Careers: Sociology

The University of Maryland Sociology major graduates have been successful in many different fields post-graduation.

Review additional resources at BSOS’s Your Career.

Using information from the University of Maryland graduation survey, we have compiled information about SOCY majors, such as where they work or go to graduate school post-graduation. Check out the topics below to learn more about planning for your career!

**Topics/Quick Links for Sociology Undergraduate Majors**

- Entry Level Jobs for SOCY Majors
- Explore Career Titles
- Career Planning Links
- Employers of Sociology Majors
- Gain Experience- Sample Internships
- Identify Skills Developed
- Job & Internship Search Links
- Connect & Grow Your Network
Sample Entry Level Job Titles for SOCY Majors

Sociology majors work in many different areas including human services, research, education, criminal justice, government, and business. Below is a list of a few sample entry level jobs that previous SOCY graduates have obtained post-graduation.

Account Executive  Intern-Enterprise Order Management
Account Service Representative Key Holder
Advisor LAC Peer Editor
Analyst for Organizational Development Legal Administrative Assistant/Assistant
Art Manager/ Management Trainee
Assistant Coach Manager of Quality Assurance and Compliance
Assistant Coordinator Marketing Communications Intern
Assistant Property Manager Peer Dialogue Leader
Associate Campus Recruiter Police Officer
Background investigator Preschool Teacher
Call Center/PC concierge staff Recruiting Operations Specialist
Client Liaison Rehab Therapist
Coach Research Assistant/Associate
Community Integration Specialist Research Fellow
Conflict Analyst Assistant Residential Instructional Associate
Crime Data and Intelligence Analyst Securities Analyst II
Customer Care Associate Security Monitor
Customer Service Specialist Selection Tour Representative
Disney College Program Summer Alumni Senior Brand Manager
Editorial Assistant and Intern Statistician
ESL Teacher/Substitute Substitute Teacher
Event Coordinator Support Services Specialist
Executive Assistant Teacher
Human Resources Coordinator University Recruiter
Institute Assistant Urban Park Ranger
Instructor Veterinary Technician
Integration and Test Administrative Assistant

*Reported by University of Maryland Sociology undergraduates. Obtained by the University Career Center’s Graduation Survey.*
Explore Career Titles (Additional Education or Experience)

Some career paths require an advanced degree. The list below includes titles that require an advanced degree of some of the more popular sociology graduate degrees.

- Affairs Specialist
- Career Services Counselor
- City Planner
- Community Relations Consultant
- Dietitian
- Federal Agent
- Financial Aid Director
- Gerontologist
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Medical Social Worker
- Nutritionist
- Professor
- Program Director
- Public Administrator
- Public Health Ed
- Recreation Director
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- Researcher
- Resident Assistant
- School Counselor
- Social Scientist
- Social Worker
- Sociologist
- Technical Writer
- Trainer
- Urban Planner
- Welfare Counselor

Graduate School Information

- Types of Counseling/Therapy Licensure in MD
- Licensure information by state
- Masters in Social Work
- UMD Reed-Yorke Health Professions Advising, offers guidance on health related graduate school applications
- UMD Pre-Law Advising, law school guidance
- Questions to consider before applying to graduate school
- Financial Aid resources

Start Exploring Career Titles

Use the sample job titles (mentioned above) to start exploring career paths. The links below provide a short overview of career titles you seek to learn more about.

- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- O*NET Online
- Use FOCUS2 to explore career paths using self-assessment questionnaires
- Talk with professionals working in the field through the Terrapins Connect
- Candid Career, informational career videos
- Vault Guides, download 100’s of industry guides (Click the book below to read more. Note- users who are not logged in to UMD Vault Campus when they click below will first be prompted to log in. Use your Careers4Terps account for easiest access.)
Career Planning Links- SOCY Majors

Not sure where to start in planning your post-graduation activities? Review these resources.

- **Environmental Sociology**, short article highlighting environmental sociology
- **Careers in Sociology**, about.com, list related job titles and spotlights career paths
- **Federal positions by major**
- **Jobs and Careers for Sociology Majors**, ASA
- **Related Career Titles for Sociology Majors**, UMD
- **Social Psychology Network**, list job opportunities and graduate school
- **Career Resources for SOCY Undergraduates**, ASA
- **UMD SOCY Undergrad**, overview of career fields
- **What Are They Doing with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology**, career paths related to bachelor’s degrees sociology majors

**Take a career exploration course:**

- **SOCY398C-** Special Topics in Sociology; Transitions from an Undergraduate to Professional.
- **PSYC 123:** The Psychology of Getting Hired – a one-credit, UMD course that introduces students to psychological principles involved in hiring processes.
- **EDCP108I:** Academic Transition into Internships – a one-credit online class preparing students for successfully landing an internship and how to reflect on the experience.

**Gain Experience – Sample Internships for SOCY Majors**

Sociology majors pursue a variety of internships. Review the sample list below. Internships are a great way to try out an interest, regardless if it is directly related to your major. Employers tend to favor job seekers who have had an internship in the field they are hiring for.

**Sample internships positions Sociology students have secured.**

- Child Development Intern, Cold Spring Elementary School
- Gang Prosecution Intern, Montgomery County State’s Attorney
- HR Intern, ANH Refractories Company
- Human Resources Intern, Orbital TMS
- Intern, Majestic Relations Inc.
- Intern, Montgomery County Correctional Facility
- Intern, Rural Migrant Ministry
- Intern, Women’s Right Information Center
- Intern, U.S. Dept. of Justice: DEA Newark Division
- Intern/Record Searcher, USIS
- Peer Dialogue Leader, Common Ground Multicultural Dialogue Program
- Program Intern, Korea Institute for Future Studies
- Project Manager, Washington National Cathedral
- Public Relations Intern, American Planning Association
- Quality Assurance Intern, Columbia Heights/Shaw Collaborative
- Research Fellow, National LGBTQ Task Force
- Student Intern/Record Searcher, U.S. Investigative Services, MD
Ways SOCY Majors Gain Experiences

The links below will be a helpful start in locating internship openings.

Sample list of opportunities
- BSOS Engagement Opportunities, offers links to out of the classroom experiences
- UMD Department of Sociology Blog, list opportunities posted by alumni and employers targeted at SOCY majors
- UMD Careers4Terps, UMD maintains a job and internship database for off-campus positions for students
- UMD National Scholarships Office, opportunities for all levels of undergraduates

Research Links
- Research Opportunities, advice and links for students pursuing research experiences
- UMD Research Centers, list potential RA positions
- UMD SOCY Blog- Research Opportunities, lists current research position openings

The UMD Department of Sociology offers information:
- Internship
- Scholarships
- Study abroad
- Honors programs
- Scholarship/funding opportunities for BSOS students

Skills Developed as a SOCY Major

Skills lead to jobs. Which skills do you possess?

Sample list of skills developed in class by Sociology majors.

- Critically thinking
- Assessing/examining information
- Use of sociological concepts and a social science mode of argument
- Ability to use research tools to conduct and assess research literature
- Understanding of the role of theory in the construction of sociological inquiry
- Ability to apply statistical concepts
- Knowledge of social science model of evidence and argument
- Social science statistical techniques
- Data analysis
- Organizing and presenting information
- Lead research project

Review the Skills Inventory list to examine soft skills to highlight on your resume and within interviews.

“Must Have” Career Readiness Competencies, according to employers - NACE Finding.
Job & Internship Search Links- SOCY Major

Applying for advertised positions located on a large board is an ineffective job/internship strategy, but it can be helpful in researching what the typical qualifications are for a field or position. Sample of resources are listed below.

Federal, State, & Local Government (preparation tips)
- Federal Government Jobs, list of federal government agencies and their hiring websites
- Federal Job Search, search for federal positions by profession or location
- Job wonk, DC Jobs & Internships, DC opportunities listed as global, U.S., business, and society categories
- State and Local Government on the Net, directory provides websites of state agencies, city & county governments
- State of Maryland, position openings in Maryland
- Student jobs, with the federal government

International
- Devex, international development field, jobs and information
- Foreign Policy Association, internship positions
- Global Service Corps, program for volunteering abroad
- International Jobs Center, current international vacancies
- YPPF Job Link- features international affairs, foreign policy, etc. positions
- THIS for Diplomats, volunteer opportunities
- United Nations, offers news on peace and security, human rights, humanitarian affairs, and international law
- U.S. Department of State, Pathway programs

Law Related Links
- FindLaw, positions listed across the country for paralegals to lawyers
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations, career center and information about certification
- U.S. Courts, country wide position database
- UMD Pre-Law Advising resources
- WashLaw, Maryland law & government resources

Nonprofit
- AmeriCorps, post-graduation service based positions at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country
- Corporation for National and Community Service, federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs -- Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund
- Idealist Job Board, lists volunteer, internship, and job opportunities across the country in the nonprofit field
- Riley Guide: Nonprofits, Associations, Foundations

Public Policy
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, job opportunities
- Global Policy Forum, internship opportunities
- Jobs in Think Tanks, listing offered by the U.S. Department of State
- Policy jobs and internships, most internships are viewable, but advance positions require membership

Social Services
- I Hire Social Services, niche job board dedicated to the social service industry
- Jobs in the Social Science Fields, list links to more job boards and tips for breaking into the social science field
- Peace Corps, 2-year commitment to volunteer abroad
- Social Service, lists positions in mental health, case management, domestic violence, community development, youth development, child welfare, developmental disabilities and all other areas of social services
Youth/Education

- **Association of Independent Maryland Schools**, list teaching and administrative positions in Maryland
- **Baltimore County, MD**, provides a list of youth programs
- **Jobs at Camp**, list country-wide summer youth camp positions
- **K-12 Jobs**, postings for administrative and teaching positions at public and private institutions
- **Nem Net**, the National Employment Minority Network
- **School-Job**, lists country-wide positions within education

Aggregate search engines yield more advertised opportunities because of the algorithm used to search the entire web. Examples: [Indeed.com](https://www.Indeed.com), [Linkup](https://www.Linkup.com), [Simplyhired](https://www.Simplyhired.com). Learn more about search strategies at [go.umd.edu/InternSearch](https://go.umd.edu/InternSearch).

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**Employers of SOCY Undergraduates**

The *sample* list below includes employers who have recruited UMD Sociology undergraduates.

- American Institutes for Research
- Aerotek
- All American Games (Army All American Bowl)
- APCO Worldwide
- Beckys fund
- CACI International, Inc.
- Carroll County Public Schools
- CASA de Maryland
- Center for Global Development
- Cision
- City Sports
- Common Ground Multicultural Dialogue Program
- Community Support Services
- CoStar Group
- Cravath, Swaine & Moore
- Datawatch Systems
- DCA Imaging Systems
- DeMatha Catholic High School Football
- District of Columbia Government
- Domus Kids
- El Camino College
- Elevate My Brand
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Foundation for Financial Education, The
- FTI Consulting
- Georgetown Aquatics
- Georgetown University
- Hagerstown Police Department
- Hogan Lovells
- Hughes Network Systems
- Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
- KIPP
- LATINA Style Magazine and MarylandReporter.com
- Learn It Systems
- Lead Management Consulting
- Mercy Medical Center
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Advisory Board Company, The
- Morgan Stanley
- NASA
- National Center of Transgender Equality
- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism
- National LGBTQ Task Force
- North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence
- Northrop Grumman
- NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
- Population Reference Bureau
- Prince George's County Public Schools
- Reliance Solutions/AIPAC
- Robert H. Smith School of Business
- Rosslyn Children's Center
- Service Source
- Sherwin-Williams
- Social and Moral Development Laboratory
- SOS Children's Villages USA
- Sound Shore Platinum Drive Reality
- Spring Cove Marina
- St. Mary's County Public Schools
- Story League
- Tata Consultancy Services
- The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute
- Towers Watson
- U.S. Department of Justice
- United States Department of Health & Human Services
- University of Maryland
- Walt Disney World Resort Disney College Program
- Wells Fargo
- Women's Rights Information Center
- Words Beats & Life
- World Bank Group
- Yelp, Inc.
- YMCA

*And many more!*
Connect and Grow Your Network

Use these sample opportunities to meet professionals in your field of interest to learn about the field, establish new networking contacts, and conduct informational interviews.

Sample Engagement Opportunities

- **Career Shuttles** - a half day, group experience to visit an organization of interest
- **Employer networking events** - attend to meet professionals and gain knowledge of openings
- **Intern** - make the most of your internship by requesting informational interviews
- **Intern for a Day** - one day shadowing experience that allows students to forge connections
- **Meetup** - locate people in your area with similar interests or within your industry of interest
- **Online Events Calendar** - for the state of Maryland
- **Terrapins Connect** - connects students with UMD alumni
- **UMD University Career Center Event Calendar** of employers and panelist visiting campus

Social Media

- Join LinkedIn groups
- Connect with other BSOS alumni in the UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences LinkedIn group
- **Tips for using LinkedIn** to make industry specific connections

Need help starting your career exploration or job search? Schedule a career consultation appointment with the University Career Center & The President’s Promise. Get started mapping your career action plan today!