



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

What it's about –

You are invited to participate in a survey whose aim is to find out what sociology graduates actually do and what they learned while earning their sociology degrees. The American Sociological Association (ASA)—the national membership organization of 14,000 sociologists—is conducting the survey and the National Science Foundation is supporting the study.

You are one of the undergraduates from eighty departments across the US invited to collaborate in this first-time survey of senior sociology majors. In this survey, you will be asked why you chose sociology as a major, what skills and concepts you learned, and what you intend to do in the next year. The questionnaire will also ask a number of background questions such as your age, sex, marital status, in order to compare your responses to those of students in other social groups. Finally, the questionnaire asks for contact information so ASA can follow-up next year to learn about your post-graduate experiences and your view of the utility of the skills and concepts you learned as a sociology major.

The information from this longitudinal survey will help sociology faculty to improve the collegiate experiences of undergraduates and to make these experiences more relevant to the world of work. ASA will provide you with a set of survey findings, if you wish to see them, and a CD on careers in sociology to help you in your job search.

The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and a failure to provide some or all of the information requested will not adversely affect you in any way. Even if you agree to participate at first, you may discontinue your participation at any time during the survey.

[Proceed to the survey](#)

[Decline to participate](#)

Additional things you should know about participating in this first wave of the survey--

Your responses are confidential. Your individual responses, including any contact information you provide, are confidential and will not be shared with sociology departments, colleges, or universities. No information from this survey will be sold. Your name will not appear in any publication of results. Instead, sociology departments will be provided with summary data for all of their majors and recent graduates so they can compare the views of their students with those of students from other schools. No one will use the information in any way that could identify you. If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact Roberta Spalter-Roth by e-mailing spalter-roth@asanet.org or calling 202-383-9005 ext. 317.

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in this research have not been respected, you may contact ASA's Institutional Review Board: WIRB, P.O. Box 12029, Olympia, WA 98508-2029, 800-562-4789, wirb@wirb.com.

If you have read this form, and are willing to participate in the survey, click the "Proceed to the survey" button. If you do not wish to participate, please click the "Decline to participate" button. Those who decline will not be contacted again.

Proceed to the survey

Decline to participate

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National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Thank you very much for your participation. For each question, please check the box that best describes your experience and/or fill in the brief open-ended responses. There are no right or wrong answers.

When did you or do you anticipate graduating?

Month Year

[Continue](#)



Which of the following best describes your major or joint major?

- Sociology alone
- Sociology and anthropology
- Sociology and social work
- Sociology and criminology or criminal justice
- Sociology and psychology
- Sociology and another discipline, please specify:
- Other, please specify:

Continue



Why did you major in sociology? Please indicate how important each of the following reasons was to you.

Reasons for majoring in sociology...	Very important ▼	Somewhat important ▼	Not important ▼
I heard good things about the sociology department at this school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I enjoyed the first course I had in sociology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would prepare me for the job I want	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would prepare me for graduate or professional school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I found that the major required fewer credit hours than others I could have chosen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I found that the concepts interested me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was looking for a more general major rather than one focused on a specific career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I found that the order in which I could take the courses was flexible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continue



Why did you major in sociology? Please indicate how important each of the following reasons was to you.

Reasons for majoring in sociology...	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
I found that I had enough credit hours to become a sociology major even though I did not plan to be one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would prepare me to help to change society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would help me understand the relation between social forces (such as globalization, religious and political movements, suburbanization) and individuals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would prepare me to do different kinds of research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I thought it would help me to understand my life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I could not get into the major that I wanted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continue



Do you think that you gained proficiency at each of the following skills as part of your sociology major? Please indicate the extent to which you agree that you are able to use each skill.

As part of my sociology major, I learned to...	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Create a hypothesis with independent and dependent variables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use computers to find information to develop a bibliography or a list of references	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use standard statistical software packages, such as SPSS, SAS, or STATA, to analyze data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods (e.g., surveys, in-depth interviews, participant observation) for answering specific research questions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gather information to make an argument based on evidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discuss percentages and tests of significance in a two variable table	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpret the results of different types of data gathering such as surveys, experiments, case studies, or other qualitative studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identify ethical issues in sociological research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write a report from sociological information that can be understood by non-sociologists, such as newspaper readers, government officials, or community groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Will you or do you list any of the skills on this page when you prepare your resume?

- Yes
- No

[Continue](#)



Which skills do (would) you list on a resume? Check all that apply.

On my resume, I list (would list) that I can...

- Create a hypothesis with independent and dependent variables
- Use computers to find information to develop a bibliography or a list of references
- Use standard statistical software packages, such as SPSS, SAS, or STATA, to analyze data
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods (e.g., surveys, in-depth interviews, participant observation) for answering specific research questions
- Gather information to make an argument based on evidence
- Discuss percentages and tests of significance in a two variable table
- Interpret the results of different types of data gathering such as surveys, experiments, case studies, or other qualitative studies
- Identify ethical issues in sociological research
- Write a report from sociological information that can be understood by non-sociologists, such as newspaper readers, government officials, or community groups

Continue



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

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Did you gain the ability to describe and explain the following concepts as part of your sociology major? Please indicate the extent to which you agree that you learned to describe or explain each concept.

As part of your sociology major, did you learn ...	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Current sociological explanations about a variety of social issues such as crime, racism, poverty, family formation, or religion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What is meant by a social institution and to give examples of their impact on individuals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basic theoretical perspectives or paradigms in sociology (for example conflict theory, structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, feminist theory)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basic concepts in sociology (including culture, socialization, institutions, or stratification)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Important differences in the life experiences of people as they vary by race, class, gender, age, disability and other ascribed statuses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To view society from an alternative or critical perspective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[Continue](#)



As part of your sociology major, did you participate in the following activities? Please indicate whether you participated as part of your major or not.

As part of your major, did you participate in a ...	Yes, as part of the major	Yes, but not as part of the major	No, not offered at my school	Offered at my school but I did not participate
	▼	▼	▼	▼
Community, political, or other volunteer activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mentoring program, where a faculty member or student worked closely with you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Service learning project, where you worked in an agency or in the community as part of a class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Faculty research project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jobs fairs, on-campus interviews by firms, career-related mentorship programs, or other networking opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership development such as how to work in a group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alpha Kappa Delta or other sociology club	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honors program associated with your department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local, state, regional, or national sociology meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[Continue](#)



How satisfied are you with your experiences with the department in which you took your major? Please select the answer that most closely matches your experience.

In your department, how satisfied are you with ...	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not at all satisfied	Not applicable
The quality of undergraduate advising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality of graduate school advising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality of career advising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ease in getting the courses you needed to graduate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ease in seeing faculty outside of class as often as you needed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The interaction with fellow sociology majors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality of teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The access to necessary technology such as a computer lab	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[Continue](#)



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Overall, how satisfied are you with your sociology experiences?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Not at all satisfied
- Not applicable

Continue



Would you tell us the following characteristics about yourself so that we might see how different social groups answered the questions? As noted previously, none of this individual information will be available to your department, school, or other organization in any way that is directly linked to your name.

What is your year of birth?

Select one

What is your sex?

Female

Male

Continue



Which of the following categories best describes your race/ethnicity? Check as many as apply.

- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaskan Native population
- White or Caucasian
- Other, please specify:

Continue



What is your current marital status?

- Single, never married
- Married
- Divorced
- Living together with partner
- Other

Are there children living with you (either your own, your siblings', other family members', or a partner's) at least half of the time for whom you have childcare responsibilities?

- Yes
- No

Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No

Continue



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

How many hours per week, on average, do you work? Please enter a numeric response. (example: 15)

Hours

Is your job related to your studies in sociology?

Yes

No

Continue



While working for your degree, did you attend school mostly full-time, mostly part-time, or a combination?

- Mostly full-time
- Mostly part-time
- Combination

Did you transfer to your current school from some other school?

- No, I started here as a freshman
- Yes, I transferred from a community or other two-year college
- Yes, I transferred from another four-year college or university
- Yes, I transferred from both a two-year and a four-year school

Continue



What is (or was) your GPA in sociology, thus far? Please enter a numeric response. (example: 3.4)

GPA in sociology courses

Don't Know

What is (or was) your overall GPA, thus far? Please enter a numeric response. (example: 3.4)

Overall GPA

Don't Know

Is your GPA calculated on a four point scale?

Yes

No

[Continue](#)



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

What scale does your school use to calculate GPAs?

Continue



Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your father (or primary male guardian)?

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate (or GED)
- Vocational or technical school
- Some college (including associate degree)
- College graduate (4 year college or university)
- Some graduate or professional school
- Graduate/Professional school graduate
- Not applicable/Don't know

Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your mother (or primary female guardian)?

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate (or GED)
- Vocational or technical school
- Some college (including associate degree)
- College graduate (4 year college or university)
- Some graduate or professional school
- Graduate/Professional school graduate
- Not applicable/Don't know

Continue



What are your plans for the next 12 months? Please check as many as apply.

Go to graduate or professional school

Obtain a new job

Continue to work at your current job

Marry

Have a child

Go into the military

Travel extensively

Other, please specify:

Continue



Rank the top three graduate or professional schools that you wish to attend.

First choice:

Undecided

Second choice:

Undecided

Third choice:

Undecided

What degree do you intend to pursue?

Undecided

[Continue](#)



What type of employer would you prefer to work for?

- Educational
- Government
- Private, non-profit
- Private, for profit
- Undecided

What type of job would you prefer?

Continue



National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Would you describe your current employment sector as:

- Educational
- Government
- Private, non-profit
- Private, for profit
- Undecided

What is your current job title?

Continue



Finally, we'd like to contact you in order to learn how your plans turned out one year from now. Would you please share the following information with the ASA Research Department? This information will NOT be made public, shared with your department, or available via the Internet.

Your current primary e-mail address:

Your current alternate e-mail address:

Your current street address:

Your current city:

Your current state:

Your current ZIP Code:

Your current telephone number: (example: 111-222-3333)

Please provide the contact information for someone who would know how to reach you in a year.

Your contact's name:

Your contact's e-mail address:

Your contact's street address:

Your contact's city:

Your contact's state:

Your contact's ZIP Code:

Your contact's telephone number: (example: 111-222-3333)



Thank you for completing this survey.

Would you like us to share the overall results of this survey with you?

- Yes
- No

Would you like us to provide you with ASA's latest career information?

- Yes
- No

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your undergraduate program or your career?

[Continue](#)



THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR VIEWS!

Your responses to the survey were successfully submitted.

Questions or comments? [Contact us](#).

For security purposes, please click the "Exit Survey" button to close this window and exit the survey. Alternatively, you can close this browser window.

Exit Survey