

Career Information for Sociology Majors

It is important to understand that employers hire people, not degrees. The skills and knowledge you develop as a result of your education, as well as in your work and community activities, have the greatest impact on hiring decisions. Listed below are some specific knowledge and transferable skills you will acquire as a result of your university education and your focus on Sociology.

Specific Knowledge Skills

- An understanding of human behaviour, communication and interaction from a social perspective
- Awareness of social or community behaviour and expectations and related public policy
- Awareness of current social, community and ethical issues and relevant policy
- Knowledge of behavioural components of sociological theory and the skills to apply this knowledge
- Understanding of the interrelationships of various social, cultural and community groups
- Ability to conduct, explain and interpret sociological and information research clearly and to apply this information to changing situations
- Knowledge of various governmental, community and social institutions and their roles, and an ability to provide information and direction to assist in making informed decisions
- Sensitivity to and understanding of social problems and the human condition

Valuable Transferable Skills

Information-gathering and Communication Skills

- The skills required to identify and access a wide range of relevant information and resources
- The ability to compile and organize facts and information and to comprehend and apply new and/or unfamiliar information to different situations and settings
- Skills in preparing interesting, creative and informative presentations which target diverse audiences
- The ability to develop effective reports, presentations and materials using current technology

Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills

- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situations
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals

Teamwork and Management Skills

- Skills enabling you to work effectively as part of a team by identifying your role and contributing, through leading, teaching, motivating and/or encouraging others, to the success of the team
- An understanding of how to successfully identify, plan and contribute to the goals of a project
- The ability to oversee, supervise and/or contribute to a project from beginning to end including determining outcomes, planning details, making decisions, assigning roles and completing tasks

Some Career Options for Sociology Majors

Social Policy Researcher	Public Information Officer	Policy Analyst
Urban Planner	Community Relations Specialist	Public Relations Officer
Probation Officer	Market Research Analyst	Case Manager
Public Affairs Specialist	Journalist/Reporter/Critic	Career/Employer Counsellor
Market Research Analyst	Social Worker	Job Analyst
Media Buyer	Program Co-ordinator/Manager	Project Co-ordinator
Child/Youth Worker	Volunteer Co-ordinator	Gerontologist
Social Statistician	Labour Relations Mediator	Public Administrator
Human Resources	Lawyer	Quality Control Specialist
Mediator/Labour Relations	Retail Sales Supervisor/Manager	Office Administrator
Law Enforcement	Event Planner	Corporate Trainer
Demographer	Activist/Lobbyist	Teacher/Professor
Addictions Counsellor	Sociologist	Management Trainee
Criminologist	Healthcare Administrator	Diversity Consultant
Marriage and Family Therapist	Rehabilitation Counsellor	Disability Services Worker
Fundraiser	Community Worker	Legislative/Parliamentary Assistant
Admissions Officer	Student Life Co-ordinator	Real Estate Appraiser/Agent
Advertising Copywriter	Media Analyst/Researcher	Victims Advocate
Community Development Co-ordinator	Recreation Planner/Co-ordinator	Recreation Planner/Co-ordinator

Potential Employers

Non-Profit Organizations	Social Services Agencies	Human Resource Departments
Government	Chambers of Commerce	Public Relations Firms
Community Agencies	Marketing Firms	Media Organizations
Labour Unions	Political Parties	Real Estate Firms
Law Enforcement	Educational Institutions	Hospitality Industry

Websites

Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada	http://www.sshrc.ca/
Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology	http://www.appliedsoc.org/
Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences	http://www.fedcan.ca/
Canadian Council on Social Development	http://www.ccsd.ca/
Human Resources Professional Association	http://www.hrpa.ca/Pages/home.aspx
Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association	http://www.csaa.ca/
Aboriginal Canada Portal	http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/
Canada Council for the Arts	http://www.canadacouncil.ca/
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	http://www.policyalternatives.ca/
International Sociological Association	http://www.isa-sociology.org/
International Development Research Centre	http://www.idrc.ca/index_en.html
American Sociological Association	http://www.asanet.org/
Access to Justice Network	http://www.acjnet.org/splash/default.aspx