

~Major of the Month~

Sociology



Are you looking for a career that gives you the option of working within many different careers?

If you want the freedom to work in a variety of fields, then consider a major in Sociology. Sociology is the study of human social behavior. Everywhere you find people you can find social behavior. A solid background in sociology will be beneficial in many career settings. People with careers in the fields of Corrections, Business Administration, Medicine, Law and Education can all benefit from a background in Sociology.

Sociologists examine how variables such as culture, laws and customs influence others in society. Sociologists also examine how people, through interaction, change or don't change society.

If you're still not sure whether this major is for you, Leslie Dobbertin, Chair of the Social Sciences Department, recommends volunteering. Volunteering will allow you to "test the waters" within many areas of sociology. If after your volunteer work you decide this major isn't for you, at least your time was spent working with a good cause.

Students majoring in sociology get the opportunity to conduct research and serve the community throughout their time at Lake State. As early as your sophomore year, you will have the chance to be part of observations throughout the community.

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Senior Research

With the help of a sociology faculty member you will have the chance to develop and test a research project of your own. After completion of your project you will be required to analyze your findings and present your project to your peers and other interested individuals. Past research topics have include:

- How elders perceive their entrance into nursing homes.
- African Americans perception of being on a predominately white campus.
- Environmental Classism: Are lower class families more likely to live in areas affected by ground pollution than upper class families?

Career Bits

Student Profile

Do you

have a desire to help others?

want to make things happen in an organization?

have a curiosity about people and how social systems work?

enjoy collecting and analyzing data?

Skills

- ~ Good communicator
- ~ Good written and oral communication skills
- ~ Works well under pressure
- ~ Patience with others

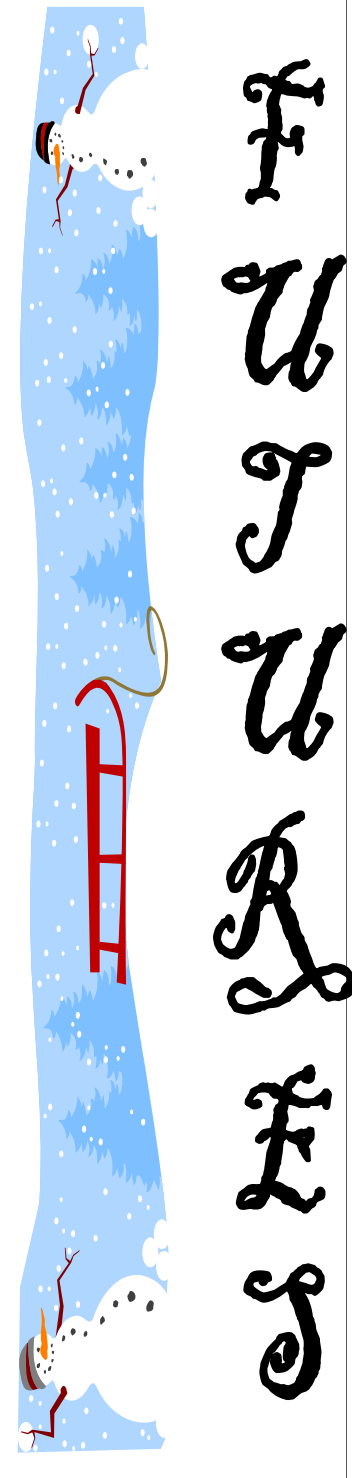
Career Outlook

Job opportunities are expected to grow. Demand is expected to be greatest for those with Ph.D.'s or training in areas such as gerontology, criminology and quantitative research.

Salary

Starting—\$41,000-\$45,000

Median—\$57,000-\$63,000



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The hands-on learning you receive from these observations help you to better understand social organizations and allow you to better serve any community.

A sociology minor, requiring a total of 20 sociology credit hours, is also available for those interested in the area of sociology, but wishing to pursue a different major.

Looking for a club to join here on campus? The Sociology club invites you to attend one of their meetings. Anyone can join; all that's required is an interest in sociology. Members are currently planning for their trip to a conference in Chicago, a winter tubing trip, a bake-sale fundraiser and many other fun activities. For more information and meeting times call the School of Social Sciences at (906) 635-2217.

If you have any questions about the sociology major or would like to meet with an advisor, please contact Leslie Dobbertin at ext. 2106 or Career Services at ext. 2733.

In the classroom

Along with your general education requirements and depending on your chosen minor you will take classes such as:

- Social Psychology
- Cultural Diversity
- Current Sociological Issues
- Social Research Methods
- Social Welfare Systems



Preparing for your Career

Students with a Sociology major can find work as:

~**Public Relations Worker**—Assists an organization in presenting itself to the public; often working with the media.

~**Social Services Worker**—Provide counseling, administer programs, coordinate services in public and private agencies that assist individuals, families, groups or communities.

~**Human Resource Manager**—administer and help develop policies for hiring, training, promotion and personnel management of employees in private firms or public agencies.

~**Urban Planners**—Work with city government to develop policies and design programs.

~**Elementary/Secondary Teachers**—Teach students at the elementary, middle or high school level; educational administrator.

~**Survey Researcher**—Conducts sociological studies for government agencies, businesses or political groups. A Ph.D. is usually required.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



The fall semester is drawing to a close and this will give most of you a well-deserved break from the books. Many of you will be traveling home to stay with your parents or other family members to celebrate the holidays. This is a good time to discuss with the important people in your life the decisions you are making about career choice.

Many of you have learned a significant amount this past semester about options available to you for future goals. Some of you have declared a major, some of you have changed a major, and some of you remain undecided about specific areas of interest. There is still plenty of time to make those decisions but it's important to begin the process of research. The Career Services Office can assist you with this plan. Visit our office and we can equip you to begin the search. Make it a New Year's resolution to stop by our office and see how we can help you.

Best wishes for a happy and restful holiday season!

Mary Jo Meehan, LPC

Career Services



A division of Academic Services
Lake Superior State University

Library 119A

(across from the Learning Center)

906-635-2733