What Can I Do With A Degree In Sociology?

**Human Services Areas**
- Counseling
- Case Management
- Advocacy
- Mental Health Services
- Programming
- Administration

**Employers**
- Community service agencies
- Advocacy groups
- Federal, state, and local government
- United Way agencies
- Local branches of national non-profit organizations
- Religiously-affiliated service organizations
- Private foundations
- Adoption and child care agencies
- Nursing homes and retirement communities
- Hospitals and wellness centers
- Halfway houses
- Vocational services
- Educational information services
- Insurance companies

**Strategies**
- Gain experience and develop helping skills through volunteer positions.
- Spend summers working at camps, YMCA’s, or other social service agencies.
- Gain experience working with diverse populations.
- Concentrate course work in an area of interest such as youth, gerontology, or poverty.
- Learn a second language in order to interact with non-English speakers and increase marketability.
- Serve as a peer mentor, resident assistant, or other student leader.
- Earn a master’s degree in social work, counseling, or other related field to increase employment opportunities.

Criminal Justice
Areas
- Corrections
- Rehabilitation
- Law Enforcement
- Judiciary

Employers
- Correctional institutions
- Court systems
- Federal, state, and local government

Strategies
- Gain practical experience via part-time or summer jobs, internships, or volunteer work.
- Volunteer to work with troubled youth.
- Obtain a graduate or law degree for advancement.
- Consider obtaining experience in a branch of the military.

Education
Areas
- Teaching
- Research

Employers
- Public and private schools
- Colleges and universities
- Adult education providers

Strategies
- Obtain certification/licensure to teach grades K-12.
- Become certified to teach multiple subjects and age groups for increased job opportunities.
- Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.
- Volunteer as a tutor.
- Secure strong personal recommendations, particularly from professors.

Government
Areas
- Social Statistics
- Demography
- Public Administration
- Policy Analysis
- Research
- Program Development
- Human Services
- City Planning
- Law Enforcement

Employers
- Federal departments and agencies such as: State and local government
- Peace Corps

Strategies
- Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and social research.
- Gain work experience via government internships, part-time jobs, or summer work.
- Develop a specialty such as aging, family, criminal justice, or healthcare.
- Learn the federal job application process.
- Obtain a graduate degree for advanced positions.
- Consider beginning a career with the government by joining the military.
Social Science Research

Areas
- Research
- Data Analysis
- Demography
- Market Research
- Information Sourcing

Employers
- Universities
- Government agencies
- Research institutes
- Non-profit agencies
- Community organizations
- Private industries
- Advertising and marketing firms
- Consulting organizations
- Information brokers
- Newspapers, magazines, news agencies
- Public opinion research polls

Strategies
- Develop exceptional quantitative, statistical, and writing skills.
- Learn to use statistics software packages as well as database, spreadsheet, and desktop publishing programs.
- Volunteer to help a professor with a research project.
- Earn certification in applied social research by The American Sociological Association.

Environment & Society

Employers
- Waste management firms
- Health agencies
- Local planning agencies
- Environmental advocacy groups
- Environmental periodicals

Employers
- Federal government
- Regional, state, and local agencies
- Consulting firms
- Private industry

Strategies
- Enhance curriculum with courses in ecology, environmental science, and statistics.
- Join environment-related student organizations.
- Volunteer to work on environmental clean-up projects.
- Find a related internship, part-time, or summer job.

Business

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

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

Strategies
- Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with courses in general business, accounting, and finance.
- Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships.
- Join related professional associations.
• Seek leadership roles in student organizations.

**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.
• An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions; 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.
• For human or social service positions, gain experience with a population of interest and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding.
• Talk with professionals working in areas of interest.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Exploring Majoring in Sociology**
American Sociological Association
http://www.asanet.org/students/majoring_sociology.cfm

Kansas State
www.k-state.edu/acic/majorin/sociology.htm

University of Delaware
http://www.udel.edu/CSC/soc.html

**Career Exploration**
American Sociological Association
asanet.org/employment/careers.cfm
www.asanet.org/employment/factsoncareers.cfm

Careers in Sociology
www.abacon.com/socsite/careers.html

Occupational Outlook Handbook - various
www.stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos315.htm
www.stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos314.htm
www.stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos059.htm

**Criminal Justice**
Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbi.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook - various
www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm
www.bls.gov/oco/ocos157.htm

**Job Postings**
SMC Student Job Search - www.stmarys-ca.edu/studentjobs

American Sociological Association (membership required)
www.jobbank.asanet.org/jobbank/index.cfm

Environmental Protection Agency
www.yosemite.epa.gov/r9/vacancy.nsf/CurrentOpenings?OpenView

**Professional Associations**
American Sociological Association
www.asanet.org

Population Association of America
http://www.popassoc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1

Social Science Research Council
http://www.ssrc.org/

American Society of Criminology
http://www.asc41.com/

U.S. Department of Justice
http://www.justice.gov/