

WHAT

Can I Do with a Degree in Sociology?

Career Information and Job Resources

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in **Sociology**

Master of Arts (M.A.) in **Sociology**

Department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography

Arkansas State University





Sociology

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography

Description

Majors in the Department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography are prepared for many professions including teaching, government service, law, business, research, cartography, and community planning; and for professional careers within the criminal justice system such as police, truancy and probation officers, parole officers, and correctional and research personnel.

College: [College of Liberal Arts & Communication](#)

Department: [Criminology, Sociology, and Geography](#)

Curriculum

Curriculum and degree requirements can be found in the most current Undergraduate Bulletin.

[Visit the bulletins page >>](#)

Admission Process

To be admitted into this program the student should go to the Criminology, Sociology, and Geography (CSG) departmental office and ask to declare a major in Sociology.

Sociology

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Description

The Department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography at Arkansas State University - Jonesboro offers a General M.A. Degree in Sociology and a M.A. degree in Sociology with a Concentration in Criminology. The program is designed to prepare students for entry into Ph.D. programs and provides skills and training necessary for employment as professional sociologists and in other related occupations.

Some M.A. recipients go directly into teaching at the community college or high school level. Others enter the corporate, non-profit, and government worlds as directors of research, policy analysts, consultants, human resource managers, and program managers. Some may become program directors in social service agencies. Some outstanding students go on to doctoral programs after earning the M.A. degree.

We are looking for students who are curious about the social world, academically dedicated, and committed to the examination of society.

Curriculum

Curriculum and degree requirements can be found in the most current Graduate Bulletin.

[Visit the bulletins page >>](#)

Admission Requirements

- A minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.00, or a minimum of 3.0 for the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work completed.
- A minimum of eighteen (18) undergraduate hours in Sociology.
- An overall minimum GPA of 3.00 in undergraduate Sociology courses.
- A minimum grade of B in the following undergraduate courses, or their recognized equivalents:
 - SOC 2213, Introduction to Sociology; SOC 3383, Social Statistics; SOC 4293, Methods of Social Research; SOC 4243 Social Theory

Thesis Option

Students electing to complete a thesis may take six (6) hours of SOC 670V, Thesis, with the consent of the overseeing faculty member, in lieu of a corresponding number of hours of elective courses. (Note: receipt of credit for thesis hours is contingent upon successful completion and defense of the thesis.)

Application Deadlines

Priority deadlines for admission and for consideration for graduate assistantship are May 1 (for Summer or Fall admission); November 1 (for Spring admission).

Career Path Sheet - Sociology

This sheet has sample occupations, work settings, employers, and career development activities associated with this major. **Many of these options may require additional training and career planning.** You are not limited to these options when choosing a possible career path.

To find out more about the daily work of these professions, skills needed, and salary ranges, go to [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) and type a career title into the search field.

Sample Occupations

- Anthropologist*
- Arbitrator*
- Archaeologist*
- Archivist*
- Child, Family, and School Social Worker*
- Child Welfare Social Worker*
- Clergy Member
- Consultant
- Corrections Officer*
- Curator
- Demographer*
- Economist*
- Education Administrator, Postsecondary*
- Foreign Service Officer
- Health Educator*
- Historian*
- Human Resource Manager*
- Interviewer
- Journalist*
- Labor Relations Consultant
- Law Enforcement Officer*
- Lawyers, Civil/Criminal*
- Management Trainee
- Marketing Research Analyst
- Marriage & Family Therapist*
- Mediator
- Private Detective/ Investigator*
- Probation Officer & Correctional Treatment Specialist*
- Recreation Worker
- Rehabilitation Counselor*
- School Counselor*
- Securities Broker*
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Social Psychologist*
- Social Science Statistician
- Sociologist*
- Special Librarian
- Statistician
- Student Personnel Worker
- Substance Abuse Counselor*
- Training & Development Specialist
- Urban, City, or Regional Planner

Sample Work Settings

- Adoption and Childcare Facilities
- Colleges and Universities
- Community Service Organizations
- Consulting Firms
- Consumer Rights Organizations
- Correctional Institutions
- FBI/Secret Service
- Federal, State Government
- Hospices
- Hospitals
- International Industries
- Legal Organizations
- Marketing Research Firms
- Penal Institutions
- Recreational Centers
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Research Institutes/Firms
- Social Service Agencies
- Substance Abuse Clinics
- Welfare Organizations

**Additional education and/or certifications may be required*

Sample Employers

A sample of organizations that have hired students with a concentration in sociology.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Security Administration• Arkansas Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arkansas Department of Corrections
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Sample Professional Organizations

- American Sociological Association – Washington DC
- Association of Black Sociologist – University of Delaware
- Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology – Ypsilanti, Michigan
- Rural Sociological Society – Columbia, Missouri
- Gerontological Society – Washington, DC
- Society for the Study of Social Problems – Knoxville, Tennessee

Self-Exploration and Career Information

To explore occupational outlooks and salaries:

- NACE Starting Salaries Survey Data
www.naceweb.org/salary-resources/starting-salaries.aspx
- Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/oo
- Salary.com
www.salary.com
- Jobs Fairs and Hiring Events
<https://adc.arkansas.gov/job-fairs-and-hiring-events>
See additional resources in Career Services (Arkansas State University)
- <https://www.astate.edu/careers>

Sample Websites

- Federal Job Information, US Office of Personnel Management
www.usajobs.opm.gov
- Justice Information Center, National Criminal Justice Reference Service
www.ncjrs.gov
- Official Home of Corrections
www.corrections.com
- US Department of Justice
www.usdoj.gov

Arkansas

- Arkansas Government Jobs
<https://adc.arkansas.gov/jobs>
- Arkansas State Jobs
https://www.ark.org/arstatejobs/index.php?ina_sec_csrf=ce1d59a789d41c97efaae60de835d32a&ac:show:show_job=1&agencyid=77&jobid=100601

Additional Information

- Arkansas State University Career service
<https://www.astate.edu/careers>
- Department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography website
<https://www.astate.edu/college/liberal-arts/departments/criminology-sociology-geography/>



Sample Job Requirements & Descriptions

Anthropologist

Job Requirements:

Most working anthropologists have at least a master's degree in anthropology. It typically takes two years to earn a master's degree after first spending four years in college earning a bachelor's degree. Most colleges and universities will require that you hold a doctorate if you want to teach.

Job description:

Anthropologists study human beings. They look at our origin, development, and behavior. Anthropologists are responsible for much of what we know about how ancient societies worked, what they valued, and sometimes even why they fell. They help everyone from governments to advertising agencies to universities to comprehend what's happening now and how to effectively communicate with people.

Source: <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/anthropologist-525983>

Arbitrator

Job Requirements:

Degree Level: Bachelor's degree; graduate degree in law or MBA common

Licensing: Some states require arbitrators to be licensed attorneys; licensing is also necessary to gain adequate work experience in other regulated industries, like real estate or construction

Experience: 5-10 years of experience practicing law or working in a related industry

Job description:

Arbitration enables opposing parties to settle a dispute out of court. An arbitrator, working independently or as part of a small panel, holds hearings, reviews evidence and renders decisions. These proceedings are very similar to a trial, but more private and less formal.

source: https://study.com/articles/Become_an_Arbitrator_Education_and_Career_Roadmap.html

Archaeologist

Job requirements:

Education: bachelor's degree in anthropology or a related field such as history or geography

Participate in an internship: Internships provide fieldwork experience that is necessary for many archaeology jobs

Job description:

An archaeologist is a professional who performs excavations and studies remains and fossils with the purpose of better understanding past civilizations. These social scientists may find and preserve artifacts such as ancient ruins and are responsible for many of the existing artifacts we have today. Archaeologists use their findings to interpret and explain the behaviors of humans in the past and to better understand the evolution of living species.

source: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-become-an-archaeologist#:~:text=Nearly%20all%20entry%2Dlevel%20archaeology,specific%20area%20of%20archaeological%20study>.

Archivist

Job requirements:

Becoming an arbitrator requires a combination of education, training, and experience. For most entry-level arbitrators, a bachelor's degree is sufficient. The degree does not have to be specific to the field of arbitration or conflict resolution, as most arbitrators obtain a degree related to their field of expertise.

Job description:

Archivists evaluate, preserve, and arrange records and documents. Depending on their specialization, they handle books, letters, old photographs, audio recordings, or other materials, storing them over the long-term based on an organizational system that provides efficient retrieval. They also make information within the archives more accessible to the public, usually by promoting its contents, assisting with archive perusal, or creating digital copies of materials.

source: <https://legaldictionary.net/arbitrator/> and <https://www.jobhero.com/job-description/examples/library-museum/archivist#:~:text=Archivists%20evaluate%2C%20preserve%2C%20and%20arrange,system%20that%20provides%20efficient%20retrieval>.

Child, Family, and School Social Workers

Job requirements:

A bachelor's degree is necessary for child, family and school social workers at the entry-level, though a masters degree is needed for some positions

Job description:

Child, family and school social workers must have a strong desire to help others. They work with people to help them cope with and solve everyday issues including relationships and family problems. Some social workers work with clients facing disability, unemployment, substance abuse, a life-threatening disease or any other number of issues.

Source: <https://www.campusexplorer.com/careers/8707A0D1/child-family-and-school-social-workers/>

Child Welfare Social Worker

Job requirements:

While child welfare social workers can work in entry level agency positions after receiving their bachelor's in social work, many employers prefer individuals who wish to progress to higher or more involved roles to have a master's in social work (MSW) from a CSWE-accredited institution, with a focus on children and families, according to the NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Child Welfare (PDF, 138 KB). During their MSW program, students interested in child welfare should seek internships in relevant settings (such as a family welfare agency), and take courses in clinical social work methods, family dynamics, child development, poverty, and/or disadvantaged populations. Social workers who want graduate level training for child welfare social work positions should explore state-funded scholarships for MSW students focusing on child welfare.

Job description:

Some of the child welfare social worker's core responsibilities include responding to cases of child abuse and neglect; removing children from home settings that are dangerous or do not meet certain standards; working with children and their families on a reunification plan in collaboration with child dependency courts; helping parents meet the needs of their children by connecting them with resources and helping them navigate programs, therapy and advising; and arranging for short- and long-term care of children whose families cannot take care of them.

Source: <https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues/Child-Welfare>

School Counselor

Job Requirements:

Earning a four-year undergraduate degree is the first step in your education toward becoming a school counselor. A bachelor's in education, psychology, or sociology will best prepare you for your graduate school work, but if you've already earned a bachelor's in another field, that's OK.

Most commonly, the master's degree you will pursue is the Master of Education in Counseling, which will take two to three years to earn. This degree offers a combination of learning and hands-on experience in classroom settings.

After receiving your master's, two years of practical experience is typically necessary in order to become licensed as a counselor by the state. Some states also require a teaching certificate.

Licensing and certification guidelines for psychologists vary by state; be sure to check the guidelines for the region in which you plan to study. Information about requirements for each state is available from the American School Counselors Association.

Job Description:

Children and young adults need guidance and support, especially when it comes to dealing with academic, personal, parental and social pressures. Helping people reach their potential should be your number one goal—and to achieve it you should be caring, flexible, adaptable and patient.

School counselors assist students at all levels, from elementary school to college. They act as advocates for students' well-being, and as valuable resources for their educational advancement. As a school counselor, you'll first and foremost listen to students' concerns. Because everyone's home and social life is different, you could be the only person who fulfills that need for them at a given time.

You may help students with issues such as bullying, disabilities, low self-esteem, poor academic performance and relationship troubles. You can refer them to a psychologist or mental health counselor for further treatment if necessary. In addition, you'll evaluate students' abilities, interests and personalities to help them develop realistic academic and career goals. You'll facilitate aptitude tests and formulate potential paths to success.

Source: <https://www.allpsychologyschools.com/school-counseling/job-description/#:~:text=On%20the%20job%2C%20school%20counselors,conflict%20between%20students%20and%20teachers>

Marriage & Family Therapist

Job Requirements

To become a marriage and family therapist, applicants need a master's degree in psychology, marriage and family therapy, or a related mental health field. A bachelor's degree in most fields is acceptable to enter one of these master's degree programs. Marriage and family therapy programs teach students about how marriages, families, and relationships function and how these relationships can affect mental and emotional disorders.

Job Description

Marriage and family therapists use a variety of techniques and tools to help their clients. Many apply cognitive behavioral therapy, a goal-oriented approach that helps clients understand harmful thoughts, feelings, and beliefs and teaches how to replace them with positive, life-enhancing ones. Many marriage and family therapists work in private practice. They must market their practice to prospective clients and work with insurance companies and clients to get payment for their services.

Marriage and family therapists work with individuals, couples, and families. They bring a family-centered perspective to treatment, even when treating individuals. They evaluate family roles and development, to understand how clients' families affect their mental health. They treat the clients' relationships, not just the clients themselves. They address issues, such as low self-esteem, stress, addiction, and substance abuse. Marriage and family therapists coordinate patient treatment with other professionals, such as psychologists and social workers.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/marriage-and-family-therapists.htm>

Rehabilitation Counselor

Job Requirements

Most employers require a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or a related field. Master's degree programs teach students to evaluate clients' needs, formulate and implement job placement strategies, and understand the medical and psychological aspects of disabilities. These programs typically include a period of supervised clinical experience, such as an internship.

Although some employers hire workers with a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation and disability studies, these workers typically cannot offer the full range of services that a rehabilitation counselor with a master's degree can provide. Students in bachelor's degree programs learn about issues faced by people with disabilities and about the process of providing rehabilitation services.

Licensing requirements for rehabilitation counselors differ by state and by type of services provided. Rehabilitation counselors who provide counseling services to clients and patients must attain a counselor license through their state licensing board. Rehabilitation counselors who provide other services, however, may be exempt from state licensing requirements. For example, rehabilitation counselors who provide only vocational rehabilitation services or job placement assistance may not need a license.

Licensure typically requires a master's degree and 2,000 to 4,000 hours of supervised clinical experience. In addition, counselors must pass a state-recognized exam. To maintain their license, counselors must complete annual continuing education credits.

Applicants should contact their state licensing board for information on which services or counseling positions require licensure. Contact information for these state licensing boards can be found through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

Some employers prefer or require rehabilitation counselors to be certified. The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification offers the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) certification. Applicants must meet advanced education, work experience, and clinical supervision requirements and pass a test. Certification must

be renewed every 5 years. Counselors must complete continuing education requirements or pass a reexamination to renew their certification.

Job Description

Rehabilitation counselors help people with physical, mental, developmental, or emotional disabilities live independently. They work with clients to overcome or manage the personal, social, or psychological effects of disabilities on employment or independent living.

Rehabilitation counselors help people with disabilities at various stages in their lives. Some work with students, to develop strategies to live with their disability and transition from school to work. Others help veterans cope with the mental or physical effects of their military service. Still others help elderly people adapt to disabilities developed later in life from illness or injury. Some may provide expert testimony or assessments during personal-injury or workers' compensation cases.

Some rehabilitation counselors deal specifically with employment issues. These counselors, sometimes called vocational rehabilitation counselors, typically work with older students and adults.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/rehabilitation-counselors.htm>

Probation Officer & Correctional Treatment Specialists

Job Requirements:

Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists usually need a bachelor's degree. In addition, most employers require candidates to pass competency exams, drug testing, and a criminal background check.

A valid driver's license is often required, and most agencies require applicants to be at least 21 years old. A bachelor's degree in social work, criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or a related field is usually required. Requirements vary by jurisdiction. Most probation officers and correctional treatment specialists must complete a training program sponsored by their state government or the federal government, after which they may have to pass a certification test. In addition, they may be required to work as trainees for up to 1 year before being offered a permanent position.

Some probation officers and correctional treatment specialists specialize in a certain type of casework. For example, an officer may work only with domestic violence probationers or deal only with substance abuse cases. Some may work only cases involving juvenile offenders. Officers receive the appropriate specific training so that they are better prepared to help that type of probationer. Although job requirements vary, work experience obtained by way of internships in courthouses or with probationers in the criminal justice field can be helpful for some positions.

Job Description:

Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists provide social services to assist in rehabilitation of law offenders in custody or on probation or parole.

Probation officers, who are sometimes referred to as community supervision officers, supervise people who have been placed on probation instead of sent to prison. They work to ensure that the probationer is not a danger to the community and to help in their rehabilitation through frequent visits with the probationer. Probation officers write reports that detail each probationer's treatment plan and their progress since being put on probation. Most work exclusively with either adults or juveniles.

Parole officers work with people who have been released from prison and are serving parole, helping them re-enter society. Parole officers monitor post-release parolees and provide them with information on various

resources, such as substance abuse counseling or job training, to aid in their rehabilitation. By doing so, the officers try to change the parolee's behavior and thus reduce the risk of that person committing another crime and having to return to prison.

Both probation and parole officers supervise probationers and parolees through personal contact with them and their families (also known as community supervision). Probation and parole officers require regularly scheduled contact with parolees and probationers by telephone or through office visits, and they also check on them at their homes or places of work. When making home visits, probation and parole officers consider the safety of the neighborhood in which the probationers and parolees live and any mental health considerations that may be pertinent. Probation and parole officers also oversee drug testing and electronic monitoring of those under supervision. In some states, workers perform the duties of both probation and parole officers.

Pretrial services officers investigate a pretrial defendant's background to determine if the defendant can be safely allowed back into the community before his or her trial date. Officers must assess the risk and make a recommendation to a judge, who decides on the appropriate sentencing (in settled cases with no trial) or bond amount. When pretrial defendants are allowed back into the community, pretrial officers supervise them to make sure that they stay within the terms of their release and appear at their trials.

Correctional treatment specialists, also known as case managers or correctional counselors, advise probationers and parolees and develop rehabilitation plans for them to follow. They may evaluate inmates using questionnaires and psychological tests. They also work with inmates, parole officers, and staff of other agencies to develop parole and release plans. For example, they may plan education and training programs to improve probationers' job skills.

Correctional treatment specialists write case reports that cover the inmate's history and the likelihood that he or she will commit another crime. When inmates are eligible for release, the case reports are given to the appropriate parole board. The specialist may help set up counseling for the parolees and their families, find substance abuse or mental health treatment options, aid in job placement, and find housing. Correctional treatment specialists also explain the terms and conditions of the prisoner's release and keep detailed written accounts of each parolee's progress.

The number of cases a probation officer or correctional treatment specialist handles at one time depends on the needs of individuals under supervision and the risks associated with each individual. Higher risk probationers usually command more of an officer's time and resources. Caseload size also varies by agency.

Improved tests for drug screening and electronic devices to monitor clients help probation officers and correctional treatment specialists supervise and counsel probationers.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/probation-officers-and-correctional-treatment-specialists.htm>

Private Detective/Investigator

Job Requirements

Private detectives and investigators typically need several years of work experience and a high school diploma; however, the vast majority of states require private detectives and investigators to have a college degree and a license to perform investigations. Education requirements vary greatly with the job and vary state to state, but most jobs require a 2- or 4-year degree in a field such as criminal justice, sociology, or criminology.

Most private detectives and investigators learn through on-the-job training, typically lasting between several months and a year. Although new investigators must learn how to gather information, additional training

depends on the type of firm that hires them. For example, investigators may learn to conduct remote surveillance, reconstruct accident scenes, or investigate insurance fraud. Corporate investigators hired by large companies may receive formal training in business practices, management structure, and various finance-related topics.

Private detectives and investigators must typically have previous work experience, usually in law enforcement, the military, or federal intelligence. Those in such jobs, who are frequently able to retire after 20 or 25 years of service, may become private detectives or investigators in a second career.

Other private detectives and investigators may have previously worked as bill and account collectors, claims adjusters, paralegals, or process servers. Most states require private detectives and investigators to have a license. Check with your state for more information; Professional Investigator Magazine has links to most states' licensing requirements. Because laws often change, jobseekers should verify the licensing laws related to private investigators with the state and locality in which they want to work.

Candidates may also obtain certification, although it is not required for employment. Still, becoming certified through professional organizations can demonstrate competence and may help candidates advance in their careers.

For investigators who specialize in negligence or criminal defense investigation, the National Association of Legal Investigators offers the Certified Legal Investigator certification. For other investigators, ASIS International offers the Professional Certified Investigator certification.

Job Description

Private detectives and investigators search for information about legal, financial, and personal matters. They offer many services, such as verifying people's backgrounds and statements, finding missing persons, and investigating computer crimes.

Private detectives and investigators offer many services for individuals, attorneys, and businesses. Examples include performing background checks, investigating employees for possible theft from a company, proving or disproving infidelity in a divorce case, and helping to locate a missing person.

Private detectives and investigators use a variety of tools when researching the facts in a case. Much of their work is done with a computer, allowing them to obtain information such as telephone numbers, details about social networks, descriptions of online activities, and records of a person's prior arrests. They make phone calls to verify facts and interview people when conducting a background investigation.

Detectives also conduct surveillance when investigating a case. They may watch locations, such as a person's home or office, often from a hidden position. Using cameras and binoculars, detectives gather information on people of interest.

Detectives and investigators must be mindful of the law when conducting investigations. Because they lack police authority, their work must be done with the same authority as a private citizen. As a result, detectives and investigators must have a good understanding of federal, state, and local laws, such as privacy laws, and other legal issues affecting their work. Otherwise, evidence they collect may not be useable in court and they could face prosecution.

Skip tracers specialize in locating people whose whereabouts are unknown. For example, debt collectors may employ them to locate people who have unpaid bills.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/private-detectives-and-investigators.htm>