

SOCIOLOGY

<http://anthropology.gmu.edu/sociology/index.html>

Name and description of the field.

Sociology is the study of human social interaction, its social causes, and its consequences. Sociologists are concerned with all aspects of social life. The subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from crime to religion; from the divisions of race, sex, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; from the sociology of work to the sociology of sport. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

Analytic skills are stressed through course work that examines social structure (of groups, culture, political and economic institutions, or complex organizations, for example) as well as social change. In Sociology, students are trained to analyze social settings, institutions, and processes and explain why they take the particular form they do and how they may be changed. The ability to analyze social structure is a skill valuable in a wide variety of occupations.

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

While its subject matter holds considerable interest for its own sake, a B.A. in Sociology offers valuable preparation for students planning careers in law, business, ministry, criminal justice, government services, urban/suburban planning, personnel, counseling, politics, journalism, recreation, public administration, and social work.

Of course, the B.A. degree also provides a basis for graduate study in Sociology. A graduate degree in Sociology prepares a student for a career such as directing social research in the public or private sector, planning and administering social programs, or university teaching. The Sociology Department of George Mason offers an M.A. degree, with concentration in Applied Sociology, Conflict and Conflict Resolution, the Sociology of Sex and Gender, Criminal Justice, as well as General Sociology.

Is a Minor Available? At the undergraduate level, the department also offers a 21 credit minor which may be of interest to students in psychology, history, philosophy, administration of justice, and other majors.

What are recent graduates doing?

A B.A. in Sociology is excellent preparation for future graduate work in Sociology in order to become a college teacher, researcher, or applied sociologist. Undergraduate training in Sociology can open a variety of doors in business and in the human services.

According to a recent survey, GMU graduates have found employment in a variety of fields including: law, education, government services, management, community and social/human services. Employers who hired recent graduates with Sociology degrees include: Center for Multicultural Human Services; Computer Sciences Corp.; Loudoun County Juvenile Court Services; Mitre Corporation; National Alliance on Mental Illness; US Dept. of Homeland Security; Washington Headquarters Service Acquisition and Procurement (Dept of Defense); Merritt Academy; VCU Police Dept.; Northern VA Training Center; and Strategic Business Systems.

Sample job titles include:

Market Analyst	Human Resource Director	Public Affairs Specialist
Political Consultant	Case Worker/Manager	Paralegal/Legal Assistant
Employee Specialist	Urban Planner	Environmental Organizer
Legislative Aid/Researcher	Special Programs Coordinator	Statistician/Demographer
Criminology Assistant	Diversity Specialist	Social Research Assistant
Compensation Analyst	Survey Worker	Public Opinion Researcher
Marketing Director	Court Advocate	Human Service Specialist
Probation or Police Officer	Teacher	Intern (post-graduate)
Quality Assurance Analyst (for a technology company)	Volunteer Coordinator (for multicultural human services agency)	Implementation Coordinator (for online resources)

EXPLORING MAJORS

Career Library Resources – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/soci.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites) – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/soci.htm>

Is it possible to minor in Sociology?

Students may select one of five minor concentrations in Sociology offered by the department. A minor in Sociology requires 21 semester hours in one concentration.

Whom should students contact for further information?

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B329 Robinson Hall
703-993-1450

Academic Advising Center
SUB I Room 304
703-993-2470

Ken Guerrant
University Career Services
SUB I Room 348
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