

# What can I do with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology?

*A guide compiled by CUE Career Services and the Faculty of Arts*

## General Skill Sets

A Bachelor of Arts degree is versatile. Graduates are employed in almost every industry and every company in North America. When employers are hiring, they are interested in transferable skills attained through university study. Examples include:

- Understanding of current socio-economic trends and culture
- Understanding of other cultures
- Understanding how the interaction of various cultures and socio-economic background impacts society
- Communication skills (interpersonal and written)
- Awareness of community resources for referral and support
- Statistics, data management, analysis
- Critical thinking and interpretation skills
- Conflict management and resolution
- Understanding human relationships
- Understanding group dynamics
- Ability to deal with deadlines
- Computer (data processing & analysis)

Often, university graduates who have been employed for approximately two years may transition to a new job. Although factors such as the state of the economy and work performance may affect one's career journey, there tends to be greater potential for people who have degrees to be promoted or to attain leadership positions. As graduates combine their degree with accumulated work experience, they may transition into positions with increased responsibilities and higher salaries, or leave their current employer to take on new roles elsewhere.

- Human Services such as: rehabilitation, case management, group work with youth or the elderly, recreation or administration.
- Fund raising or volunteer management for nonprofits, child-care or community development agencies, human services or environmental groups.
- Probation, parole, police or other criminal justice work.
- Business related such as: advertising, marketing and consumer research, insurance, real estate, human resources, training or sales.
- Post-secondary institutions: admissions, alumni relations or placement officers.
- Health related services such as: substance abuse, rehabilitation counseling, health planning, hospital admissions and insurance companies.
- Communications, journalism or public relations: web design, writing, research and editing.
- Government: federal, provincial or municipal. Examples of ministries include education, communications, transportation, housing, health, justice, agriculture and labour.
- Educators: elementary or secondary schools with an after degree in Education or Adult Education.

As learning is life-long, some careers which are related to a Sociology degree require additional training. This may involve weekend, evening or part-time courses; further education where the employer may provide support by allowing time or offering finances to assist you; distance learning; or full-time colleague or university studies. In any case, the Bachelor's degree is a starting point.

## Careers Related to Sociology Degrees

### Business and Non-Profit Organizations

- Public relations/ Communications professional
- Research analyst
- Market researcher
- Labour relations negotiator
- Consumer researcher
- Sales manager
- Insurance agent
- Human resources manager
- Media buyer
- Employee recruiter
- Executive assistant
- Quality control manager
- Merchandiser/purchaser
- Loan officer
- Management trainee
- Account executive
- Real estate agent
- Market researcher
- Project Manager
- Data analyst
- Event planner
- Fund raiser
- Development officer
- Volunteer manager
- Religious minister

### Education

- Teacher (early childhood, elementary, secondary, adult)
- Admissions counselor or student advisor

### Academic, Law or Government

- Social Researcher
- Lawyer
- Public health administrator
- Urban planner
- Survey researcher
- Census worker
- Foreign service worker
- CSIS officer
- Overseas charitable non-profit worker
- University professor
- Social scientist
- Sociologist
- Security, Fire, Law enforcement
- Firefighter
- Security specialist
- Military officer
- Private investigator
- Criminology assistant
- Prison guard
- Probation officer
- Private investigator
- Parole officer
- Correctional Officer
- Police
- Customs and Immigration
- Restorative Justice Worker
- Politician
- Alternative dispute resolution work
- Family court support worker
- Immigration specialist (assistant to immigration process)
- Scheduler for medical or emergency services
- Halfway House and Group Home Support Worker



### **Media/ Writer**

- Author
- Journalist
- Publishing Officer
- Critic, Reviewer
- Reporter
- Public Speaker

### **Counselling, Human services, Family support**

- Addictions counsellor
- Behaviour Expert
- Recreation planner
- Gerontology Worker
- Group home worker
- Youth Outreach Worker
- Youth worker
- Career Counselor
- Housing coordinator
- Program Supervisor
- Community development worker
- Crisis Intervention Worker
- Support group facilitator
- Social Worker

### **REFERENCES**

[www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo)

[www.jobfutures.ca](http://www.jobfutures.ca)

[www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm](http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm)

[www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html](http://www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html)

[www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/resources/to\\_do.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/resources/to_do.html)

For more information or assistance with career and educational planning, please contact CUE Career Services at +1 780 378 8461 or email us at [careerservices@concordia.ab.ca](mailto:careerservices@concordia.ab.ca).

