

What can I do with a degree in... **SOCIOLOGY?**

What is **SOCIOLOGY?**

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.

Sociology provides students who are interested in exploring the social and cultural influences on society and the individual an opportunity to do so using theory and the scientific method. The sociology program at Western Carolina University provides a variety of courses and classroom experiences that guide students in applying the knowledge they gain to real-life situations.

What are the **DEGREE OPTIONS?**

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Sociology

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology

NOTE: Students must take 6 additional hours of a chosen world language for the B.A. in Sociology degree.

What is the **ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Students declare a major in Sociology with the Advising Center, located in Killian Annex. Please make an appointment with your advisor or speak with a faculty member in the department.



What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Depending on the concentration and other qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including social science analysts, demographers, social statistic analysts, sociologists, program developers, policy writers and analysts, researchers, educators, mental health advocates and counselors, law enforcement officers, consumer researchers, market analysts, and more.

NOTE: Advanced degrees may be required for some of the listed professions. Please see a career counselor or an advisor for more information.

Who employs **SOCIOLOGY** graduates?

Our graduates gain employment with a variety of employers including hospitals and nursing homes, adoption and child care agencies, religious or private social service organizations, advocacy groups, federal, state, and local government agencies, law enforcement agencies and prison systems, court systems, human resource departments, business and consulting firms, colleges and universities.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

1st YEAR

2nd YEAR

EXCEL IN ACADEMICS

Many first-year students in the Sociology major will focus on the liberal studies requirements as well as introductory Sociology courses. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Students in their second year will likely continue with liberal studies electives, intermediate Sociology topics, as well as introductory courses with their minor. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Check out [WCU's DegreePlus program](#) and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness.

See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.

Connect with a faculty member to learn about undergraduate research opportunities.

Get involved with the Sociology Club or Alpha Kappa Delta (invite only), the honors society for the field of Sociology.

If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions, such as undergraduate research with a faculty member.

Engage deeper with [DegreePlus](#); choose an additional competency to complete.

BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Connect with the [Center for Service Learning](#) and ask about the [Lily Award](#), a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.

Job shadow with professionals in the career area you wish to pursue.

Volunteer with area non-profits or organizations which interest you.

Consider the [study abroad programs related to Sociology](#). Talk with a study abroad advisor about targeted experience for your areas of interest.

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Further explore your career options or career interests using the [Center for Career and Professional Development's](#) online resources, [Focus 2](#), and [Onet Online](#).

Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.

Check out [CCPD's list of career-building activities](#) and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus.

Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations. Students may also elect to take SOC 460: Professional Issues in Sociology to learn more about specific careers in Sociology and preparation for graduate school.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Anthropology
Cherokee Studies
Economics

Forensic Anthropology
Marketing
Political Science

Psychology

3rd YEAR

Third level courses focus on upper-level Sociology courses, special topics relating to your career path, or your chosen minor. [Check out the 8-semester plan](#) and make an appointment with your advisor.

Consider internship experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume.

Consider networking with professionals in your field at national or regional professional conferences such as the American Sociological Association's annual conference.

Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume.

Connect with alumni in your field through [LinkedIn](#)

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the [Writing and Learning Commons](#) for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Use [Big Interview](#) to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will complete the major coursework requirement, concentration courses, as well as your chosen minor electives. Be sure to [check out the 8-semester plan](#), make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and [apply for graduation!](#)

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional organizations such as the American Sociological Association or the North Carolina Sociological Association.

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by using the [CCPD](#).

Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 59,000 employers)

DID YOU KNOW?

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP 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.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- information handling and organization
- curiosity and creativity
- critical thinking and evaluation
- problem solving
- statistical awareness
- data collection and research
- analytical and quantitative abilities
- written and oral communication
- professional teamwork

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Understand core concepts and theoretical perspectives in anthropology or sociology.
- Apply theoretical perspectives and methods to the study of anthropology or sociology.

- Communicate within the context of anthropology or sociology.
- Apply coursework within the major in preparation for future careers or education

Professional **RESOURCES**

- American Sociology Association: www.asanet.org
- International Sociology Association: www.isa-sociology.org
- Eastern Sociological Services: [/www.essnet.org](http://www.essnet.org)
- The Society for Applied Sociology: www.appliedsoc.org
- Association for Humanist Sociology: www.humanist-sociology.org

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Sociology program at 828-227-7268 or visit sociology.wcu.edu

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.