FGCU Sociology Department

Fall 2010

Why Major in Sociology?
Key questions...

- What does the research suggest about those with a B.A. in Sociology?
- What are others doing with their degrees? What job opportunities will you have?
- What courses are offered at FGCU to help prepare you for a career in Sociology?
What IS Sociology?

- The study of human behavior in society.
Mission: a non-profit membership association dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and professionals serving the public good.

Members include college & university faculty, students, researchers, practitioners.

Sections include:
- Crime & Deviance
- Sex & Gender
- Culture
- Human rights
- Medical Sociology
- Race & Ethnicity
- Family
- Population
- Religion
- Peace, War & Conflict
“The B.A. and Beyond” study

- ASA’s longitudinal study of sociology majors, Class of 2005

- Students were surveyed 3 times: senior yr. of college, 1 yr. post graduation, 2 yr. post graduation
Why do people major in Sociology?

**FIGURE 1.**

2005 Cohort’s Top Reasons to Major in Sociology

- Concepts interested me: 90.4%
- Enjoyed first course: 74.4%
- Understanding social forces/individual relationship: 63.7%
- Help to change society: 44.0%
- Understand my life: 39.7%
- Prepare for desired job: 36.5%
- Prepare for graduate/professional school: 32.1%
- Prepare to do different kinds of research: 31.2%

What marketable skills will you develop through sociology?

- Identify ethical issues in research;
- Develop evidence-based arguments;
- Writing in general;
- Evaluate research methods;
- Form hypotheses;
- Write reports (understandable by non-sociologists);
- Using statistical software;
- Conduct literature reviews & develop reference lists;
- Interpret the results of data gathering.

How will your sociology degree lead to a career?

- Working in groups;
- Develop networks via internships, community, political or other volunteer activity;
- Service-learning projects;
- Participation in faculty research;
- Development of individual portfolio;
- Participation in regional or national sociological conferences.

Source: ASA, Research and Development Department, *What Can I Do With a Bachelors in Sociology? A National Survey of Senior Majoring in Sociology, Spring 2005*
What are these Sociologists doing with their degrees?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>INTERNSHIP</th>
<th>PART-TIME (&gt;35 Hours)</th>
<th>FULL TIME (35 hours or more)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Services, Counselors, Psychologists</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical/administrative support</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers, Librarians</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Marketing</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science, Researchers</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Professionals (includes PR and IT)</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ASA Research and Development Department, *What Can I Do With a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology? Wave I and Wave II*
In what other fields do sociologists work?

CRIME/DEVIANCE:
Federal/state/local law enforcement, corrections agencies, academia, victim services, court services and mediation, offender re-entry programs, juvenile delinquency programs.
In what other fields do sociologists work?

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIONS: Advertising/marketing firms, nongovernment organizations, academia, consulting, labor relations firms, trade unions
In what other fields do sociologists work?

MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE:
Government planning & regulatory agencies, local health departments & public health-related non-profit agencies, hospitals & health institutions, citizen advocacy
In what other fields do sociologists work?

ENVIRONMENT:
Federal/state protection agencies, academia, local public lands management, environmental organizations
In what other fields do sociologists work?

GENDER & SEXUALITY
Advocacy for women, girls, and/or GLBT populations, human resources consultant, research, social services, social justice, community organizing.
In what other fields do sociologists work?

International Work: Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs),
In what other fields do sociologists work?

**EDUCATION**: college or university level, community college, advising & academic or career counseling, administration, research.
“Almost 70% of Sociology majors whose jobs were closely related to what they had learned as Sociology majors were very satisfied with their jobs” (p. 4, ASA Phase II report)

CareerCast.com named sociology as one of the nation’s best jobs in its "2009 Jobs Rated Report."
Sociology ranked as one of the top-ten highest-paying AND rare jobs in the U.S. (Forbes, April 2008).

- Total Employment: 3,440 (not including higher education)
- Avg. Annual Salary: $68,300

Sociologist Robert Groves has been confirmed as the Director of the Census Bureau!

Current jobs for the 2010 Census

- 866.861.2010
- www.census.gov/2010census/

- Hiring will occur until the end of May & includes temporary assignments lasting between 5-10 weeks.
Jobs that make a difference (example)

**Homeless Veterans Advocate**

- **Salary:** $45,000 plus benefits
- **Education:** Bachelor (BA, BS, etc.)
- **Location:** Washington, District of Columbia, 20016, United States
- **Posted by:** Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place
- **Type:** Full time
- **Language(s):** English
- **Job posted on:** July 22, 2009
- **Area of Focus:** Housing and Homelessness, Human Services, Poverty and Hunger, Veterans’ Issues
- **Sector:** Nonprofit
- **Last day to apply:** August 31, 2009
- **Last updated:** July 28, 2009

**Description:**

Two-year position starting 10/1/09.

Summary: The Homeless Veterans Advocate will spearhead the Homeless Veterans Advocacy Initiative and work at the systemic level with veterans, advocates, service providers and key agencies at the District and federal levels to facilitate homeless veterans’ access to permanent supportive housing and other benefits, with the goal of significantly reducing veteran homelessness in D.C. by 2012.

Qualifications:
- BA in Sociology, Public Policy, or a related field. Graduate degree preferred.
- 3-5 years experience as an advocate for disadvantaged groups, with a proven track record for achieving results.
- General understanding of current District, Veterans Administration and White House policies and programs affecting veterans’ homelessness.
- Experience working with veterans in a social work or advocacy capacity is desirable.
- Ability to develop and implement effective strategies.
- Ability to build relationships with diverse groups of people.
- Ability to facilitate multidisciplinary meetings.
- Effective oral and written communication skills.
- Effective negotiation skills and ability to build consensus.
- Strong commitment to serve homeless veterans and desire to succeed.
Example of a job ad on Monster.com for a Sociologist

Research Associate

About the Job
NMR is currently seeking candidates for a Research Associate’s position. We are a small but expanding consulting firm specializing in evaluation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The position will be located in NMR’s new office, expected to be located in the Davis or Porter Square areas of Somerville or Cambridge, Massachusetts. Efficiency and renewables are burgeoning fields providing excellent career opportunities for social scientists.

NMR currently seeks to hire individuals possessing the knowledge, skills, and abilities typically gained through master’s level graduate education or prior work in policy, economics, sociology, or other social science programs. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Designing, implementing, and analyzing survey data
- Conducting semi-structured interviews
- Performing descriptive quantitative analyses using SPSS or similar data analysis packages
- Writing clear and concise research summaries, memoranda, and reports
Example of a job ad on USA Jobs for a Sociologist working in government

**Overview**

**Duties**

**Qualifications & Evaluations**

**Benefits & Other Info**

**How to Apply**

**Back to Search Results**

**Program Analyst (Evaluation)**

**SALARY RANGE:** 86,927.00 - 133,543.00 USD /year

**SERIES & GRADE:** GS-0343-13/14

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** 14

**OPEN PERIOD:** Friday, September 04, 2009 to Tuesday, October 13, 2009

**POSITION INFORMATION:** Full Time Permanent

**DUTY LOCATIONS:** [vacancy(s)] in one of the following locations: few vacancies - Washington, DC

Retrieved September 2009
Check this out for yourselves...

- **Idealist.org**: Idealist is an interactive site where people and organizations exchange resources and ideas, locate opportunities and supporters, and take steps toward building a world where all people can lead free and dignified lives.
  - using the key word 'sociology' what jobs are available?

- **USAjobs.gov**: USAJOBS is the official job site of the US Federal Government.
  - Using "social science" what jobs are available?

- **Monster.com**: the premier global online employment solution for people seeking jobs and the employers who need great people.
  - Using specific sociological concepts and skills mentioned in the reports above, what jobs are available?
The Sociology major is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to be effective agents for change in society; to contribute positively to the quality of life; and to be globally aware. Beyond studying inherently interesting subject matter - groups, organizations, social relationships, and cultural change - a student majoring in sociology will develop invaluable skills.

These skills include effective writing, problem-solving, data analysis, teamwork, research design and execution, critical thinking, and oral communication. Sociology majors will find these skills cultivated in every class and reinforced through hands-on internships during the junior or senior year. Thus, a major in sociology provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of career and graduate school pursuits.

http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/Sociology/index.asp
FGCU course offerings in Sociology: Introductory

- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Gender Studies
- Social Problems
- Comparative Sociology: Global Issues
- Introduction to African American Studies
- Multicultural Issues
- Sociology of Sport
FGCU course offerings in Sociology: Advanced

- The Family
- Sociology of Religion
- Sociology of Education
- Organization of Work
- Medical Sociology
- Social Stratification
- Sociology through Film
- Sociology of Leisure
- Sociology of Community
- Sociology of Sex & Gender Roles
- Global Population
- Aging, Self & Society
- Social Organization of Death & Dying
- Sociological Theory AND Contemporary Theory
- Social Research Methods
- Qualitative Methods
Recent Special Topics

- Sociology of Food
- Criminology
Sociology @ FGCU

- Internships,
- Service-learning,
- Independent research projects,
- Collaborative research projects,
- Research assistantships.
Your Professors

Dr. Joseph Cudjoe
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Dr. Mari DeWees
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Dr. Kris De Welde
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Dr. Joan Manley
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Dr. Simone O’Bryan
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590.1512
Resources for you

- Career Preparation
- Careers in Sociology
- Graduate Education in Sociology
- FGCU Career Services (first floor, Howard Hall)
Additional Resources

- SWS-South: [http://www2.irss.unc.edu/SWSS/](http://www2.irss.unc.edu/SWSS/)