

Sociology

Sociology is the study of social relationships and social structures. It focuses on relations among people, groups, organizations, classes, cultures, and societies. Through study in sociology, students gain an understanding of the social character of human life and of the impact of varying forms of social organization on human affairs. Students are introduced to the methods by which such knowledge is obtained and to the applications of sociological knowledge.

A Bachelor's degree in Sociology has served as the foundation for successful careers in areas ranging from law to health care to business. Graduates are able to apply their knowledge and skills across a wide variety of occupations and professions; they are also prepared for graduate and professional school programs in areas such as law, business, public administration, public health, social work, or psychology. A sample of the skills and abilities developed by sociology majors is listed below, as are representative occupations of graduates with sociology degrees.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Whether in academic careers, business, or social change careers, concentrators in sociology learn and apply communication, research, planning, social analysis, and critical thinking skills. For example, the ability to translate

theory into action would prove useful to a health educator, a public opinion researcher, or an organizational design consultant. The following list provides a sample of the potential skills acquired through study in sociology.

Communication	Research and Project Development	Human Relations	Analysis
Speaking/presenting to others	Defining hypotheses	Identifying cultural/social considerations	Interpreting data
Articulating/defending a position	Applying theoretical approaches to research problems	Assessing needs	Evaluating ideas/theory/evidence
Writing effectively	Planning/designing projects	Remaining sensitive to people and problems	Analyzing qualitatively and quantitatively
Reading critically	Gathering data	Understanding human relationships	Reasoning logically
Presenting alternative explanations	Interviewing	Representing others	Social analysis
Motivating groups	Working with research subjects	Recognizing social processes	Understanding components of complex problems
Preparing reports	Translating theory into action	Understanding prejudice and discrimination	
Conveying complex information	Developing service provision		
	Working as a team member		

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology graduates are able to use the skills and abilities acquired through the concentration as building blocks toward any number of occupations and career paths. Concentrators in sociology have the option of specializing in one of six areas: International Social Change; Social Inequality; Economy, Business, and Society; Law, Criminology, and Deviance; Health, Aging, and Population; or Social Welfare, Social Organizations and Social Services.

This selected list of occupations is organized to correspond with the program options; however, a degree in sociology provides a foundation for all the occupations listed. Follow-up surveys of University of Michigan graduates were used, along with national data, to compile this list. For some of the occupations, such as paralegal, related skills or training may be desirable. Graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with • on the following list.

Economy, Business, and Society	Social Welfare, Social Organizations, and Social Services Health, Aging, and Population	International Social Change / Social Inequality	Law, Criminology, and Deviance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population specialist • Survey research scientist • Public opinion researcher Training coordinator Systems analyst • Industrial sociologist Customer relations manager Labor relations consultant Human resources manager • Organizational design consultant Marketing manager/researcher • Web designer • Reporter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day care worker Teacher • Gerontologist • Social worker Consumer/client advocate • Psychiatrist/psychologist • Epidemiologist Program manager/administrator Policy analyst • Demographer Volunteer coordinator Agency staff • Dietitian • Editor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organizer • Social researcher/analyst • Professor Affirmative action representative Interviewer Academic researcher • Urban/regional planner Vocational evaluator Caseworker Change advocate/activist Lobbyist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probation/parole officer • Juvenile court judge Legislative aide • Lawyer • Forensic investigator Vocational evaluator Law enforcement officer Paralegal Mediator • Arbitrator

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Currently, a concentration requires an introductory sociology class and at least 30 credits of post-introductory concentration courses, including statistics, research methods, and theory. The department also offers an

Honors Program consisting of a three-term sequence of seminars and guided research, and the writing of an Honors thesis in the senior year. Consult the *LS&A Bulletin* or the department for further information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a major, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about choosing a major, careers, or about concentration and degree requirements:

Department of Sociology
Undergraduate Programs Office
3001 LS&A Building
764-7239

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
764-0332