

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A

MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY?

A degree in Sociology provides students with an understanding of people and how they interact with one another, as well as a strong set of transferable skills. Foremost among the skills gained as a Sociology major are the abilities to effectively communicate ideas both in writing and orally, conduct research and analyze data, think critically, creatively assess and deal with challenges and problems and see things from different perspectives. With such a broad and in-demand skill set,

Sociology majors can choose from a wide variety of employment options. Below are just a few examples of the many fields or general areas you might consider. However, keep in mind that Sociology majors have also found success in a much wider variety of professions and some have chosen to pursue graduate level education. To learn more about where some of DePaul University's Sociology alumni have found their success, visit ask.depaul.edu!



I CAN GO INTO...


AND POSSIBLY WORK FOR...


DOING THIS CAN HELP ME GET THERE...


SAMPLE COMPANIES

SAMPLE TITLES

CAREER AREA	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	CAREER PREPARATION STRATEGIES	Sample List of Companies for Sociology Majors	Sample List of Job & Internship Titles for Sociology Majors
<p>CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW</p> <p>These areas will likely be of most interest to Sociology majors pursuing a Law, Crime, and Criminology Concentration which prepares students for careers in law, non-profit social justice work, social work, or youth services. Job areas can include law enforcement, victim services, forensics, investigation, corrections and prevention programming.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law firms • Federal or State Government • City/County government organizations like police departments or correction facilities • Public interest and social justice organizations • Non-profit organizations • Prisons and detention centers • Crime labs 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology majors learn to effectively communicate ideas and assess and solve difficult problems - both of which are essential for careers in these areas. • Identify ways to sharpen and demonstrate these skills by participating on a debate team or mock-trial, getting involved in student government or other civic-minded student organizations or taking additional coursework that helps to further develop these skills. • Determine what information is kept, for what purpose and for how long. Identify inefficient practices and constraints. • Determine what other skills are necessary for these roles by reading job descriptions and conducting informational interviews. • Read international journals and/or join international associations to keep current on international trends affecting your industry. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain an internship in a government agency, law firm or social justice organization. • Seek opportunities to shadow others in your area of interest. • Serve on committee(s) inside or outside your organization dealing with issues that affect policy making such as safety standards, security and welfare, benefits, and environmental practices. • Volunteer to work with at-risk youth or with public interest groups that are of interest. <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence Hall Youth Services • Independent Police Review Authority of the City of Chicago • Organization for International Cooperation • Illinois Attorney General • Illinois League of Conservation Voters • Lakeview Chamber of Commerce • Chicago Housing Authority • Illinois Partners for Human Service • Baker and McKenzie • Prison Fellowship Ministry • Winnetka Youth Organization • Chicago Police Department • US Navy • Allied Barton Security Services • Tapia-Ruano & Gunn, P.C. • Riskey Law Firm • Cook Co. Domestic Relations 	<p>Job Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator • Legal Assistant • Paralegal • Youth Advocate • Attorney-at-Law • Law Clerk <p>Internship Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Relations Internship • Research Intern • Campaign Strategy Intern • Judicial Extern  <p>careercenter.depaul.edu</p>

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		<p><i>Continued (Gain Experience)</i></p> <p>Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research ASK mentors by industry, or by role and conduct informational interviews to learn more about career paths and the skills required. • Participate in local government to build your network of contacts. • Attend professional association conferences. <p>Pursue a Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on your area of interest, identify minors that will complement your major like Peace, Justice, & Conflict Studies, Political Science or a minor from a different college to provide more breadth of skills and experience. • Talk with your academic advisor about which minor and/or learning domain classes might complement your specialization or help you expand your knowledge base. <p>Pursue a Graduate Degree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you plan to become an attorney, take the LSAT and earn a JD. Maintain a high GPA and have strong faculty recommendations to include in your application. 		
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
<p>These areas will likely be of most interest to Sociology majors pursuing a Health and Human Services Concentration which prepares students for careers in health care, health policy, public health, nursing, and social work. Potential jobs include direct care opportunities like counselling, crisis work and mental health services or administration jobs like advocacy, programming and community relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit and community service organizations • Government agencies • Religiously affiliated organizations • Private foundations • Hospitals and other healthcare service providers • Nursing homes and retirement communities • Vocational services 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology majors learn effective oral and written communication skills and how to think critically and understand how to view things from different perspectives. • Take courses to sharpen your communication and critical thinking skills and build your knowledge in the area in which you plan to specialize like youth or the aging. • Allow a person to thoroughly express his/her feelings and thoughts without interrupting. Fully listen and paraphrase what you heard the person say. • Determine what other skills are necessary for these roles by reading job descriptions and conducting informational interviews. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get hands-on experience by doing an internship at a social service agency or health care provider. • Volunteer with organizations that give you exposure to populations in your area of interest. <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Prairie Services • Catholic Charities • Sertoma Centre, Inc. • Presence Health • National Runway Switchboard • Ounce of Prevention Fund • UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago • Metropolitan Family Services • Christian Community Health Center • Boys Hope Girls Hope • Union League Boys & Girls Clubs • Thresholds <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<p>Job Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrant Family Resource • Program Case Worker • Project Assistant - In-Person Counselor • Home Based Educator • Intake Coordinator • Community Outreach/Support Specialist • Behavioral Health Administrator • AmeriCorps Opportunities • Community Worker • Program Manager • Casework • Nurse Aide • Clinical Therapist <p><i>Continued</i></p>

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		<p><i>Continued (Gain Experience)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immerse yourself in another culture by going on field trips to museums showcasing the history of different cultures (national, ethnic or occupational). • Serve as a peer mentor or resident assistant. • Get involved in relevant student organizations. <p>Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research ASK mentors by industry, or by role and conduct informational interviews to learn more about career paths and the skills required. Attend professional association conferences. <p>Expand Your Coursework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your academic advisor about which minor and/or learning domain classes might complement your specialization or help you expand your knowledge base. <p>Pursue a Graduate Degree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many employers in these fields require a master’s degree combined with related work experience. Research your area of interest to determine if that will be a requirement for you. 	<p><i>Continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Red Cross • United Way • Best Buddies International • Erie Neighborhood House • Heartland Alliance 	<p><i>Continued</i></p> <p>Internship Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Line Worker Internship • Case Management Internship • Community Engagement Intern
COMMUNICATION, ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH				
<p>These areas will likely be of most interest to Sociology majors pursuing a Sociology of Culture Concentration which prepares students for careers in communications, advertising, cultural criticism, market research and journalism. Potential jobs include demographics, market research, information sourcing and policy or program analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR firms and advertising agencies • Research institutions • Newspapers, magazines and trade publications • Marketing and public relations departments within large corporations • Colleges and universities • Associations and non-profit organizations 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology majors develop strong writing, data analysis and critical thinking skills. Look for opportunities to sharpen these in-demand skills by writing for student publications and contributing to market research studies. • Take additional sociology methods courses, e.g. Urban Ethnography, Qualitative Methods, etc. • Use depaul.interviewstream.com to record and view your presentation skills to identify strengths and areas needing improvement. • Take advantage of The Writing Center to get feedback and input on your writing. Use a grammar book such as Little English Handbook when you have doubts about grammar. • Arrange a group brainstorming process to generate new ideas and possible solutions to a problem. • Determine what other skills are necessary for these roles by reading job descriptions and conducting informational interviews. <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Opinion Research Center (NORC) • POM Solutions, LLC • Ipsos North America • Hall & Partners • John G. Shedd Aquarium • Human Capital Research • Harry Caray’s • Maritz Research • Halverson Group • Chicago Public Media • Leo Burnette • Pop Matters 	<p>Job Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Assistant/Analyst • Market Research Account Executive • Research Coordinator • Online Growth Specialist • Donor Relations Specialist • Account Representative Consultant • Staff Writer <p>Internship Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Research Intern • Audience Research Intern • Marketing & PR Intern

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		<p><i>Continued (Sharpen Your Skills)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to use statistical software packages. • To fuel creative ideas in solving a problem, seek external sources of information such as reading newspapers, magazines, talking to others for interesting and relevant ideas, articles and pictures. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a marketing or communication internship in an industry of interest to you. • Look for opportunities to write or do research for local organizations. • Join a Toastmasters Club to acquire skill in speaking to groups. • Get hands on experience by working on department newsletters, writing or contributing to a blog or submitting editorials. • Volunteer to help a professor with a research project. <p>Pursue a Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on your area of interest, identify minors that will complement your skill set like Marketing, Journalism, Communication Studies or Relational, Group and Organizational Communication which could help build the strong communication and research skills needed in these fields. • Talk with your academic advisor about which minor and/or learning domain classes might complement your specialization or help you expand your knowledge base. 		
<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Some Sociology majors choose to pursue teaching or higher education as a profession. The TEACH Program combines a Sociology major with a Master's in Education Program. Students graduate with a BA in Sociology and a MED in Education with State of Illinois Secondary Social Science licensure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and private K-12 schools • Language institutes • Colleges and universities • Americorps programs <p>*Please note that public schools and most private schools require teachers to be licensed by the state after completing an accredited education degree program (such as those offered by DePaul's College of Education)</p>	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to tutor, participate in after school programs or volunteer at organizations that offer homework programs for kids. Become a peer mentor, resident assistant or orientation leader. • Take SOC 313: Sociology of Education • Observe effective and ineffective teaching and facilitation techniques and aim to practice these effective techniques when appropriate. Note how the composition of the group, its intended goal, level of preparedness, and other circumstances impact the effectiveness of the technique. <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Public Schools • Union League Boys & Girls Club • Jumpstart Americorp • Teach for America • City Year • Alternative Schools Network • Northeastern Illinois University • Chicago Public Library 	<p>Job Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Sciences Teacher • Reading Teacher • Tutor <p>Internship Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Reading Program Intern • Literacy Intern

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BUSINESS				
<p>Given the critical thinking, data analysis and verbal and written communication skills developed by Sociology majors, they are well placed to start in entry-level positions across a wide variety of business functions including sales, human resources, marketing and office administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large corporations • Non-profit organizations • Banks and financial service firms • Healthcare organizations • Government 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take courses or participate in extracurricular activities that help you build excellent communication skills. • Build leadership skills by taking on specific roles in student or community organizations. • Look at the interrelationships of data and how they are used so that you can categorize data more effectively and efficiently. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain an internship in your area of interest. Find a part-time job in your industry of interest and practice putting your skills into action. • Broaden Your Skills • Develop competencies with databases, spreadsheets, and presentation software. <p>Pursue a Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a minor in Business Administration or a more specific business-oriented area (e.g. sales) if appropriate. • Talk with your academic advisor about which minor and/or learning domain classes might complement your specialization or help you expand your knowledge base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Sport Chicago • Chicago Children’s Museum • Morningstar, Inc. • Chicago Humanities Festival • Millard Brown • Hersheys • Cars.com • Human Capitol • Research Corp. 	<p>Job Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry Level Recruiter • Benefits Coordinator • Staff Consultant • Sales Consultant <p>Internship Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Connections Intern • Human Resources Intern • Marketing Intern

