

# Sociology

## What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of social relationships and social structures. It focuses on relations among people, groups, organizations, classes, cultures, and societies. Through study in sociology, students gain an understanding of the social character of human life and of the impact of varying forms of social organization on human affairs. Students are introduced to the methods by which such knowledge is obtained and to the applications of sociological knowledge.

## What can I do with a degree in Sociology?

A Bachelor's degree in sociology has served as the foundation for successful careers in areas ranging from law to health care to business. Graduates are able to apply their knowledge and skills across a wide variety of occupations and professions; they are also prepared for graduate and professional school programs in areas such as law, business, public administration, public health, social work, or psychology.

## Occupational opportunities

Sociology majors can often be found in nonprofit or government related organizations. Sales and management are typical non-major related career paths. For some of the occupations, such as paralegal, related skills or training may be necessary. Graduate study is generally expected for *italicized* occupations.

### Economy, Business, and Society

- Marketing Manager
- *Survey research scientist*
- *Public opinion researcher*
- Training coordinator
- Systems analyst
- *Industrial sociologist*
- Customer relations manager
- Labor relations consultant
- Human resources manager

### Social Organizations, and Social Services Health, Aging, and Population

- Day care workers
- Teacher
- *Gerontologist*
- *Social worker*
- Consumer advocate
- *Psychiatrist*
- *Psychologist*
- *Epidemiologist*
- Policy analyst

### International Social Change/Social Inequality

- *Community organizer*
- *Social researcher/analyst*
- *Professor*
- Affirmative action representative
- Interviewer
- Academic researcher
- *Urban/regional planner*
- Vocational evaluator
- Caseworker

### Law, Criminology, and Deviance

- Probation/parole officer
- *Juvenile court judge*
- Legislative aid
- *Lawyer*
- *Forensic investigator*
- Law enforcement officer
- Paralegal
- Mediator
- *Arbitrator*

**The Sociology (and Anthropology) Department is located on the fourth floor of the Newman Vertical Campus in room 4-260. You can contact them at (646)312-4460.**

## Skills and Abilities

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Whether in academic careers, business, or social change careers, majors in sociology learn and apply communication, research, planning, social analysis, and critical thinking skills. Like all those studying the social sciences, sociology majors tend to be analytical and problem solvers, though there is typically a greater emphasis on group behavior. While oriented to both people and humanitarian concerns, they tend to be more involved with indirect contact. They tend to be responsible for issue analysis and policy formulation rather than direct human services such as counseling. The following list provides a sample of the potential skills acquired through study in sociology.

- | <u>Analysis</u>   | <u>Communication</u>  | <u>Research and Project Development</u>   | <u>Human Relations</u>  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interpreting data</li><li>• Evaluating ideas and theory</li><li>• Analyzing information qualitatively and quantitatively</li><li>• Reasoning logically</li><li>• Understanding components of complex problems</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Articulating and defending positions</li><li>• Writing effectively</li><li>• Reading critically</li><li>• Presenting alternative explanations</li><li>• Understanding and motivating groups</li><li>• Preparing reports</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defining hypotheses</li><li>• Planning/designing projects</li><li>• Gathering data</li><li>• Interviewing</li><li>• Working with research</li><li>• Translating theory into action</li><li>• Working as a team member</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifying cultural/social norms</li><li>• Assessing needs</li><li>• Understanding human relationships</li><li>• Recognizing social processes</li><li>• Understanding prejudice and discrimination</li></ul> |

## Additional Resources

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U.S. Government's Occupational Outlook Handbook  
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco>

American Sociological Association (ASA)  
1307 New York Ave., N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 383-9005  
[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)

Careers in Sociology  
W. Richard Stephens, Jr.  
[www.abacon.com/socsite/careers.html](http://www.abacon.com/socsite/careers.html)

National Association of Social Workers  
[www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

Action Without Borders  
Non-profit organizations and opportunities  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

Social Work Job Bank  
Real jobs for social work professionals  
[www.socialworkjobbank.com](http://www.socialworkjobbank.com)

Sociology as a Career  
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<http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/undergr/careers.html>