

# Criminology/Sociology

## What can I do with this major?

OCCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<b><u>HUMAN SERVICES</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counseling</li> <li>Advocacy</li> <li>Mental Health Services</li> <li>Case Management</li> <li>Programming</li> <li>Community Relations</li> <li>Administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community service agencies</li> <li>Advocacy groups</li> <li>Federal, state and local government</li> <li>United Way agencies/local branches of national non-profit organizations</li> <li>Religiously-affiliated service organizations</li> <li>Private foundations</li> <li>Adoption and child care agencies</li> <li>Nursing homes and retirement communities</li> <li>Hospitals and wellness centers</li> <li>Halfway houses</li> <li>Vocational services</li> <li>Educational information services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs such as camp counselor, tutor, or resident hall advisor.</li> <li>• Complete an internship for academic credit.</li> <li>• Gain experience through volunteering with organizations such as crisis hotlines, Big Brother or Sister, Special Olympics</li> <li>• Learn to work well with different types of people.</li> <li>• Become fluent in a foreign language spoken by multicultural clients.</li> <li>• Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.</li> <li>• Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work to increase employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Most states require licensure or certification for professional counseling-oriented positions.</li> </ul>
<b><u>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corrections</li> <li>Rehabilitation</li> <li>Law Enforcement</li> <li>Judiciary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctional institutions</li> <li>Court systems</li> <li>Federal, state and local government, especially law enforcement agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain essential practical experience via part-time or summer jobs, internships, or volunteer work.</li> <li>• Volunteer to work with troubled youth.</li> <li>• Develop a desire to work with and help all types of people.</li> <li>• Obtain a graduate degree for advancement.</li> <li>• Obtain experience in a branch of the military.</li> </ul>
<b><u>EDUCATION</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching</li> <li>Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public schools</li> <li>Private schools</li> <li>Colleges and universities</li> <li>Libraries</li> <li>Private learning centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain certification/licensure to teach grades K-12. Earn dual certification to increase job opportunities.</li> <li>• Earn a graduate degree to teach in post-secondary institutions; master's degree required for two-year colleges and a doctoral degree for four-year institutions.</li> <li>• Volunteer as a tutor.</li> <li>• Participate in school activities such as campus publications, student government, alumni relations, and admissions.</li> <li>• Develop exceptional communication skills.</li> <li>• Gain volunteer experience with Big Brother/Sister program, tutoring, sports, summer camps, teen counseling, childcare centers, or with other special populations.</li> <li>• Build strong relationships with professors, supervisors, or other community leaders for strong personal recommendations.</li> </ul>

## OCCUPATIONS

## EMPLOYERS

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

### **GOVERNMENT**

Social Statistics  
Demography  
Public Administration  
Policy Analysis  
Research  
Program Development  
Human Services  
City Planning  
Law Enforcement

Federal departments and agencies including but not limited to:  
Departments of Agriculture; Education; Interior  
Health and Human Services  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Housing and Urban Development  
Veteran's Administration  
National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Aging  
State and local government

- Take additional courses in statistics and social research.
- Develop exceptional computer skills.
- Gain work experience via government internships or summer work.
- Acquire skills in research and evaluation; develop a specialty in fields such as aging, family, criminal justice, etc.
- Learn the federal application process.
- Obtain a graduate degree for advanced positions.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

Research  
Data Analysis  
Demography  
Market Research  
Information Sourcing

Universities  
Government agencies  
Research institutes  
Non-profit agencies  
Community organizations  
Private industry  
Advertising and marketing firms  
Consulting organizations  
Information brokers  
Newspapers, magazines, news agencies  
Public opinion research polls

- Develop exceptional quantitative, statistical, and writing skills.
- Learn to use statistics software packages as well as database, spreadsheet, and desktop publishing programs.
- Volunteer to help a professor with a research project.
- Obtain an advanced degree in sociology for research administration.
- Earn certification in applied social research by The American Sociological Association.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

Waste management firms  
Health agencies  
Local planning agencies  
Environmental advocacy groups  
Environmental periodicals  
Federal government  
Regional, state, and local agencies  
Consulting firms  
Private industry

- Enhance curriculum with courses in ecology, environmental science, and statistics.
- Join environment-related student organizations.
- Volunteer to work on environmental clean-up projects.
- Find a related internship.
- Obtain a graduate degree for advancement.

## OCCUPATIONS

## EMPLOYERS

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

### **BUSINESS**

Human Resources  
Training and Development  
Recruiting  
Management  
Sales  
Marketing  
Public Relations  
Office Administration

Business and industry including:  
Insurance firms  
Retail stores  
Banks  
Staffing agencies  
Manufacturing companies  
Service industry  
Non-profit organizations  
Healthcare organizations

- Secure leadership roles in campus organizations.
- Gain experience as financial officer or treasurer of a campus organization.
- Join student professional associations.
- Take basic business classes such as accounting and finance.
- Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships.
- Develop excellent computer skills. Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing.
- Join related professional associations.

### **Strategies For Placement In Sociology**

- Sociology provides a broad, liberal arts background.
- Some students may choose to study sociology because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop desirable skills through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences. Some skills valued most by employers include: communication, interpersonal, leadership, teamwork, and computer skills.
- Other students may major in sociology because they want to work in a related field. Many entry-level helping positions are available, however the amount of direct client contact is limited for those who have a bachelor's degree. Students may wish to pursue graduate education in psychology, social work, counseling, college student personnel, or other related fields to increase opportunities and earning potential.
- For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer or work opportunities. Assist a faculty member with his or her research.

### **Internet Resources:**

American Sociological Association

[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)

Vault: more information on the every day life of a counselor, lawyer, business manager, etc.. This site is accessible through the Career Services Website: [www.capital.edu/careers](http://www.capital.edu/careers)

Industry Profile -Counseling, Law, etc: [www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp](http://www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp)

Covers Industry Trends & Overview, "Love-Hate" (pros and cons of this field), Major Players and Job Descriptions & Tips.