1985

UA68/10 A Guide to Majors in Sociology

WKU Sociology

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A GUIDE TO MAJORS
IN SOCIOLOGY
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[1985]
This guide has been prepared to provide useful information to students in the throes of choosing a major subject as well as to those who have already decided to major or minor in sociology.

For the student who is undecided as to a major area of study and is curious about what sociology has to offer, we hope to point out the challenges and benefits of sociology as a liberal arts major, the relevancy of our curriculum, and the career opportunities available to sociology majors, thereby creating interest in pursuing a degree in sociology.

For the student who has declared a major in sociology, the faculty of the department offers this guide to assist you in making decisions regarding areas of interest and relevant courses within the department, in successfully moving through departmental and university requirements, and in determining what you will be able to do with your degree in sociology. We are committed to assisting you in reaching your academic and career goals.

In the pages that follow, you will find a roster of the faculty of the department which lists earned degrees and their areas of interest in their professional work. With backgrounds from Iraq to Alabama, the sociology faculty received their educations from Kentucky to New England, the Gulf Coast, the Midwest, and the Rocky Mountain area. They have studied and taught throughout the continental U.S. and in Europe, Iceland, the Middle East, Turkey, Latin America, Japan, and Hawaii. Their interests are as varied as their origins, and their professional activities reflect this breadth of orientation.

If you have not decided on your major subject, we invite you to concentrate your study with us as we investigate group life and the complexities of
human social behavior. If you are already a sociology major or minor, we promise you our best efforts in every respect.

Location and Facilities

Sociology, at Western Kentucky University, is housed in Grise Hall. The Sociology faculty offices, and most of the classrooms, are located on the first floor of Grise Hall. Faculty offices are along both hallways of the office wing. The office of the Head of the Department, Dr. Cardwell, is GH 126. The office of the Departmental Secretary, Mrs. Martin, is GH 101. If you wish to see the Department Head, you should enter his office through GH 101. The telephone number for the department is 745-3759. When you call that number, the secretary can connect you with any faculty member's office.

Graduate assistants in Sociology have their offices located in GH 136, which is located in the classroom wing between GH 134 and GH 138. The telephone number for the graduate assistants is 745-5191.

There is also a Social Research Laboratory, which is the major research facility of the department. GH 135 is the large room located near the elevator corner of the first floor lobby. This room contains computer machinery and calculators useful in compiling and analyzing sociological data. Of particular interest to undergraduate students are the calculators which will be used during some sessions of Sociology 300. Students may have access to these calculators at other times as well. When the Social Research Laboratory is open, a graduate assistant with responsibility for this room will be present. A small reserve library of selected books and journals is maintained by the department. It is also located in GH 135.

Newsletter

The department publishes a Newsletter twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. This newsletter contains information about faculty activities such as research, publications, community service, and papers presented at meetings. News of student honors and awards is also included. Any interested student may obtain a copy of the current newsletter.

Student Organizations

There are two student organizations on campus which are especially interesting to students who are taking courses in sociology.

The Sociology Club is open to any student who is attending Western Kentucky University and who is interested in Sociology. The club meets about once a month and frequently invites sociologists to discuss issues of current interest, research that is underway, or other topics chosen by the students who are members. This organization also includes social events in its program of activities.

Alpha Kappa Delta, the international honor society in sociology, has a chapter on the Western campus. Our local chapter is called Beta of Kentucky. In order to be eligible for membership in AKD, a student must: 1) have attained at least Junior standing; 2) have completed 12 hours of sociology with at least a "B" average (3.0); and 3) have at least a "B" average (3.0) overall. There is an annual banquet in the spring of each year at which time new members are inducted into AKD.
# Sociology Degree Requirements

## B.A. Degree

### Major Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Departmental Course</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology 300 Using Statistics in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology 302 Strategies of Social Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology 304 Sociological Theory: Perspectives on Society</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology Electives (see course listings)</td>
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### Minor Requirements

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<td>At least 2 of the following three courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology 300 Using Statistics in Sociology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology 302 Strategies of Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*at least one-half of the total hours must be in upper division courses (300-499)
Planning Your Program

Each student who is majoring or minoring in sociology has a faculty advisor. Every faculty member who teaches sociology full time acts as an advisor to students. Advising students is considered one of the major functions of faculty at this university.

You should meet with your advisor at least once each semester. Your advisor will be able to assist you in choosing courses in the proper sequence and suggesting courses that fit your own individual interests and career goals. Do not wait until late in your college career to see your advisor.

The department offers a wide selection of sociology courses but you should note that not every course can be offered every semester. As a general rule, the lower division (100 and 200 level) courses are offered each semester, while the upper division courses (300 and 400 level) are offered according to a fixed schedule but at least once every two years. Some courses have prerequisites; some are required for majors and/or minors; some are eligible for General Education credit. It is a good idea to plan out with your advisor a tentative schedule of course work for several semesters in advance.

TOPICAL AREAS

Courses in sociology can be arranged into several topical areas. The Core contains courses which must be taken by majors (100, 300, 302, 304) and minors (100, and two courses selected from 300, 302, 304). In addition to the Core, there are six topically related areas.

Perhaps you are interested in the breadth of sociology and are intrigued by applying the sociological perspective to many different aspects of human social behavior. In that case, you will
probably want to distribute your sociology electives across the areas. You may even decide to create your personal grouping of courses, choosing from the offerings on the basis of your own individual needs and interests.

If you have already developed an interest in one sub-field of sociology, then you may want to take most of your sociology electives within that area. If you have a definite career goal that is related to one or two areas, then you might want to concentrate your sociology electives in one or two areas.

As you look at these courses listed by topical areas, and at the course descriptions elsewhere in this handbook, please notice the numbering system. The first number indicates the level of the course (1 -- is a freshman level course; 2 -- is a sophomore level course; 3 -- is a junior level course, 4 -- is a senior level course). The second number indicates the topical area ( - 0 -- is a course in the Core area; - 1 -- is a course in the Social Psychology area; - 2 -- is a course in the Institutions area; - 3 -- is a course in the Criminology and Deviance area; - 4 -- is a course in the Special Interest area; - 5 -- is a course in the Modern Society area; - 6 -- is a course in the Community Processes area). The third number indicates the arrangement of courses within the level and within the topical areas.

0. CORE

The Core is made up of the required courses for majors/minors and provides the basic theoretical and technical tools for the sociologist. Scientific sociology involves the creating and testing of statements about events in the world of human behavior. In this concentration, the field of sociology is introduced along with some of its key concepts. Then, the association of theory and research is stressed. Ideas, their interrelationships, and ways of gathering and analyzing relevant data are studied. A student will have exposure to existing theories and ways of applying and evaluating theoretical notions. Research design, sampling, questionnaire construction, data collection, statistical techniques, data analysis, and evaluation are treated in this required core.

Courses:

- Sociology 100 Introductory Sociology
- Sociology 300 Using Statistics in Sociology
- Sociology 302 Strategies of Social Research
- Sociology 304 Sociological Theory: Perspectives on Society

1. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Social Psychology has as its focus the behavior of the individual as both the person and his or her action is affected by the social situation. Areas covered include the development of the self, socialization, small groups, values, social norms, and large groupings of people acting in relatively unstructured situations. The student can pursue the study of identity, roles and role playing, defining the situation, interaction using verbal and nonverbal symbols, significant others, and reference groups.

Courses:

- Sociology 210 Interaction: Self in Society
- Sociology 310 Behavior in Small Groups
- Sociology 312 Collective Behavior and Social Movements
- Sociology 410 Socialization: Changes through Life
2. INSTITUTIONS

Every society which continues to exist must meet certain basic social needs. The Institutions area includes one course on each of society's major institutions: family, education, religion, government, and economy. Families provide for the care of members, especially children. Schools transmit cultural knowledge to the young. Religion identifies and supports a set of shared values and includes rituals to support these values. The political institution distributes power and maintains order. The economic institution provides for the production and distribution of goods and services. Although the forms and practices of these institutions may vary widely, all societies have some form of family, education, religion, polity, and economy.

Courses:

- Sociology 220  Marriage and Family
- Sociology 320  Education in Society
- Sociology 322  Religion in Society
- Sociology 420  Power in Society
- Sociology 422  Work and Leisure

3. CRIMINOLOGY AND DEVIANCE

In this collection of courses, attention is paid to society's rules and what happens to those who break the rules. Research and social aspects of crime, delinquency, drug addiction, alcoholism, and mental illness among others are covered. The Criminology and Deviance area permits the student to learn about personal and structural bases for violating laws as well as the types of punishment and treatment for offenders.

Courses:

- Sociology 230  Deviant Behavior
- Sociology 330  Criminology
- Sociology 332  Juvenile Delinquency
- Sociology 430  Punishment and Prisons
- Sociology 432  Sociology of Criminal Law

4. SPECIAL INTEREST

The category labeled Special Interest covers a variety of contents within sociology. This is an area in which the department does not offer a sequence but has one specific course on an assortment of different topics. The courses included were chosen on the bases of student interest and faculty expertise.

Courses:

- Sociology 240  Contemporary Social Problems
- Sociology 340  Social Games and Simulations
- Sociology 342  Aging in Society
- Sociology 344  Roots of Social Thought
- Sociology 346  Special Topics
- Sociology 440  Medical Sociology
- Sociology 442  Sociology Research Project

5. MODERN SOCIETY

Modern Society focuses on social life in modern industrial societies. Industrialization, technological and social change, professionalization, status and the distribution of society's rewards, and the increasing numbers and influence of organizations are some of the topics covered. How the individual exists, relates to others, confronts, and copes with change is a theme that is found in each of these courses.
6. COMMUNITY PROCESSES

Community Processes emphasizes the dynamic aspects of living with others in the community setting. Minority relations, rural and urban environments, as well as structures of, and activities within, neighborhoods and communities are some of the topics the student can investigate in courses in this area. Births, deaths, and migration — the major population variables — affect small towns, large cities, nations, and the world. These population processes and their interrelations with social, political, and economic variables are also included.

Courses:

Sociology 250  Members, Tactics, and Goals: Organizations
Sociology 350  Social Inequality
Sociology 352  Shops and Offices: Industrial Sociology
Sociology 450  Occupations and Professions
Sociology 452  Change and Modern Society

*100 Introductory Sociology.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: none.
Offered: every semester.

This course introduces the student to key ideas in sociology, including: society and culture, groups, population, status and roles, interaction, conformity and deviance, social control, social class, and social change. Because sociology is more than content, some attention is also paid to the sociological perspective as a way of viewing society and social behavior. The student is introduced to the notion that the sociological approach includes ways of studying human behavior.

*210 Interaction: Self in Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every semester.

Emphasis is placed on the self as it is influenced by social and cultural forces. The self develops as the person interprets and reacts to the actions of others. As our actions also affect the behavior of others, the reciprocal nature of interaction is a central theme. Identity, roles, and situations are ideas that are stressed throughout this course.

*220 Marriage and Family.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every semester.

An examination of the nature and function of the family is the focus of this course. Included are: factors in the choice of a marriage partner; necessary adjustments in marriage and family life; family interaction; and changes which occur within the family. The student will have the opportunity to view the family as the basic unit of society.

*General Education courses
*230  Deviant Behavior.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100
Offered: every semester.
Examines behavior or characteristics that violate significant social norms and expectations and are negatively valued by significant segments of society. Causes and consequences of many types of deviance, including alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, crime, delinquency, homosexuality, and pornography are covered.

*240  Contemporary Social Problems.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every semester.
An introduction to social disorganization and disagreement in contemporary societies is provided. Social change is treated, especially as it has an impact on cultural values, norms, and conflict. Field trips are required in some sections.

*250  Members, Tactics, and Goals: Organizations.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every semester.
This course begins with the study of the common understandings and shared agreements that make social life possible. The student will investigate processes and aspects of life in organizations. Included will be analyses of organizations that are recreational, work, religious, and voluntary in nature.

*260  Minority Relations.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100.
Offered: every semester.
An analysis of intergroup processes and the social history of ethnic groups in society. Issues of race, racism, prejudice, discrimination, patterns of dominant-minority group relations and the problems and prospects of minority groups in the U.S. and elsewhere are examined.

300  Using Statistics in Sociology.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every semester.
Basic procedures which are appropriate for interpreting social data are presented. The students will be introduced to techniques of statistical description and elementary statistical inference. This course provides the needed tools for summarizing and understanding data gathered by sociologists.

302  Strategies of Social Research.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: every semester.
The question that this course answers is: How do sociologists think about, design, and carry out studies? Concept formation, research design, survey research, scaling techniques, and data collection methods are included. The emphasis is on hypothesis testing, inference, and tests of relationship.

304  Sociological Theory: Perspectives on Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: every semester.
A study of the major theoretical orientations in sociology is carried out in this course. Leading developments within the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives are presented. An attempt is made to spell out the theoretical bases for many ideas and studies about which the student has already learned.
310 Behavior in Small Groups.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology or consent of instructor.
Offered: even fall, even spring.
The focus in this course is on small groups, beginning with the dyad or two person group. Of particular interest is the study of communication and interaction patterns within small groups. Topics covered may include group size, form, interaction, activity, leadership, and satisfaction.

312 Collective Behavior and Social Movements.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: every fall.
Various forms and examples of types of behavior usually labeled "collective behavior" are studied. The student may learn about topics that vary from rumors, fads, and panics, to crowds, and publics. Social movements ranging from reactionary to radical are also studied along with their recruitment techniques, goals, behaviors, and social consequences.

320 Education in Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: odd spring.
The school system and the classroom are studied. Consideration is given to the social conditions that affect education and the social conditions produced by education. This course also considers: social class differences, the status of teachers, education as a socializing device, and education as a vehicle of social mobility.

322 Religion in Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology or consent of instructor.
Offered: every fall.
This course investigates the social aspects of religion, its forms of organization, and its relationship to other institutions. Attitudinal and behavioral aspects of religious belief are also treated. Considerable attention is given to religious commitment as a social psychological process.

330 Criminology.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every fall.
An examination of crime as a social phenomenon. Includes the processes of making laws, breaking laws, and reactions toward the breaking of laws. The personal, ideological, and social bases of criminal behavior in American society are examined.

332 Juvenile Delinquency.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every spring.
The study of young people in trouble. Examines the different types of anti-social and illegal behavior of juveniles. Attention is devoted to analysis of causes and of trends in delinquency and the efficacy of various programs, including the juvenile justice system, designed to deal with it. Includes field trips to juvenile correctional facilities.
340 Social Games and Simulations.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: odd spring.
The use of simulations and games in the social sciences is examined. An overview of existing ones is carried out before students play and operate several games. Finally, class members attempt to develop new simulations or to refine ones already in use.

342 Aging in Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every spring.
This course devotes considerable attention to aging as a social process and the position of the elderly in society. There is some treatment of older persons and the familial, political, religious, educational, and economic aspects of their lives. Social class, self concept, behavioral, and interactional aspects of aging are also studied.

344 Roots of Social Thought.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: even fall.
The background and origin of sociology is the major focus of this course. The development of sociology is viewed in its historical and philosophical context. Emphasis is on the growth of social thought leading up to the emergence of the science of sociology.

346 Special Topics.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100.
Offered: sufficient student interest.
Courses will be designed to focus on a particular topic or issue in which there is considerable interest. The content will not duplicate that in existing courses and may center on: particular sociologists; specific fields such as the sociology of sport, dying, or human ecology; cultural studies; approaches such as ethnomethodology, exchange perspective, humanist sociology; or new developments in sociology. This course may be repeated with a different topic.

350 Social Inequality.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: every fall.
The study of distribution systems that allocate wealth, status and power unequally. Various types of stratification systems, different life styles, and life chances associated with systems of social inequality, and social mobility are examined.

352 Shops and Offices: Industrial Sociology.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every spring.
The study of the work situation - social structures and social relationships in modern industrial organizations. Management-worker interactions, development of formal and informal groups within industries and organizations, and the interrelationships between industrial structures and the community at large are examined.

360 Community Life.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: every fall.
An examination of the changing patterns of American community life. The structure and functioning of various types of communities and the processes and procedures of assessing and solving community problems and needs with available or additional resources are analyzed.
Socialization: Changes through Life.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every spring.
As the individual progresses through the life cycle, additional skills, knowledge, and adaptations are necessary. Yet the person maintains a social identity that is recognizable over time. This course discusses theories, research, and conclusions about the passages of life.

Power in Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: junior standing and six hours of sociology.
Offered: even spring.
Power may be thought of as the ability to control the behavior of others. This course undertakes a study of political activity from a sociological perspective. Concepts such as social cohesion, legitimacy, political socialization, and power structures are examined.

Work and Leisure.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: six hours of sociology.
Offered: odd fall.
Making a living is a major endeavor in today's society. This course provides an introduction to the sociological study of work, workers, and work relationships. As living is more than working, leisure activities, consumption patterns, and other non-work behaviors are discussed.

Punishment and Prisons.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: undergraduate course in Criminology or Juvenile Delinquency.
Offered: every spring.
A socio-historical survey of the theories and forms of punishment. Also, the development, organization, and functioning of various types of offender treatment programs and prisons are examined. Includes field trips to correctional facilities and prisons.

Sociology of Criminal Law.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 330 or consent of instructor.
Offered: odd spring.
Investigates the social, historical, and legal determinants, nature, and consequences of criminal codes. The interrelationships of social structural factors with the making, changing, and enforcing of criminal law and with the imposition of penal sanctions are examined within the context of sociological theory and research.

Medical Sociology.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every fall.
Social factors contributing to the causes of disease and illness behavior are identified. The structure of health care is introduced as the organization, administration, and operation of health delivery systems are covered. The process emphasis is introduced as social interaction among managers, health professionals, semi-professionals, clients, and the public is studied.

Sociology Research Project.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 and Sociology 302.
Offered: sufficient student interest.
This course builds on the knowledge and technical skills which the student acquired in Sociology 302. Now, however, the students develop, design, carry out, and analyze the results of their own sociological study. In the sociology research project, the student is immersed in the exciting process of "doing sociology."
Occupations and Professions.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: even spring.
The study of what work is like in a variety of occupational and professional settings. Changes and careers in various occupations and professions are analyzed.

Change and Modern Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: nine hours of sociology or consent of instructor.
Offered: odd fall.
Examination of the nature and theories of social change in societies and social institutions. The process of modernization in developing countries and changes in contemporary industrial societies are studied.

City Life.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: nine hours of sociology or consent of instructor.
Offered: odd spring.
The nature of urban social organization and the impact of urban life on social relationships and institutions. The historical growth and significance of cities as well as the nature of contemporary urban areas is examined. Includes assessment of the social, economic, and ecological issues and problems involved in urban development and planning.

Population and Society.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: Sociology 100 or consent of instructor.
Offered: every fall.
An overview of the basic concepts, data, and measures of demography. Includes the study of the changes in fertility, mortality, and migration, the interrelationships between population and societal variables, and their policy implications. Population trends and problems in both the U.S. and international situations are examined and assessed.

Directed Study.
3 hours.
Prerequisites: junior standing and consent of both faculty member and Department Head.
Offered: at the discretion of the Department Head.
Open only to superior students, this course is available only when the subject matter cannot be studied in existing courses. Individual, intensive reading and research in one area is carried out in close cooperation with the supervising faculty member. Submission of these projects to regional professional meetings is encouraged. This course may be taken only once.
CURRICULUM ROTATION PLAN

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Population and Society</td>
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THE FACULTY AND THEIR OFFICES

Baali, Fuad G., B.A., University of Baghdad, M.A., University of Kansas, Ph.D., Louisiana State University, GH 111

Beck, Louis M., B.A., Blackburn College, M.A., Ph.D., Louisiana State University, GH 114

Bohlander, Edward, B.S., Ohio State University, M.A., Ball State University, Ph.D., Ohio State University, GH 115

Cardwell, Jerry D., B.A., University of Alabama, M.A., University of Maine, Ph.D., University of Utah, GH 126

Dansereau, H. Kirk, B.S., University of Maryland, M.A., West Virginia University, Ph.D., Michigan State University, GH 106

Dunn, Thomas P., A.B., Western Kentucky University, M.A., Ph.D., University of Kentucky, GH 127

Faine, John R., B.S., M.A., Ph.D., University of Iowa, GH 113

Goetting, Ann, B.S., M.S., Central Michigan University, Ph.D., Western Michigan University, GH 110

Grimm, James W., B.A., Carleton College, M.A., University of Illinois at Urbana, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Champaign, GH 112

Hepler, Harold, B.S., Temple University, M.A., University of Louisville, GH 124

Kalab, Kathleen A., A.B., San Diego State Univ., M.A., University of Hawaii, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, GH 104

Krenzin, Joan L., B.A., M.S., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, GH 105
To begin, we need to make it clear that a B.A. degree in sociology does not qualify you for the title Professional Sociologist. This requires graduate training. Now, having said that we want to say that in talking about careers and career opportunities in sociology, we will avoid making exaggerated claims about limitless job opportunities for our graduates. We will make no pie-in-the-sky claims. On the other hand, we don’t want to paint a false picture of gloom and doom either, because job opportunities do exist for sociology majors and minors.

There are many kinds of positions which one can secure with an undergraduate Sociology major. Examples include: interviewer, research assistant, recreation worker, group worker, teacher, administrative assistant, probation and parole worker, career counselor, community planner, editorial assistant, social worker (not certified), and statistical assistant. Furthermore, there are many federal and state governmental jobs for which sociology graduates with a bachelor’s degree may be qualified.

The following vignettes describe what different types of graduates in sociology actually do. Of course, these career profiles are oversimplifications, and they represent only a few of the total careers in sociology. Nevertheless, they focus on some of the basic options available. The vignettes are listed in no particular order. The names are all fictitious.

Personnel Manager in a Small Manufacturing Firm:
Chris is viewed by most of his friends as a business executive rather than a sociologist.
Nevertheless, he owes his start in the firm to his background in industrial sociology and social psychology. Starting as a lower-level assistant in the Personnel Department (now called The Human Resources Department), Chris now has a post with considerable control over the company's personnel policies in general—that is, strategies and programs for hiring, training, supervising, promotion, etc. Ultimately, Chris may be either promoted to a higher executive position within the firm or seek advancement by joining another organization. He received a B.A. in sociology and did not go on to graduate school. In fact, he has not really kept up with sociological research for the past ten years, and he now thinks of himself more as a practitioner than a scholar. However, he does read specialized publications on organizational behavior, industrial and business practices, and here his sociological training is especially helpful. While the company does not consider his position as that of a "sociologist," it is one among many firms which is coming to realize that sociological training is worthwhile for administrators and executives.

Staff Member of a Research Institute: Marion is a member of the staff of a private research institute which does sociological studies on specific problems of interest to government agencies, business concerns, and political groups. The institute is located in a large metropolitan center and many of the studies concentrate on the city and the surrounding region. Marion began the job with a B.A. in sociology. She had focused her studies around courses in research methods and statistics and urban sociology. Since joining the institute she has gone back to graduate school for an M.A. degree and has considerable on-the-job training. During her first several years, she was a "research assistant," but she is now an "associate project director" with more responsibility for developing new research projects as well as supervising the actual research process. She has developed a sense of how clients' problems can be met by appropriate research studies. She is learning to write research proposals and then to follow them through discussion and revision to actual funding. Her work schedule is basically 9 to 6. But she sometimes puts in considerable evening and weekend work, especially when she is conducting interviews, supervising and interviewing staff, or doing the statistical analysis and writing necessary for a final report to a client. Her salary is now somewhat above average for those in her graduating class. Marion may stay here or move to another research firm, or consider starting her own agency.

Travelling Representative for a Publisher: Terry works for one of the country's leading book publishers. She serves as a regional representative with responsibilities for colleges and universities in a three state area. Her job has two major aspects. She is expected to establish and maintain contact with faculty members who are teaching courses in which the publisher's texts can be adopted—here sales are her principal concern. She is also required to seek out those professors who are likely prospects to write new books for her firm—here she serves as an editor and talent scout. Terry's sociology B.A. was one reason why she was hired, and it continues to be important to her duties. Although she has responsibility for all of the social sciences, including psychology, anthropology, political science, and economics as well, sociology was a good preparation for her responsibilities. Moreover, Terry may have a future opportunity to specialize in sociology. One avenue of advance might involve promotion to "sociology editor" in the firm's New York headquarters. Here she would be less involved in sales and more involved in the choice of materials to be published and the form and schedule of publication. Alternatively, Terry could also be promoted within the sales division, and this too could lead to the New York office. Meanwhile, she enjoys the continued contact with campus life and the opportunity to interact with faculty members in community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. The
heavy travel associated with her job has reduced her appetite for restaurant food and is sometimes exhausting; but she realizes that her current duties are a necessary first step in the occupational world of college text publishing. Her salary is competitive with most junior executive trainees in the business world and all expenses are paid. She even enjoys a free book now and then.

Teaching Sociology in a State Community College: Francis teaches in a two-year community college located fifty miles from the college where he did his undergraduate work and then completed an M.A. degree before deciding not to go on to the Ph.D. Francis enjoys teaching, which is good because he does a great deal of it. He teaches five classes a semester, and while these generally include at least two which are separate sections of the same course, the burden is heavy. Although many people think that a teacher's work consists primarily of his or her time in class, this is often only a fraction of the responsibilities outside of the classroom. Such responsibilities include preparing for courses, serving on college committees, and meeting with individual students. These students not only have questions about the courses they are taking, but about the course they should take and their longer-range educational and occupational futures. Student counseling often goes beyond the formal rounds of regular office hours. Meanwhile, Francis also must devote time to reading so that he can keep up with new developments in sociology and related fields. In fact, he is a member of the Behavioral Sciences Department, and his colleagues include anthropologists, economists, political scientists, and psychologists. The salary which Francis receives is quite competitive with that of other state workers.

As a sociology major, Steve enjoyed his courses in sociological statistics, research methods, and medical sociology. Steve never imagined that he would work for an insurance company, but in his senior year at college Steve's advisor suggested that he schedule an interview with the job recruiters from the Home, Health and Life Insurance Company when they visited the campus. Steve accepted a job with the company in their research division where he compiles and analyzes data on accidents, disease, and life spans. Steve has enjoyed applying his skills and has supplied some valuable insights from his analyses. The company has been pleased with his work and has paid for Steve's advanced courses in data analysis and computer programming (which he hopes to apply toward a master's degree in sociology).

During his course of studies while earning a major in sociology, Alvin enrolled in a course in Race and Cultural Minorities. While in this course, many of his underlying assumptions about why certain racial and cultural minorities seem to be consistently found in the more undesirable, lower paying jobs in our society were challenged. More importantly, however, he remembered what he had learned in the course when he reluctantly enrolled in the required sociology courses in research methods and statistics and he became interested in how sociologists, through research and statistical procedures, could uncover the patterns and processes that discriminate against racial and cultural minorities regarding job opportunities, housing opportunities, level of pay, and other important factors that affect one's life changes. In his senior year his advisor arranged for an interview with the Affirmative Action Department of the state's largest public utility. The company hired Alvin as an Affirmative Action Specialist charged with the responsibility of monitoring the company's treatment of minorities and females as required under Title VII of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act. Alvin has worked with the company for two years and was recently promoted to the position of Supervisor of Research and Statistical Analysis in the Affirmative Action Department. His promotion has created a vacancy in his old position and he is about to embark on a
recruiting trip to college campuses in search of a qualified sociology major to fill his old position. In his new position, Alvin probably makes more money than his college professor who once upon a time advised him to take the courses that prepared him for his career.

So much for a few of the things that sociologists do. It should be especially clear by now that there are various careers available, and the options are increasing. But it's important to underscore what lies beneath all of these vignettes; namely, sociology itself. Scratch a sociologist and you will find someone concerned with an understanding of human behavior and human relationships in various kinds of groups and social settings. Of course, sociologists pursue this concern in different ways. Quite apart from pursuing different career lines, sociologists pursue different specialty subjects within the very broad range of the field as a whole. Thus, sociologists may specialize in the family, the urban community, health, self in society, social class, delinquency and criminology, the operation of government, the military, law and law enforcement, and any other area in which human behaviors are organized to pursue social functions.

Graduate Training in Sociology: What about graduate work in sociology itself? Certainly this is necessary for a career in academic sociology, at least beyond the secondary school level. It is also important for many non-academic careers—or to put it another way, it is hard to imagine any career for which no graduate training is preferable to some. But how much training, of what sort, and where? These are vital questions the student thinking about graduate study in sociology must answer. The faculty in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work stand ready to discuss the possibility of graduate study with any student who expresses an interest. One word of caution: we will be quite frank about our assessment of your potential for success as a candidate for an advanced degree. Once everyone agrees that you possess those attributes necessary for success in graduate school, the faculty will put all of its available resources to work to gain admission to graduate school for you and, to secure some sort of financial award for you.

*Adapted from: Careers in Sociology. American Sociological Association, Washington, DC
IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT:

Declaring a major or minor in sociology

Planning your program as a major or minor in sociology

Financial Aid

Obtaining a blank undergraduate degree form for sociology majors

Transferring sociology credits from other institutions

Getting your undergraduate degree program signed

The Sociology Club

Alpha Kappa Delta

Departmental prizes and awards

Putting information in, or getting a copy of, the Newsletter

Taking the GRE, GMAT, or LSAT

Graduate School

Applying for a graduate assistantship

THEN YOU SHOULD SEE:

Mr. Taylor, GH 103
or any sociology teacher

Your faculty advisor

Mrs. Martin, GH 101

Office of the Dean

Ivan Wilson FAC 200

Mr. Taylor, GH 103

Mr. Taylor, GH 103

Dr. Beck, GH 114

Dr. Cardwell, GH 101

Dr. Krenzin, GH 105

Dr. Tuthill, GH 108

Mrs. Martin, GH 101

Dr. Dansereau, GH 106

Dr. Dansereau, GH 106