

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SOCIOLOGY MAJOR?

The well-educated sociology BA graduate acquires a sense of history, other cultures and times; the interconnectedness of social life; and different frameworks of thought. He or she is proficient at gathering information and putting it into perspective. Sociological training helps students bring breadth and depth of understanding to the workplace. A sociology graduate learns to think abstractly, formulate problems, ask appropriate questions, search for answers, analyze situations and data, organize material, write well, and make oral presentations that help others develop insight and make decisions. An undergraduate sociology major provides valuable insights into social factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, education, and social class that affect work and how organizations operate.

Sociology BA graduates have an advantage in understanding human behavior on three levels:

- how individuals behave in organizations, families, and communities
- the ways in which these social units function as groups
- the wider social, political, and economic contexts in which decisions are made and in which groups function.

A Sociology BA is excellent preparation for professional graduate work in:

- Law
- Business
- Education
- Social Work
- Criminal Justice
- Journalism
- Public Administration

Given the breadth, adaptability and utility of sociology, employment opportunities abound for BA graduates.... Employment sectors include:

- *social services*--in rehabilitation, case management, group work with youth or the elderly, recreation, or administration
- *community work*--in fund-raising for social service organizations, nonprofits, child-care or community development agencies, or environmental groups
- *corrections*--in probation, parole, or other criminal justice work
- *business*--in advertising, marketing and consumer research insurance, real estate, personnel work, training, or sales
- *college settings*--in admissions, alumni relations, or placement offices
- *health services*--in family planning, substance abuse, rehabilitation counseling, health planning, hospital admissions, and insurance companies
- *publishing, journalism, and public relations*--in writing, research, and editing
- *government services*--in federal, state, and local government jobs in such areas as transportation, housing, agriculture, and labor
- *teaching*--in elementary and secondary schools, in conjunction with appropriate teacher certification.

SOURCE: American Sociological Association, Careers in Sociology, 5th edition (Washington, DC: American Sociological Association, 1999), pp. 7 and 10.