What Can I Do With A Major In: Sociology

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
The field of sociology is concerned with the study of the organization and behavior of human groups, communities or various social, economic, political or religious groups. Sociologists study the ways in which human behavior is predictable and affected by such factors as one's organizational position, social class, race, and gender. They also examine how social problems such as poverty, crime, and pollution are framed by our social institutions, and how change affects social groups, including the dramatic changes that are currently taking place among urban industrial societies throughout the world.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?
- Social science analysis
- Program development
- Teaching
- Counseling
- Social services
- Law enforcement
- Administration
- Consumer research
- Management
- Demography/planning
- Policy analysis
- Alumni relations
- Advocacy
- Corrections
- Judiciary
- Sales
- Real Estate
- Advertising
- Social statistics
- Evaluation research
- Placement office
- Mental health services
- Rehabilitation
- Personnel/training
- Insurance
- Marketing

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
- Hospital & nursing homes
- Adoption & child care agencies
- Religious or private social service organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Federal, state, and local governments
- Law enforcement and prisons
- Court systems
- Humans resource departments
- Businesses and consulting firms
- Insurance and real estate companies
- College & universities
- Companies & organizations doing demographic forecasting, regional planning and population studies

INTERNERSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student’s major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.
WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Independent Worker | Information Handling & Organization | Curiosity and Creativity |
Statistical Awareness | Oral & Written Communication | Highly Literate and Numerate | Analyze and Interpret Data Studies | Critical Evaluation | Problem Solving | Research Skills | Teamwork

KNOWLEDGE

- Core concepts and theoretical perspectives in anthropology or sociology.
- Able to apply theoretical perspectives and methods to the study of anthropology or sociology.
- Effective communicators within the context of anthropology or sociology.

Interested in the classes you’ll be taking? Check your eight semester program here: http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/cas/casdepts/anthsoc/anthropology-and-sociology-curriculum/eight-semester-plan-for-b.s.-in-sociology.asp

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- American Sociology Association - http://www.asanet.org/index.cfm
- International Sociology Association - http://www.isa-sociology.org
- Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

- American Sociological Association: http://www.asanet.org/
- Eastern Sociological Services: http://www.essnet.org/
- The Society for Applied Sociology: http://www.appliedsoc.org/
- Association for Humanist Sociology: http://www.humanist-sociology.org/

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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