



Sociology

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Sociology is the study of human social activity, relationships, and social structures. In our increasingly diverse world, the study of sociology gives you the skills 21st century workers need: critical and analytical thinking, writing ability, cultural competence, and self-awareness. Mastering the basics

of sociology teaches you to understand the situations of people different than you, another advantage in this rapidly globalizing world.

Related fields include Psychology, Anthropology, Statistics, Survey Methodology, Public Policy, Public Health, Architecture and Urban Planning, Law, Social Work, Education, Women’s Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Research & Project

Development Skills

- Defining hypotheses
- Applying theoretical approaches to research problems
- Planning/designing projects
- Gathering data
- Interviewing
- Working with research subjects
- Translating theory into action

Analytical Skills

- Reading critically
- Interpreting data
- Evaluating ideas/theories/evidence
- Analyzing qualitatively and quantitatively
- Reasoning logically
- Conducting social analysis
- Understanding components of complex problems

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills

- Working as a team member
- Motivating groups
- Identifying cultural/social considerations
- Assessing needs
- Remaining sensitive to people and problems
- Understanding human relationships
- Representing/negotiating with others
- Recognizing social processes
- Understanding privilege, prejudice and discrimination

Communication Skills

- Articulating/defending a position
- Writing effectively
- Presenting alternative explanations
- Conveying complex information and ideas
- Summarizing
- Preparing reports
- Speaking in public

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Most

concentrations sponsor specific student groups like an undergraduate organization or an honor society. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Sociology concentrators develop skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, the ability to translate theory into action skills would prove equally useful whether working as a health educator, a public opinion

researcher, or an organizational consultant. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Sociology graduates.

Research & Project

Development Skills

Survey Research Scientist 
Public opinion researcher 
Research scientist
Web designer 
Marketing manager/
researcher
Program manager/
administrator
Demographer 

Analytical Skills

Population specialist
Industrial sociologist 
Organizational design
consultant 
Epidemiologist 
Policy analyst
Social researcher/analyst
Legislative aide
Urban regional planner 
Lawyer 
Paralegal
Juvenile court judge 
Forensic investigator 
Law enforcement officer
Arbitrator 

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

Interpersonal/ Cross-Cultural Skills

Customer relations manager
Labor relations consultant
Human resource manager
Training coordinator
Day care worker
Gerontologist 
Social worker 
Caseworker
Psychiatrist /
psychologist 
Volunteer coordinator
Dietician 
Community organizer/
advocate/activist
Affirmative action
representative

Interviewer
Vocational evaluator
Probation/parole officer
Mediator
Student Affairs professional/
Higher Education

Communication Skills

Journalist
K-12 teacher
College professor 
Consumer/client advocate
Agency staff
Editor (all media)
Lobbyist

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Currently, the concentration requires an introductory sociology class and at least 34 credits of post-introductory concentration courses, including statistics, research methods, and theory. For qualified students who wish to tackle a highly rigorous course of study and complete a thesis, we also offer an undergraduate honors program. Consult the LSA Bulletin or the department website for further information.

As a Sociology concentrator, you will be encouraged to add a real world perspective to your classroom studies

by participating in Project Community fieldwork, conducting undergraduate research, facilitating intergroup dialogues, or pursuing internship experiences.

Department of Sociology

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734-764-7239
lsa.umich.edu/soc

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:

careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

On-campus jobs (work-study & non work-study jobs) are listed at: studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan

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