The 21st century labor market is fast-changing, increasingly global, and technology driven. The skills you need to succeed in the 21st century include: creativity, innovation, critical thinking, analytic problem-solving, communication, collaboration, global understanding, and excellent written expression.

The good news for sociology majors is that your studies are uniquely suited to help you develop the skills you need for a successful 21st century career.

Sociologists study social life, social change, diverse communities and their interactions, and they use scientific methods to find empirical answers to complex social questions.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SOCIOLOGY DEGREE?**

As a graduate with a Sociology degree, you will have a foundation for better understanding and engaging with the globalizing world. You will be equipped with the tools needed to make sense of the shifting social world and contribute solutions to difficult social problems.

Studying sociology can help foster your creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and analytic problem solving and communication skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Services</th>
<th>Community Work</th>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Non-profit agencies</td>
<td>Law enforcement</td>
<td>College Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social work</td>
<td>Urban planning</td>
<td>Inve stigations</td>
<td>Advising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/Elderly services</td>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>Probation/Parole</td>
<td>Alumni Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Community development</td>
<td>Criminal justice</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Environmenta l groups</td>
<td>Judicial affairs</td>
<td>K-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adapted from Careers in Sociology, a publication of the American Sociological Association.*

*What are they Doing with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology*

Updated May 2021 by Nisa Lacey
**What Do You Do With A Sociology BA Degree?**

### What Kind of Sociologist Do You Want to Be?

- **Many sociology majors go on to graduate or professional school in:**
  - Social work
  - Sociology
  - Public Administration
  - Counseling
  - Education
  - Law
  - Business
  - Other social sciences

### Sample Classes: Social worker;
Working with school children
- SOC 330 – Environmental Sociology
- SOC 370 – Sociology of Education
- SOC 385 – Childhood and Society
- SOC 403 – Sociology of the Family
- SOC 410 – Child Welfare Policy
- SOC 445 - Sociology of Emotions
- SOC 455 – Juvenile Delinquency

- Suggested minor: Human Development or Psychology

### Sample classes: Prisoner rights;
Advocate in a non-profit
- SOC 365 – Deviance & Social Control
- SOC 380 – Sociology of Race, Crime & Justice
- SOC 403– Sociology of the Family
- SOC 430 – Social Policy
- SOC 455 – Juvenile Delinquency
- SOC 465 – Mediation & Conflict Resolution
- SOC 485 – Policing and Society

- Suggested minor: Criminal Justice or Political Science

### Sample classes: Human Resources;
HR Assistant
- SOC 350 – Sociology of Immigration
- SOC 355– Global Society
- SOC 405– Sociology of Organizations
- SOC 425 - Work & Professions
- SOC 430 - Social Policy
- SOC 433 – Community Engagement
- SOC 435 - Social Psychology
- SOC 465 – Mediation & Conflict Resolution

- Suggested minor: Business Administration

### Social Services/Counselors
- **Domestic Violence Victims Advocate**
  “I work as an advocate for victims of domestic violence in a public assistance office.”
- **Residential Crisis Counselor**
  “I work as a counselor for homeless and runaway youth in a shelter.”
- **Teen Court Case Manager**
  “Case manager for first-time juvenile offenders participating in alternative program to traditional juvenile court.”

### Teachers/Education
- **Elementary School Teacher**
  “I am a Kindergarten teacher: I instruct students in the Spanish language.”
- **EFL Teacher**
  “I’m an English as a Foreign Language teacher in [Latin America] at a technical college…”
- **Assistant Site Manager**
  “I manage a before and after school program for elementary students that includes activities, lessons and enrichment.”

### Sales/Marketing
- **Social Media/Marketing Analyst**
  “Assessed the performance of social media strategies as they relate to traffic growth, reader engagement, SEO, sales, and marketing. Created quantitative analyses using advanced Excel, Google Analytics, and Wordpress.”
- **Events and Marketing Coordinator**
  “I plan the events and do all marketing and communication for the mentoring and career services office...”
- **Marketing Associate**
  “Outreaching to hospital executives in order to schedule sales meetings for healthcare performance technologies.”

### Administrative Support
- **Office Manager**
  “Budget management, general accounting, supervision of other employees.”
- **HR Assistant**
  “Provide support within different parts of Human Resources (including recruiting, benefits, payroll, and director of HR).”
- **Executive Assistant and Externship Outreach Coordinator**
  “Assisting the CEO of the institution, along with assisting the Internship department.”
Helpful Career Information

MEDIAN SALARIES BY OCCUPATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probation Officer</td>
<td>$36,990 - $98,510</td>
<td>$55,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>$66,740 – $208,000</td>
<td>$118,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistician</td>
<td>$61,130 - $170,150</td>
<td>$110,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociologist</td>
<td>$52,640 - $143,020</td>
<td>$86,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planner</td>
<td>$46,830 - $118,210</td>
<td>$75,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Salary range can depend on level of education*


Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:


The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

CSUEB Career Services- AACE

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: (510) 885-3621
Student Services & Administration Building (SA), Suite 2300

Sociology Honor Society

[Alpha Kappa Delta](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/) is the International Sociology Honor Society and CSUEB has a local chapter. AKD provides opportunities for sociology majors to network and socialize, as well as take advantage of professional development and leadership opportunities.
Thinking about a Graduate Degree in Sociology?

Many sociology major students choose to continue their education beyond their bachelors degree. Which degree they aspire to depends heavily on their particular interests and motivations for doing so. Some might want to leverage their sociology expertise to help people and advise organizations in doing so. Others may want to perform research, while some maybe just love to learn. Earning a master’s or doctorate degree in sociology may be fundamental for higher education teaching and advanced research or applied careers.

*Most graduate sociology programs will require that you take the GRE; write a personal statement; submit official transcripts; and obtain letters of recommendation.*

Sociology Masters Programs

- Master of Science (MS)
  - Leans towards analytical and science behind why people behave the way they do
- Master of Arts (MA)
  - Emphasizes other skills such as cultural awareness and communication
- Both emphasize classical and contemporary sociology theory and research methodology
- Two types of programs:
  - Traditional programs – Prepares students to enter a Ph.D. program
  - Applied, clinical, and professional programs
    - Prepares students to enter the workplace, teaching the necessary analytical skills to perform sociological research
    - Research sociologists are employed in nonprofits, government, and businesses
- While every school is unique, it generally takes about two years as a full time student to earn a Master’s

Doctorate in Sociology Programs

- Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- Ph.D. programs in Sociology are research based
  - Research topic of choice has a big influence on what you learn and the types of courses you take
  - Experience depends heavily on area of interest and course of study
- Curriculum is likely to include courses centered on research practices and methodology
- Dissertation required
- Trains future scholars for skills in the discipline of sociology
- Acquire advanced knowledge of sociological theory and research in chosen area
- Graduates pursue research and/or post-secondary teaching positions
- Roughly takes four-eight years to complete
  - Depends on school/curriculum, research subject & part time vs. full time attendance