

SOCIOLOGY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling
Case Management
Advocacy
Mental Health Services
Programming
Administration

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

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.
Develop excellent communication skills.
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.
Most states require licensure or certification for positions involving the direct provision of therapeutic services to clients.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Corrections
Rehabilitation
Law Enforcement
Judiciary

Correctional institutions
Court systems
Federal, state, and local government (especially law enforcement agencies)

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

Teaching
Research

Public and private schools
Colleges and universities
Adult education providers

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.
Assist a professor with research.
Take extra courses in research and statistics.
Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills.
Volunteer as a tutor.
Secure strong personal recommendations, particularly from professors.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GOVERNMENT

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

Federal departments and agencies such as:
Departments of Agriculture, Education,
Interior, Commerce, Defense
Health and Human Services
Drug Enforcement Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Housing and Urban Development
Veteran's Administration
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Aging
State and local government
Peace Corps

Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and social research.
Develop exceptional computer, communication, and research skills.
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

Research
Data Analysis
Demography
Market Research
Information Sourcing

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

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.
Obtain an advanced degree in sociology for research administration positions.
Earn certification in applied social research by The American Sociological Association.
Network with professionals working in areas of interest.
Gain experience working on teams.

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Waste management firms
Health agencies
Local planning agencies
Environmental advocacy groups
Environmental periodicals
Federal government
Regional, state, and local agencies
Consulting firms
Private industry

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.
Obtain a graduate degree for advancement.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>BUSINESS</u> Human Resources Training and Development Recruiting Management Sales Marketing Public Relations Office Administration	Insurance firms Retail stores Banks Staffing agencies Manufacturing companies Service industries Non-profit organizations Healthcare organizations	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. Develop excellent computer skills. Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing. Hone written and oral communication skills. 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 in business, industry, and government; 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. Research pre-requisites for graduate or professional programs of interest.
- To enhance graduate or professional school opportunities, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, join student or professional organizations, and gain relevant experience outside of the classroom through work, internship, volunteer, and research opportunities.
- A Ph.D. is required for teaching at the four-year university level.
- For human or social service positions, gain experience with a population of interest (i.e., children, college students, elderly adults) and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding.
- Talk with professionals working in areas of interest.

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SOCIOLOGY

Sociology Links:

[American Sociological Association Resources for Students](#)

[Careers in Sociology](#)

[Federal Agencies that Collect Demographic Statistics](#)

[Environmental Careers Resource Guide from the EPA](#)

[American Counseling Association](#)

[National Board for Certified Counselors](#)

[Social Scientists, Other from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Counselors from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Social and Human Service Assistants from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Teacher-Postsecondary from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

Criminal Justice Links:

[Law Enforcement Jobs](#)

[FBI Employment](#)

[Copnet for Criminal Justice Careers](#)

[911 Hot Jobs \(Law Enforcement Jobs\)](#)

[Police and Detectives from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[Private Detectives and Investigators from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

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State and local government
Peace Corps

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AREAS

BUSINESS

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

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Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer