What to do with a degree in Sociology

Sociologists study how social structures, social processes, and cultural products constrain and enable human behaviour. Societies are products of the actions and interactions of individuals, and sociologists use empirical research to explore every level of social life. During the course of your studies, you'll gain statistical analysis skills, research capabilities, written and verbal communication skills, and a deeper understanding of the complex nature of society.

Key Skills & Knowledge

Team Work and Group Dynamics: Capacity to anticipate and understand the views and concerns of others; conflict resolution and mediation, listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills; interact with people of different backgrounds in various situations.

Understanding organizational and group dynamics: Awareness of how our individual & collective ways of thinking, feeling and acting are shaped by our social experience; knowledge about social relevance and knowledge of social systems; knowledge of community resources, the functioning of human groups, such as religious groups, educational systems, families & deviant groups.

Qualitative and Quantitative Research: Conduct research related to attitudes, beliefs, preference, behaviour, and expectations of a particular group; design, survey, and presentation of findings, use statistical software packages, knowledge of statistics and social research methodology, including data collection and analysis.

Communication: Write carefully reasoned reports, essays, locating sources of information, both in research libraries and in the community; present and explain sociological research clearly.

Specialized knowledge: in Criminology, Demographics, Gerontology, Social Organization and Urban Sociology.

Sample Job Titles

Aboriginal Liaison, Activity Leader, Addictions Counselor, Adoption Services Worker, Adult Development Co-ordinator, Advertising Assistant, Career Planning Coordinator, Child & Youth Care Worker, Citizenship & Immigration Officer, Community Action Programmer, Community Service Worker, Corrective Services Worker, Counsellor, Crime Victim Services Worker, Criminologist, Crisis Intervention Worker, Customs/Immigration Agent, Demographer, Foreign Service Officer, Genealogical Services Specialist, Geriatric Attendant, Gerontological Specialist, Group Home Worker, Hospice Coordinator, Hospital Administrator, Information Specialist, Labour Relations Specialist, Market Researcher, Multicultural Field Worker, Policy Advisor/Analyst, Probation/Correctional Officer, Program Developer, Public Administrator, Public Health Advisor/Worker, Public Relations Co-ordinator, Recreation/Leisure Specialist, Recruiter, Rehabilitation Counsellor, Researcher/Research Assistant, Residence Life Coordinator, Sociologist, Statistical Analyst, Statistician/Statistical Assistant, Survey Interviewer/Pollster, Teacher/Professor, Volunteer Coordinator, Writer

Some of these roles may require further training, certification or education. Check out the Alberta Government’s occupational profiles for salary info and more detail: alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

Need help deciding what to do?

Formal Career Assessments like the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator can be helpful tools for your career development. Request an assessment via CareerLink
### Potential Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertising &amp; Marketing</th>
<th>Family Planning</th>
<th>Law Enforcement Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child and Youth Care</td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Gerontology</td>
<td>Non-profits &amp; NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Services</td>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>Parole and Probation Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling Agencies</td>
<td>Homeless Shelters</td>
<td>Public Administration &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>Health &amp; Illness</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Recreational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>Immigration &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>International Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Work</td>
<td>Labour Unions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Associations & Professional Development

Associations provide an opportunity for continued professional development. Many also offer networking opportunities and other events for their members.

- American Sociological Association: [www.asanet.org/](http://www.asanet.org/)
- Association for Applied & Clinical Sociology: [www.aacsn.org/](http://www.aacsn.org/)
- Canadian Council on Social Development: [www.ccsd.ca/](http://www.ccsd.ca/)
- CJS Blog publishes news about the Canadian Journal of Sociology: [canadianjournalofsociology.blogspot.com/](http://canadianjournalofsociology.blogspot.com/)
- Canadian Sociological Association: [www.csa-scs.ca/](http://www.csa-scs.ca/)
- International Rural Sociology Association: [irsa-world.org/](http://irsa-world.org/)
- Rural Sociological Society: [ruralsociology.org/](http://ruralsociology.org/)
- Sociologists Without Borders: [www.sociologistswithoutborders.org](http://www.sociologistswithoutborders.org)

### Additional Resources

21 Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology  
Great Jobs for Sociology Majors by Stephen E. Lambert  
Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors by Camenson, Blythe  
What to Do with Your Psychology or Sociology Degree by Princeton Review

### Career Services

**YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE**

- Career Planning  
- Job Search Support  
- Resume Reviews  
- Career Workshops  
- Online Job Postings  
- Career Fairs  
- Networking Events  
- Information Sessions & much more!

**Connect with us:**

MacEwan Student Centre, Room 188  
T: 403.220.8020  
E: csstnt@ucalgary.ca  
CareerLink: [ucalgary.ca/careers](http://ucalgary.ca/careers)

[Facebook](http://facebook.com) ucalgarycareers  
[Twitter](http://twitter.com) @HireUCalgary

### Job Boards

**Charity Village:**  

**CUSO-VSO:**  
[volunteerplacementoverseas.org/english/volunteeropenings.asp](http://volunteerplacementoverseas.org/english/volunteeropenings.asp)

**ReachHire:**  
[www.reachire.ca/](http://www.reachire.ca/)

**LinkedIn:**  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

**Work in NonProfits:**  
[workinnonnprofits.ca](http://workinnonnprofits.ca)

CareerLink: [careerlink.ucalgary.ca](http://careerlink.ucalgary.ca)

### Faculty Contact

Social Sciences Building, Room 956  
T: 403.220.6502  
E: sociundergrad@ucalgary.ca  
W: soci.ucalgary.ca  
W: ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs

### Student Clubs

**Sociology Students Association**  
W: [soci.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/sociology-students-association](http://soci.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/sociology-students-association)

**Aligned Majors:**  
Anthropology, Development Studies, Psychology