

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of social life. It focuses on the interaction between human groups and institutions and their influences on each other. Sociology ranges from the study of relationships in family units in the most primitive cultures to the research of large bureaucratic institutions in major industrialized nations.

TYPICAL SKILLS

Proficiency in interpersonal communication	Knowledge of community resources
Ability to conduct/explain sociological research	Ability to maintain composure in stressful situations
Ability to interact with people of different backgrounds	Proficiency in reading/writing/speaking
Ability to represent others	Ability to evaluate problems
Knowledge of survey/research methods	Ability to make appropriate decisions

TYPICAL JOBS LIST

The following are actual job titles of people who have graduated with an undergraduate degree in Sociology although some of these positions may require education beyond a bachelors.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR/COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Advises students at all levels on selection of courses and majors. Sometimes involves career counseling. Sometimes requires certification.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVE

Researches, analyzes, and monitors staffing policies in order to achieve affirmative action goals. Conducts outreach activities in order to identify and attract qualified women and minority applicants for company openings. Employers in all fields.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Produces educational programs, social events, and special tours for alumni; writes alumni publications; coordinates fund raising and reunion activities. Works for college and university alumni affairs offices.

CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT COUNSELOR

Assists individuals in setting and implementing career and job-search goals, teaches decision-making and job-search skills, networks among employers for interviewing opportunities and internships, develops related library resources. Employers include private firms and universities and colleges.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICER

Recruits and selects prospective students, creates promotional materials, makes presentations on and off campus, sets admissions criteria, reviews applications, and communicates with applicants.

COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Creates and implements programs to raise funds for a college or university through corporate and alumni contributions.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICER

Helps students secure financial aid by providing appropriate information and processing a wide variety of applications.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Writes press releases, speeches, annual reports, and other material to promote a corporation and its image. Works for corporations in all fields.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER

Creates new educational methods and materials; assesses the effectiveness of existing methods and materials. Employers include school districts, private schools, manufacturers of educational equipment, educational publishers, and national testing organizations.

ELIGIBILITY WORKER

Screens prospective beneficiaries of a government program to determine their eligibility for the program's services. Works for federal, state, and local government agencies.

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

Works in foreign service posts to represent and administer United States embassies and various foreign service programs. Requires testing and security clearance.

HOUSING AND STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

Administers housing services and produces special programs to promote positive interaction on campus. Works for universities and colleges.

HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITER

Interviews applicants on college campuses, at employment fairs, at trade and professional meetings, and in the office. Promotes effective relations with colleges, universities, and other institutions that supply prospective employees. Positions exist in many settings, including search firms.

IMMIGRATION AGENT

Assists in the regulation of immigration into the United States, including prevention of illegal immigration. May serve as a publicist, a translator, or a border patrol officer. May provide special services to refugees. Employed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. Department of Justice.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN

Writes institutional and policy histories; researches and reports on current issues, long-range trends; edits public records, manages archives. Works for executive, legislative, and judicial agencies, international institutions, military services, cultural agencies, planning agencies, public archives and libraries, private industries and corporations.

LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCHER

Assists labor relations specialists with detailed research required for contract negotiations. Prepares advisory reports on union-management agreements. Works for unions, unionized employers, and government arbitrators.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Performs a variety of enforcement and investigative activities. May involve computer analyses. Works for federal, state, and local police departments and for special enforcement agencies such as the FBI, tobacco and firearms, drug enforcement, border patrol, etc.

LOBBYING ORGANIZER

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives. Employers include special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

LOBBYING RESEARCHER

Identifies information that can be used to support the positions and the efforts of lobbyists. Involves library research, attendance at conferences and committee meetings, and writing of reports. Employers include a diversity of special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

MARKET RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Undertakes the preliminary research for a market study, gathering data concerning competitors' products, organizing existing sales records, etc. Also assists in writing final project reports. Works for market research firms, advertising agencies, manufacturers, and retailers.

PARALEGAL

Performs preparatory work required to research a case, develops documentation required to write a brief. May interview prospective witnesses. Works for private law offices, law firms, prosecutors, and public defenders.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ANALYST

Writes manuals on internal operating procedures and policies. Works for employers in all fields.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WORKER

Assists in planning, fund raising, research, writing issue statements, canvassing, and assessing voter attitudes. Works for candidates or interest groups during political election campaigns. Frequently leads to permanent positions with political organizations or officeholders.

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Teaches basic academic and social skills to young children. Often teaches a variety of subjects to a single class or grade level. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Creates, implements and coordinates a service to a community. May involve fund raising for a charity, overseeing a scholarship fund, operating a service-oriented program or facility, etc. Employers include nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, and the public affairs sections of commercial businesses.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Assesses the public relations needs of an organization, and plans and implements programs to meet them. Distinct from advertising. Makes public appearances, produces special events, and prepares press releases and packets to generate favorable free publicity. Works for professional agencies, for businesses of all kinds, and for nonprofit and social service organizations.

PUBLICATIONS RESEARCHER

Researches story and script ideas; maintains research files on topics and people; checks stories for accuracy. Works for newspaper, magazine, or book publishers.

RADIO/TELEVISION RESEARCHER

Researches story and script ideas for broadcast media. Maintains research files on topics and people; checks stories for accuracy. Works for radio and television producers.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHER

Explores the real estate needs of particular communities, gathers information about available parcels of land, and explores the market feasibility of proposed projects. Works for real estate developers.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Helps students to gain self-understanding, solve school-related problems, make personal and career decisions, and select appropriate educational programs. Administers and interprets standardized tests; works with school staff, students, and parents to identify and evaluate learning problems. Employers include elementary and secondary schools, technical institutes, and colleges. Typically requires course work in counseling and a credential.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Instructs high school and junior high school students in specialized subject areas. Most secondary school teachers teach several courses in a single subject area. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT

Helps social workers to furnish counseling and referral services to individuals and families. Handles intake, maintains files, interacts with referral agencies, and documents cases. Works for government agencies, hospitals, and social workers in private practice.

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Does sociological analysis; studies policy issues; prepares analytical reports; coordinates interdisciplinary studies. Works for "think tanks", universities, public research agencies.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Develops and administers special education programs. Settings (e.g., churches, social service agencies, youth organizations) and topics (e.g., therapeutic arts-and-crafts, drug-abuse education, athletic programs) vary widely.

SPECIAL PROGRAM TEACHERS

Instructs students enrolled in special education programs. Settings (e.g., churches, social service agencies) and topics (e.g., vocational training, preschool Head Start, drug-abuse prevention) vary widely.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES ADVISOR

Administers various activities for college students, usually extracurricular. Positions include fraternity/sorority advisor, disciplinary advisor, foreign student advisor, student publications advisor, and so forth.

STUDENT UNION COORDINATOR

Operates facilities and furnishes services for students through a college union or student center. Includes bookstore management, conference and special classes coordination, food services and recreational services.

SURVEY ASSISTANT

Assists in the design of survey interviews and questionnaires, the interviewing of subjects, the management of interviewers, collection and analysis of data, and documentation and presentation of findings. Works for government agencies and private surveying and market research organizations.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Assists researchers in collecting and analyzing data, observing and interviewing people, surveying appropriate literature, and writing reports in order to advise or inform a client. Works for research and consulting firms.

URBAN PLANNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Under the supervision of a city or regional planner, conducts research into the economic, environmental, and social consequences of development in order to support strategies for appropriate growth and renovation of rural, suburban, or urban areas. Typically works for a government agency. May work for a consulting or architectural firm.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

Assists physically, emotionally, or mentally disabled individuals to develop and carry out vocational and educational plans. Cooperates with other professionals such as physicians, placement counselors, and educators. Works for state and local rehabilitation agencies, hospitals, schools for the handicapped, and the Veterans Administration. Typically requires course work in vocational rehabilitation and a credential.

HIRING ORGANIZATIONS

Adoption/Child Care agencies
AmeriCorps
Civil Rights Agencies
Clinics/Hospitals
Colleges/Universities
Community Organizations
Courts/Correctional Institutions
Foundations
Government Agencies
Labor Unions
Market Research Firms

Medical schools
Peace Corps
Personnel Departments
Religious Organizations
Retirement Agencies
Senior Citizen Agencies
Social Service Agencies
United Nations
Veteran's Administration
Youth Organizations

WEBSITES: JOB INFO

Social Service.com <http://www.socialservice.com/userlogin.cfm?cfid=760299&cftoken=3282807>

Human Resources jobs (from the Society of Human Resource Management)
<http://www.shrm.org/jobs/>

HR jobs at Monster <http://hr.monster.com/>

Non-Profit Career Network <http://www.nonprofitcareer.com/corps.htm>

Action Without Borders-Non Profit Organizations and Job Opportunities <http://www.idealists.org/>

FEDERAL JOBS <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Jobs with the US Department of Health & Human Services
<http://www.dhhs.gov/jobs/index.html>

Jobs with the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
<http://www.hud.gov/jobs/index.cfm>

The Corporation for National & Community Service (includes Americorp)
<http://www.nationalservice.org/>

US Adm. on Aging Summer Internship Program

http://www.aoa.gov/about/jobs/jobs_internship.asp
Jobs with the Transportation Security Administration
<http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=2&content=589>

United States Secret Service <http://www.treas.gov/usss/index.shtml>

IRS Criminal Investigation jobs - <http://www.treas.gov/irs/ci/recruit/>

Naval Criminal Investigative Service jobs
<http://www.ncis.navy.mil/careers/HowToApply.html>

National Security Agency careers <http://www.nsa.gov/programs/employ/index.html>

INS Border Patrol Jobs <http://jsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?jobid=18686709>

US Park Police job info <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/findex.htm>

Opportunities with the UN & other international organizations
<http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/11076.htm>
<http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/>

US Postal Inspector jobs - <http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors/employmt.htm>

Federal Bureau of Prisons jobs - <http://www.bop.gov/hrmpg/hrmcorrectionalofficer.html>

FBI jobs <https://fbijobs.com/>

CIA careers <http://www.cia.gov/employment/index.html>

Dept of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving & Printing - officer jobs
<http://www.moneyfactory.com/hr/document.cfm/95/248/1742>

American Sociological Association Employment Links <http://www.asanet.org/employlk.htm>

MonsterTRAK <http://www.monstertrak.com>

WEBSITES: CAREER INFO

Careers in Sociology. If you are at all interested in making **sociology** your career, you need to check out **Careers in Sociology** by W. Richard Stephens, Jr.
<http://www.abacon.com/socsite/careers.html>

[Careers in Sociology Brochure - Table of Contents](#) **Careers in Sociology** - Table of Contents Preface. Society and Social Life.

Sociology: A World of Opportunities What can I do with a BA in **Sociology**?
<http://www.asanet.org/student/career/world.html>

Information on Careers in Sociology. <http://ww.geneseo.edu/~soc/careers.htm>

Saludos Web: Careers-Employment-Culture <http://www.saludos.com/fields/soc.html>

Good Works-Social Change Careers <http://www.essential.org/goodworks/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook, Outlook for Specific Occupations
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos054.htm>

Hispanic employment service for jobs, workforce diversity **CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY** by E. Christiansen Are you interested in how our society works?
Is your ideal job one in which you can affect positive social change? ?
<http://www.saludos.com/fields/soc.html>

SOCIOLOGY AS A CAREER. Excerpted from "**Careers In Sociology**" and reprinted with permission from the American Sociological Association
<http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/undergr/careers.html>

SOCIOLOGY RELATED CAREERS. A **Sociology** major is an excellent basic education for various occupations
<http://academic.uofs.edu/department/sjc/sococc.html>

CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY. **Sociology** is the scientific study of how groups behave and how people behave www.ub-careers.buffalo.edu/cdo/csociolg.htm

Careers in Sociology. Are you wondering what you can do with a major in **Sociology**?
www.cofc.edu/~soc_anth/careers/careers.html

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATIONS

American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-4701
(202) 383-9005 fax: (202) 638-0882
www.asanet.org
email: executive.office@asanet.org

American Society of Criminology
1314 Kinnear Road
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 292-9207 fax: (614) 292-6767
www.asc41.com

National Association of Social Workers <http://www.naswdc.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITES

[The American Sociological Association](#)

The main professional organization for sociologists. Contains current job listings in the Employment Bulletin, funding opportunities, membership information, annual meeting specifics, and other important information.

[Annual Review of Sociology](#)

The *Annual Review of Sociology* contains articles that aim to summarize the state of knowledge in selected areas of sociology. The topics vary from year to year. Abstracts of all ARS articles for this and previous years are available on-line here. Highly recommended.

[The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy](#)

Very useful, all-in-one-place, listing of links to more than 70 agencies in the United States Federal Government having statistics of interest to the public.

[The General Social Survey](#)

This is the home page for the *General Social Survey*. One can search the GSS codebook for specific topics, extract and download data, and link to other research-relevant sites.

[Information Resources for Women's Studies \(UC Santa Barbara\)](#)

Many fine links to sources of information/data on women and women's studies.

[The Library of Congress](#)

Just about anything you would want to know about almost anything. You can search the Library's vast holdings. You can also access specialized collections allowing you to do such things as view Civil War photographs taken by Matthew Brady and others, electronically page through comic book collections, read ex-slave narratives, and find literally millions of other data.

[Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies](#)

This well-known institute in Cologne, Germany houses many scholars who do social research. There is an extensive set of research projects going on all the time. The general theme of the Institute is an examination of the conditions under which modern societies may solve their problems through collective action. Many publications are available.

[National Science Foundation](#) (Sociology Program)

A leading funding source for sociological research. This site contains information regarding current funding possibilities, submission guidelines and forms for projects.

[Random](#)

Do you need a string of random digits, fast? Here is an excellent site that will provide as many as you want (you specify the range of the values and the number of strings you need) immediately over the Web. These digits are more truly "random" (they are based on radioactive decay processes) and more convenient to use than conventional printed tables of random numbers. Very useful for picking true random samples, doing a virtual "coin flip," etc.

[Resources for Methods in Evaluation and Social Research](#)

Free resources in social research methods are available on this site, along with free on line books, manuals, articles on how to do social research, including surveys, interviews, observations and more. Also links to research about research methods, free software, and sites on how to present data. This site also has a review of free statistical resources.

[Social Capital Gateway](#)

This website is designed to provide information and promote discussion on the topic of social capital.

[Social, Economic, and Political Change](#)

This site has the World Social Change reports, reviews of main world demographic and political changes and data used to develop the reviews, and a review of theories of change. This site also links to free information about long term changes in political, economic and social systems. This site links to theory, data, research, syllabi, history, and more.

[The SocioLog](#)

The Sociology Department at Princeton maintains a large number of links to sites of sociological interest. Very handy and useful.

[The Urban Institute](#)

A leading think tank for urban sociological research. Many references to past and current projects, sources of data, etc.

[The U. S. Census Bureau](#)

A convenient source to download tons of population statistics and information by census tract, Zip Code, city, state, and for the U. S. (e.g., What is the current population of Louisville? How many people are below the official poverty line in Chicago? What is the percentage of the various races in Shelby County, Kentucky?)

[The U. S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)

A variety of sources, links, and information related to crime and criminal justice.>

[The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

A fine place to locate and download lots of information and statistics about the U.S. labor force, economic conditions, employment figures, and related items. You can also find data organized by region and state.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY: <http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/soc/>

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ADMINISTRATION

Chair

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(On sabbatical during Fall, 2005 semester)

Acting Chair for Fall, 2005 Semester

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Program Coordinator, Sr. & Director of Academic Services

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Administrative Secretary

Lisa Fortwengler lisa.fortwengler@louisville.edu (502) 852-6836

Sociology: A Major and Career

What is sociology?

Sociology is the study of social life, including all forms of social interaction and relationships.

What do sociologists do?

Sociologists study human behavior as it occurs in and is influenced by social groups, institutions, organizations, and societies, as well as by social conditions. For example, they examine ways in which social characteristics/categories (such as age, class, gender, race and ethnicity, sexuality) and social institutions (such as economics, education, family, media, politics, religion, sport) affect human attitudes, actions, and opportunities. Sociology is practiced in many careers, such as research, academia, business, law, social services, medicine, and government. (Psychology, on the other hand, is the study of individual behavior and mental processes. Psychologists focus on the behavior of individuals (alone or in groups) rather than the groups or aggregates themselves.)

What is the focus of UofL's Sociology Department?

Our Department focuses its research and teaching around the theme of *diversity and inequality* -- the significant ways in which people and groups differ from one another, particularly in terms of social characteristics/categories. By focusing on diversity and inequality, we help to advance a deeper understanding of differences among peoples, which is essential to the implementation of fair social policy and democratic society. (Read the [Department's Mission Statement](#).)

What is the difference between sociology and social work?

Although sociology and social work are related fields, they differ in that the objective of the sociology program is to provide students with skills necessary to understand problems inherent in societal relationships and subsequently attempt to solve them. The objective of social work is to prepare students for careers in social and human services.

In other words, sociology is an academic discipline focuses on preparing students for inquiry into and research of various social issues, and social work is a professional activity that seeks to intervene in "the relationships between people and their environment in order to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, communities, or organizations" ([UofL's Kent School of Social Work](#)).

What can a student do with a degree in sociology?

Career opportunities in sociology are unlimited. Whereas a degree in social work prepares a student to work specifically in the field of social work, a degree in sociology (bachelor's and/or a master's) can lead to a variety of careers, especially given the skills inherent in liberal arts training. As our world continuously evolves, sociology majors are well prepared to offer insight into these changes and how best to accommodate them.

Therefore, sociology students can pursue careers in: business, child welfare, computer industry, criminal justice, education (teaching, evaluation research, consultation, or research), entrepreneurship, gerontology, health care, international relations, law, law enforcement, the military, military intelligence, state or federal government, social service agencies, social work, and urban planning or management.

How does a student decide if sociology is the right major?

Students should begin by asking themselves if they are interested in: different groups and how individuals and/or groups interact? learning about social problems/issues? developing social policies? helping people who are disadvantaged?

Students should then review both the [course requirements for sociology majors](#) as well as the [course schedule](#) for the entire academic year, and discern whether or not they have a general interest in sociology courses, such as the following sociology electives:

Application of Sociology
applied sociology, sociology internship, voluntarism

Cities/Communities
urban sociology, rural sociology

Criminology
criminology, social deviance, sociology of murder, juvenile delinquency

Economy/Occupations
sociology of economic life (industrial sociology), occupations and organizations

Global Issues
global poverty; globalization, culture and Third World development; comparative sociology

Medical Sociology
mental health and illness, medical sociology, sociology of women's health, medical demography, sociology of disabilities

Population/Planning/Policy
demography, community organization, public policy and social services

Social Institutions/Social Interests
sociology of families, sociology of music, sociology of religion, sociology of sport, sociology of education, political sociology, visual sociology

Social Problems/Issues
social problems, human sexuality, environmental sociology, alienation, aging, family violence, social change, social stratification, race and ethnicity

Women's Studies
sociology of gender; women and work; gender, race, work, and welfare

Students who answered yes to any of the questions and are intrigued by many of the elective courses should definitely consider sociology as their major! For further guidance, students should visit the American Sociological Association. Their website offers additional information on pursuing sociology as a major, including career information.

Students are also encouraged to do an online search for "sociology careers" and review the numerous career information sites available from other universities, such as: University of North Carolina-Wilmington, The University of Texas, Rogers State University, and Portland State University.

Finally, if students wish to seek personal guidance in determining if sociology is right for them, they should contact Ms. Jonetta Weber, Director of Academic Services, at (502) 852-8028 or jonettaweber@louisville.edu

We hope to see you in a sociology class soon!

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA (AKD)

The University of Louisville is privileged to have a chapter of **Alpha Kappa Delta**, the national sociology honorary society, which is open to all graduate and undergraduate students, as well as alumni. Its **purpose** is to promote interest in the study of sociology, sociological research, and

other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

The Delta Chapter of Kentucky is dedicated to providing research, mentoring, and scholarly opportunities. Activities include academic workshops and lectures, juried student research grant funding, community service, conference attendance, and fundraising functions. Being a member of AKD affords you the opportunity to meet and network with other sociology students.

The **minimum criteria** for initiation as a *life voting member* include:

- completion of 12 hours of sociology,
- 3.0 GPA in sociology courses, and
- 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Initiation fees are \$50 and include: initiation and lifetime membership, international membership, an official pin, and a one-year subscription to *Sociological Inquiry* journal.

Application forms are available in the Department of Sociology. Students interested in more information about Alpha Kappa Delta should contact the Advisor, Dr. James Beggan at (502) 852-6069 or james.beggan@louisville.edu