

## HOW CAN I PURSUE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY?



If you enjoy learning about organizations, communities, families, diversity, and how people live and work together in harmony or discord, sociology may be for you. If you like the subject matter in your social studies courses and you are interested in what makes societies work, then consider taking one or more sociology courses in college. Here are some helpful hints as you prepare for college:

- ☑ Acquire basic writing and mathematical skills. These skills are prerequisites for passing entrance examinations and for success in college.
- ☑ Discuss plans with your teacher and high school career counselor.
- ☑ Decide on a desirable region or state and the school(s) you might be interested in attending.
- ☑ Write colleges and universities for catalogues, applications, and scholarship information. Check their websites for detailed information.
- ☑ Complete applications and send to the college or university you would like to attend. Follow all instructions for applying. You can now apply online to most colleges.
- ☑ After you have enrolled, take a sociology course or two, preferably one about race, class, and gender.
- ☑ At a community college, courses in sociology are offered toward an Associate's degree. This is a good way to see if sociology is something you should pursue in a B.A. program.

☑ Remember that sociology makes an excellent "double major" with anthropology, business, social work, education, criminology, women's studies, and other majors.

☑ You can declare your sociology major at any time, but it is best to visit the sociology department during your freshman or sophomore year to discuss sequencing of courses.

## WHAT KIND OF JOB CAN I GET WITH A SOCIOLOGY DEGREE?



Persons holding a Bachelor's degree in sociology are frequently employed in the helping professions, in business, and in various public sector positions, especially those dealing with social programs and their implementation. Usually, they are not employed in jobs with the title "sociologist," since that title requires graduate training.

Employment opportunities for those with Bachelor's degrees in sociology include entry-level positions in the following areas: administration, advertising, banking, counseling (family planning, career, substance abuse, and so forth), community planning, health services, journalism, group and recreation work, marketing and market research, sales, teaching (if certified), human resources/personnel work, social services, and social research.

Sociology is a liberal arts major with an advantage. In addition to knowledge in specific course areas such as sociology of families, communities, and organizations, you will learn social research design, statistics, and data analysis. These will be useful to you as you enter the job market.

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR BEGINNING YOUR JOB SEARCH



📖 Send for ASA's *Embarking upon a Career with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology*.

✍ Design your resume with the help of a Career Placement Officer and/or faculty member at your college or university. Emphasize skills you gained from sociology courses, such as data analysis, understanding social problems from a broad perspective, thinking analytically, understanding research design, and using social concepts.

📁 Prepare copies of your resume to send to agencies that interest you or are on file at your campus Career Placement Office.

🔍 Examine as many sources as possible for jobs. Begin with the career booklets in your college library or Career Placement Office. Then consult personnel offices of business corporations, hospitals, state employment agencies, reference libraries that have career materials, social service agencies, local and state job information centers, research institutes, and local newspapers.

☎ Find out everything you can about particular agencies and organizations that interest you. Contact the person actually responsible for hiring, and discuss general employment requirements. Bring a resume to both informational and formal interviews.

📁 Use your own networks to identify careers of interest, people to use as informational interviewees, and actual job openings.

## ASA'S ACADEMIC AND CAREER RESOURCES



**📖 *Embarking upon a Career with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology*** ~ By Janet Mancini Billson and Bettina J. Huber. Designed for undergraduate sociology majors seeking employment. Discusses how to identify your interests and skills, the advantages of informational interviewing, how to design a resume, and how to conduct an employment interview. Stock # 501.E93

**📖 *Careers in Sociology*** ~ Provides a description of the various careers available in sociology and offers an understanding of the scope of sociology and its areas of specialization. Stock # 500.C02

**📖 *The Sociology Major as Preparation for Careers in Business*** ~ Provides information on the options available to sociology majors interested in pursuing careers in business or industry. Includes sections on the roles of practitioners and academic job prospects, post-BA education, and advice for the student interested in practicing sociology in the context of a business career. Stock # 512.S93

**📖 *ASA Footnotes*** ~ Newsletter published nine times a year. Contains information on the activities of ASA and the Executive Office, career information, departmental news, ASA official reports and proceedings, and developments on the Washington scene. Distributed free to all members.

**📖 *ASA Style Guide*** ~ Provides complete information on style, format, and other specifications for manuscript submissions. Chapters are included on Matters and Mechanics of Style, Preparing Your Manuscript for Submission, Copyeditor's Notations, Reference Sources, and Reference Formats. In straightforward, concise, and readable language, the *Style Guide* provides guidance and information to researchers, scholars, students, teachers, editors, and others seeking to improve the presentation of writing. Stock # 701.S97

**📖 *Guide to Graduate Departments of Sociology*** ~ Published annually. Listings for over 250 graduate departments of sociology. It provides specific information on the nature of graduate programs, including: degrees offered; tuition and fees; types of financial aid; student enrollment statistics; application deadlines; and recent PhDs. In addition, the *Guide* identifies the chair and graduate director, and lists each faculty member by name, highest degree held, where and when degree was earned, rank, and areas of interest.

**📖 *The Student Sociologist*** ~ A semi-annual online newsletter for students and their departments. This newsletter includes career information, funding sources and upcoming awards and competitions.

*For additional information, please contact  
The American Sociological Association  
Academic and Professional Affairs Program  
1307 New York Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005-4701  
(202) 383-9005 x318  
apap@asanet.org  
<http://www.asanet.org>*

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## MAJORING IN SOCIOLOGY



## A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?



Sociology is the study of group life. As a social science, it combines scientific and humanistic perspectives in the study of urban and rural life, family patterns and relationships, social change, inter-group relations, social class, environment, technology and communications, health care and illness, social movements, community responses to disasters, and pressing contemporary social issues.

Sociology is a valuable liberal arts major for students planning careers in a wide variety of fields including social research, criminology, demography, social psychology, public administration, gerontology, education, rehabilitation, social work, and market research. It provides a useful background for those planning to enter law, business, medicine, community planning, architecture, and politics. In many professional schools, sociology courses are part of the requirements.