Where do Sociology majors go?

According to the Graduating Student Surveys for 2012–2014 (with a 64.0% response rate for undergraduates in the Sociology major), in the last few years:

- 74.7% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 63.4% were employed
  - 11.3% had secure plans to attend grad school

Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Sociology majors in recent years:

[Logos of various organizations]

What jobs do Sociology majors do?

A degree in Sociology provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Human Services**: Direct Care (Counseling, Case Management, Mental Health Services, Crisis Work, Testing/Assessment, Behavioral Analysis, Rehabilitation Services, Prevention Education), Administration (Advocacy, Programming, Community Relations, Development/Fund Raising, Grant Writing, Non-Profit Management, Volunteer Coordination)
- **Criminal Justice**: Court Reporting, Court Administration, Law Enforcement, Corrections, Probation and Parole, Rehabilitation, Prevention Programming, Victim Service, Forensics/Investigation, Security, Loss Prevention/Asset Protection, Juvenile Justice
- **Law**: Prosecution, Defense, Contractual, Corporate, Non-profit or Public Interest, Government, Mediation, Lobbying, Law Assistance
- **Education**: K-12 (Teaching, School Counseling, Administration), Higher Education (Teaching, Research, Administration, Student Affairs), Information/Library Services, Adult Learning/Community Instruction, e.g. GED classes, life skills, parenting, etc.
- **Government**: Social Statistics, Program Analysis, Demography, Public Administration, Policy Analysis, Research, Program Development, Urban/City Planning
• **Social Science Research**: Research, Data Analysis, Policy or Program Analysis, Demographics, Market Research, Information Sourcing, Statistics
• **Business**: Human Resources (Training and Development, Recruiting), Management, Sales, Marketing, Public Relations, Office Administration, Consulting, Market and Consumer Research
• **Environmental Sociology**: Land and Water Conservation, Planning, Law, Preserve Management, Natural Resource Management, Land Acquisition, Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Environmental Education, Advocacy/Lobbying, Administration and Management, Recreation Planning, Research, Site Operations and Maintenance, Ecotourism

Use CCE’s [Industry Exploration](#) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

**What do employers want?**

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

*Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook*

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

**What value do Sociology majors bring?**

The Sociology curriculum helps you to develop the ability to:

- Define a problem or research question
- Design a study to find answers
- Design appropriate instruments
- Code and analyze data
- Report (orally and in writing) on findings
- Make recommendations based on findings
- Analyze, synthesize, and interpret information
- Express yourself in verbal and written form
- Share leadership and responsibility, work cooperatively, and get along with co-workers and clients
- Familiarity with word processing, data analysis, and graphics

**What if I’m an international student?**

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at [careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students](http://careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students).