



SOCIOLOGY CAREER GUIDE

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.

Social Services	Community Work	Law	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Admissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth/Elderly services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probation/Parole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alumni Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-12

Adapted from *Careers in Sociology*, a publication of the [American Sociological Association](#).
[What are they Doing with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology](#)

**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

What Do You Do With A Sociology BA Degree?

Not many job announcements ask for a sociologist, but sociology majors report having a lot of skills and knowledge valued on their jobs:

- Understanding of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Social institutions & their impacts
- Groups and teams
- Critical Thinking
- Data analysis
- Social problems
- Sociological concepts / theories
- Research design

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

Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the [Career Occupational Handbook](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/) to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

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

MEDIAN SALARIES BY OCCUPATION 2020-2021

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Probation Officer	\$36,990 - \$98,510	\$55,690
Public Relations	\$66,740 - \$208,000	\$118,430
Statistician	\$61,130 - \$170,150	\$110,860
Sociologist	\$52,640 - \$143,020	\$86,110
Urban Planner	\$46,830 - \$118,210	\$75,950

Salary range can depend on level of education Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Sociology Honor Society

[Alpha Kappa Delta](#) 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.

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY
EAST BAY

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 they 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