

# SOCIOLOGY

## What is Sociology?

“Sociology is the study of human social behavior, especially the study of the origins, organization, institutions and development of human society. It is an analysis of a social institution or societal segment as a self-contained entity or in relation to society as a whole.” (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/sociology.htm>)

“The sociology general track is designed for students who are interested in a general, though intensive, study of sociological methodology, theory and content areas. Students with a concentration in sociology can find employment in business and government; in human service organizations; in international organizations; as politicians, educators, journalists and social researchers; and in foreign service. The general sociology track is intended primarily for students who plan to pursue law school or graduate study in sociology. It is also intended for those who seek careers in business, governmental or community service occupations for which graduate school training is unnecessary.” (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/sociology.html>)

## What is this career like? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos054.htm>)

“Sociologists study society and social behavior by examining the groups, cultures, organizations and social institutions people form. They also study the activities in which people participate, including social, religious, political, economic and business organizations. They study the behavior of, and interaction among, groups, organizations, institutions and nations and how they react to phenomena such as the spread of technology, health epidemics, crime and social movements.

They also trace the origin and growth of these groups and interactions. Sociologists analyze how social influences affect different individuals. They also are concerned with the ways organizations and institutions affect the daily lives of individuals and groups.

To analyze social patterns, sociologists design research projects that use a variety of methods, including historical analysis, comparative analysis, and quantitative and qualitative techniques. The results of sociological research aid educators, lawmakers, administrators and others who are interested in resolving social problems and formulating public policy. Most sociologists work in one or more specialties, such as social organization; stratification and mobility; racial and ethnic relations; education; the family; social psychology; urban, rural, political and comparative sociology; gender relations; demography; gerontology; criminology; and sociological practice.

“Sociology concentrators may also provide social services and assistance to improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families and to maximize the well-being of families and the academic functioning of children. They may assist single parents, arrange adoptions, or help find foster homes for neglected, abandoned or abused children. Some specialize in services for senior citizens. These social workers may run support groups for the children of aging parents; advise elderly people or family members about housing, transportation, long-term care and other services; and coordinate and monitor these services. Through employee assistance programs, social workers may help people cope with job-related pressures or with personal problems that affect the quality of their work.”

## What are the career opportunities for a sociology concentrator?

**Related Career Titles** (Some may require education beyond bachelor's degree)

Admissions Counselor	Data Analyst	Mental Health Worker
Adoption Agent	Day Care Worker	News Correspondent
Advertising Assistant	Delinquency Counselor	Parole/Probation Officer
Aging Specialist	Family Guidance Clinic	Peace Corps/VISTA
Alcohol/Drug Case Worker	Foster Care Worker	Personnel Interviewer
Case Aid Worker	Fundraiser	Personnel Specialist
Child Welfare Officer	Human Resources	Program Assistant
Community Service Agency	Independent Living Train.	Public Relations Spec.
Compensation/Benefits	Insurance Agent/Broker	Reporter
Congressional Aid	Job Analyst	Research Assistant
Consumer Advocate	Labor Relations Rep.	Public Opinion Surveyor
Consumer Survey Advisor	Marketing Research Analyst	Recreation Therapist
Convention Organizer	Shipping Operations	Claims Representative
Cooperative Extension Agent	Social Movements Org.	Veterans Affairs Spec.
Correctional Case Worker	Social Scientist	Welfare Counselor
Corrections Officer	Social Welfare Examiner	Writer/Author
Cottage Parent	Social Worker	Sales Representative
Secret Service Agent	Teacher	Technical Writer
Career Services Counselor	City Planner	Clergy
Researcher	Social Scientist	Trainer
Resident Assistant	Rehabilitation Counselor	Recreation Director
School Counselor	Social Worker	Urban Planner
Marriage and Family Therapist	Medical Social Worker	Veterans Affairs Specialist
Professor	Nutritionist	Welfare Counselor
Financial Aid Director	Dietitian	Public Administrator
Public Health Educator	Community Relations	Gerontologist

**How do you get ready?** (from <http://career.utk.edu/students/majors/pdf/sociology.pdf>)

- 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.
- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions in business, industry and government. However, a graduate degree is likely to be more desirable in a competitive market.
- An undergraduate degree in sociology is great preparation for graduate or professional education in sociology, law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college

student personnel, higher education administration and other related fields. Research prerequisites 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 the classroom through work, internship, volunteer and research opportunities.
- A Ph.D. is required for teaching at the four-year university level.
- For human or social service positions, gain experience 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.

### Related Major Skills

Analyze, synthesize & interpret Information	Knowledge of social structures and change
Interpersonal communication (oral & written)	Interact well with diverse cultures/groups
Knowledge of community resources	Research and planning (sociological)
Statistical abilities	Critical thinking
Ability to understand & improve human relationships	Resolve conflicts/counseling
Insight into group dynamics	Work well under pressure
Computer skills (data processing & analysis)	

### What about the future?

For additional job outlook information, refer to [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).

### Available at Albright College Career Development Center's Resource Library

- Great Jobs for Sociology Majors, by Stephen Lambert
- Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types, Adrian Paradis
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Kids At Heart and Others Who Adore Children, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Legal Eagles and Other Law-and-Order Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Mystery Buffs and Other Snoops and Sleuths, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Number Crunchers and Other Quantitative Types, by Rebecca Burnett
- Careers for Scholars and Other Deep Thinkers, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers in Criminology, by Marilyn Morgan
- Careers in Sociology, by W. Richard Stephens, Jr.
- Opportunities in Child Care Careers, by Renee Wittenberg
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Gerontology and Aging Services Careers, by Ellen Williams
- Opportunities in Hospital Administration Careers, by I. Donald Snook, Jr.
- Opportunities in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Careers, by James Stinchcomb
- Opportunities in Social Science Careers, by Rosanne J. Marek

- Opportunities in Social Work Careers, by Renee Wittenberg
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter

### **Disclaimer**

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

### **Job and Internship Search Links**

- AcademyHealth, <http://www.academyhealth.org/career/>
- Action Without Borders, <http://www.idealists.org/>
- American Sociological Association's Job Bank, <http://jobbank.asanet.org/jobbank/index.cfm>
- AmeriCorps, <http://www.americorps.org>
- Community Career Center (Nonprofit Jobs), <http://www.nonprofitjobs.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.sjob>
- Chronicle of Philanthropy, <http://www.philanthropy.com>
- Human Services Career Network, <http://www.hscareers.com>
- IHireSocialServices, <http://www.ihiresocialservices.com/default.asp>
- National Human Services Assembly, [http://www.nassembly.org/nassembly/na\\_job\\_display.cfm](http://www.nassembly.org/nassembly/na_job_display.cfm)
- Nonprofit Job Opportunities, <http://www.opportunitynocks.org/>
- Nonprofit Times Jobs, <http://www.nptjobs.com>
- Peace Corps, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- Philanthropy News Network, <http://www.pnnonline.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=phprofession&file=index>
- Social Service, <http://www.socialservice.com>
- Social Service Jobs <http://www.socialworkjobbank.com>
- Society of Human Resource Management, <http://www.shrm.org/jobs/>
- The Mentor Network, <http://www.thementornetwork.com/forward/careers.aspx?guid=bb92659c-053f-476b-a9ec-dc4d2dd07be7>

### **Career Planning Links**

- The Sociology Major: As Preparation for Careers in Business and Organizations, <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Careers+and+Jobs&name=Sociology+Major+-++Preparation+for+Careers>
- Sociology Virtual Library, <http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/w3virtsoclib>
- Careers in Sociology, <http://www.saludos.com/fields/soc.html>

### **Professional Associations Links**

- American Sociological Association (Careers and Jobs), <http://www.asanet.org>
- Sociologists for Women in Society, <http://newmedia.colorado.edu/~socwomen/>