
Environmental periodicals
Resorts and marinas
Privately owned facilities
Tourism agencies
Land trust organizations such as The Nature Conservancy or Trust for Public Land

Enhance curriculum with courses in ecology, environmental science, and statistics.
Choose a minor or concentration in environmental studies or issues.
Join environment-related student organizations.
Volunteer to work on environmental clean-up projects with an organization such as Student Conservation Association (SCA).
Find a related internship, part-time, or summer job.
Obtain a graduate degree or law degree for advancement or to work in specific areas.
Obtain legal, real estate, and financial skills through coursework, internships, or part-time jobs.
Participate in travel and/or recreation programs.
Learn environmental laws and regulations.
Join professional associations and environmental groups as ways to network.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 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.
- 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.