WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … SOCIOLOGY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Sociology is the study of human society and social behavior by examining the groups and social institutions that people form, as well as various social, religious, political, and business organizations. May study the behavior and interaction of groups, trace their origin and growth, and analyze the influence of group activities on individual members.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and is typically sufficient for many entry-level positions in business, industry, and government. However, some employers and industries also require a graduate degree, which may also aid employability in competitive areas. Due to its broad nature, an undergraduate degree in sociology is great preparation for graduate or professional education in sociology, law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college student personnel, higher education administration, and other related fields. Additionally, many "transferable skills" such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork, and oral/written communication are associated with the sociology degree. Students can increase their chances of gaining related post-graduation employment by engaging in internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer experiences that are related to their occupation or field of interest.

UNM's Sociology program offers two majors: sociology and criminology. Within the sociology degree, students may choose from amongst four different concentration areas: deviance/criminology, comparative/Latin America, social welfare, and general sociology. For students who are primarily interested in crime and criminal justice, the criminology major is offered.

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:
Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

**Human Services:** Counseling – Case management – Advocacy – Mental health services – Programming - Administration

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain experience and helping skills through volunteer or intern experience, such as a peer mentor, resident assistant, or other student leader. Gain exposure to social service agencies (e.g., YMCA). Gain experience working with diverse populations, and learning a second language (Spanish is particularly marketable). Most states require certification or a master's degree in counseling, social work, or a related field in order to provide therapeutic services to clients.

**Criminal Justice:** Corrections – Rehabilitation – Law enforcement – Judiciary – Correctional institutions – Court systems

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain related experience. Volunteer to work with troubled youth. Consider obtaining experience in law enforcement or military. Obtain a graduate or law degree for advancement. Be familiar with governmental hiring practices.

**Education:** Teaching – Research – Public and private schools – Colleges and universities – Adult education providers

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain certification/licensure to teaching grades K-12 (consult College of Education). Assist a professor with research and take courses in research or statistics for research positions. Volunteer as a tutor. Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.

**Government:** Social statistics – Demography – Public administration – Policy analysis – Research – Program development – Human services – City planning – Law enforcement

**Suggested Strategy:** Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and social research. Gain experience via government internships or part-time work. Learn the federal job application process (see www.usajobs.gov for listings). Develop strong computer, communication, and research skills. Obtain a graduate degree for advanced positions.

**Social Science Research:** Research – Data analysis – Demography – Market research – Information sourcing

**Suggested Strategy:** Learn to use statistical software (e.g., SPSS) as well as databases, spreadsheets, and desktop publishing. Volunteer to help a professor with a research project. Develop exceptional quantitative, statistical, and writing skills. Earn certification in applied social research by the American Sociological Association. Obtain an advanced degree in sociology for research administration positions.

**Other Areas:** Environment and Society (local planning agencies, environmental advocacy groups, consulting firms) – Business (human resources, management, sales and marketing, public relations)

**Suggested Strategy:** Supplement curriculum with coursework related to area of interest. Gain experience via internships or part-time work. Develop strong computer skills. Join related professional organizations. Seek leadership roles in related student orgs.
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Below is a list of professional organizations that represent sociology, counseling, and social work. These organizations often provide a wealth of career information for students who are pursuing employment or graduate study in their areas.

- American Sociological Association: www.asanet.org
- International Sociological Association: www.ucm.es/info/lisa/
- Society for Applied and Clinical Sociology: www.appliedsoc.org
- American Counseling Association: www.counseling.org
- National Association of Social Workers: www.socialworkers.org
- American School Counselors Association: www.schoolcounselor.org
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs: www.cacrep.org
- National Board for Certified Counselors: www.nbcc.org
- Council on Social Work Education: www.cswe.org
- Association of Social Work Boards: www.aswb.org
- Social Work Careers Quiz (for those considering a career in social work): http://www.abacon.com/socwk/quiz/

EMPLOYERS OF SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES:

- Adoption and child care agencies
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Peace Corps
- Adult education providers
- Health agencies
- Private foundations
- Advertising and marketing firms
- Healthcare organizations
- Public and private schools
- Advocacy groups
- Hospitals and wellness centers
- Public opinion research polls
- Banks
- Insurance companies
- Religiously-affiliated service organizations
- Child, Youth, and Families
- Community service agencies and organizations
- Consulting organizations
- Correctional institutions
- Courts systems
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Services
- National Institute of Aging
- National Institute of Education
- National Institute of Health
- Newspaper, magazines, news agencies
- United Way agencies (go to www.uwcnm.org for the United Way of Central New Mexico)
- Department of Agriculture, Education, Interior, Commerce, Defense
- Nonprofit organizations and agencies
- Teach for America/Americorps
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Nursing homes, retire communities, senior centers
- United Way agencies (go to www.uwcnm.org for the United Way of Central New Mexico)
- Educational information services
- Parks and recreation departments
- Universities and colleges
- Veteran's Administration
- YMCAs
- Staffing agencies
- Service industries
- Vocational services
- Waste management firms
- Staffing agencies
- United Way agencies (go to www.uwcnm.org for the United Way of Central New Mexico)
- Ideals for local volunteer and internship opportunities:

Because many entry-level positions in sociology require one year of related experience in a helping role, which can usually be fulfilled through volunteer or internships, here is a list of organizations to begin your search:

- United Way of Central New Mexico: www.uwcnm.org
- Agora Crisis Center: www.unm.edu/~agora/
- Youth Development Incorporated: http://www.ydinc.org/
- Youth Diagnostic and Development Center: (505) 841-2400
- PB & J Incorporated (on United Way website): (505) 877-7060
- Hogares, Incorporated (on United Way website): (505) 345-8471

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

- http://online.onetcenter.org
- http://www.bls.gov/oco/