ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey, 2009

What Can I Do with a Master’s Degree in Sociology?

You are invited to participate in the first ever longitudinal survey of Master’s students in sociology. The American Sociological Association is conducting this study with the Task Force on the Master's Degree in Sociology. The purpose is to provide data to the larger profession and to graduate programs in the discipline so they may develop more effective programs for their students that lead to jobs that encompass sociological skills or to further graduate education. This is one of a set of studies conducted by the ASA designed to provide data to sociology departments for use in planning and assessment.

The survey questions are divided into four sections. The first section asks about your experience in your program, the second section asks about your post graduation plans, the third section asks for some background information, and the fourth section asks about how you financed your education. Your answers are important to future sociology graduate students. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete.

You must be 18 years of age or older to answer this survey.

Confidentiality

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR) is responsible for data collection. To protect student responses, the CSR computing environment requires a high level of computer and data security. Once the confidential information provided by respondents is transmitted to the ASA, it will be transferred to a freestanding computer (not attached to the internet) in a locked room for the purposes of data analysis. No individual-level data will be shared with departments or the schools from which respondents will graduate. Rather, reports providing grouped or aggregated data will be made available to them. Although the aggregated data will provide useful for sociology departments and programs, the survey is entirely voluntary and no individual should feel any pressure to complete it. If you have any questions please contact Roberta Spalter-Roth at spalter-roth@asanet.org or call at 202-383-9005, ext. 317.

___ Proceed to the survey
___ Decline to participate

When did you receive your Bachelor’s degree?
Please list the month and year:

Are you currently attending the same institution where you received your Bachelor’s degree?
Was your Bachelor’s degree in a sociology program or a non-sociology program?

__ Sociology program
__ Non-sociology program (please specify the program):

When do you anticipate receiving your Master's degree?
Please list the month and year: __________

ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey
Section I: The Master's Program

Name of current Master's institution: ____________________________

In what year did you enter this program? _________________________

Does this department offer a PhD degree?

__ Yes
__ No

Reasons for getting a Master's degree in sociology (check all that apply):

__ Obtain a better job
__ Obtain a PhD in sociology
__ Interested in subject
__ Best available option
__ Obtain a PhD in another field. Please specify the field:
__ Other. Please specify: __________

As part of your Master's program in sociology, did you complete the following activities? Please indicate if these activities were required as part of the program, not offered at your school, or offered at your school, but you did not participate.

Yes – Required    Yes – Not required    No, not offered at my school

Offered at my school, but did not participate

A Thesis __

A report prepared for a client organization __

Comprehensive examinations __
An internship __

A mentoring program, where a faculty member or student worked closely with you __

A service learning project, where you worked in an agency or in the community as part of a class __

A research project with faculty member __

Job fairs, on-campus interviews by firms, career-related mentorship programs, or other networking opportunities __

Leadership development such as how to work in a group __

Participate in a local, state, regional or national sociology meeting __

**How many courses did you take in each of the following as part of your Master’s program?**

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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 or more</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methods/research design __</td>
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<td>Statistics __</td>
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<td>Theory __</td>
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**How would you rate your proficiency in using SPSS, SAS, or STATA software?**

___ Very proficient, will put it on my resume and expect to use it on a job without additional training
___ Proficient, will put it on my resume, but would need additional brush up or training
___ Not too proficient, need additional training
___ Not at all proficient

**Using the scale of highly satisfied to highly dissatisfied, please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following experiences in your Master's program.**

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<th>Highly satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Highly dissatisfied</th>
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<tr>
<td>The quality of graduate advising __</td>
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<td>The quality of career preparation __</td>
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<td>The ease of getting core courses needed in order to graduate __</td>
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<td>The ease of interacting with faculty outside of class as often as needed __</td>
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<td>The interaction with fellow sociology Master's students __</td>
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Overall, how satisfied are you with your Master’s program in sociology? Please indicate if you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied.

__ Very Satisfied
__ Satisfied
__ Dissatisfied
__ Very Dissatisfied

While working towards your Master's degree, did you attend school mostly full-time, mostly part-time, or a combination of both?

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

ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey
Section II: Future Plans

After receiving your Master’s degree, where do you intend to live? Please select the most likely option:

__ Within 100 miles of your Master’s granting institution?
__ More than 100 miles of your Master’s granting institution?
__ Outside the U.S.
__ Don’t know

What best describes your postgraduate plans for the first 12 months after you complete your Master's degree? Please check all that apply:

__ Graduate or professional school
__ Obtain a new job
__ Continue to work at current job
__ Marry
__ Have a child
__ Go into the military
__ Travel extensively
__ Other, please specify: __________

If you intend to pursue additional academic training after completing your Master’s degree, what type of further training do you expect to pursue?
Another Master’s degree. Please specify the discipline:

- Ph.D. in sociology
- Ph.D. in another discipline. Please specify:
  - Law school/professional program
  - Other, please specify: __________

Upon completion of your education, what type of employer do you expect to work for?

- Educational institution
- Government
- Private, non-profit organization
- Private, for profit business
- Undecided

Upon completion of your education, what do you expect your primary work activities to be? Please check all that apply.

- Research
- Teaching
- Management or administration
- Professional services to individuals or organizations
- Other. Please specify:
- Don’t know

I think of myself as a sociologist. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

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ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey
Section III: Demographic Information

What is your year of birth?
Please enter a full year, e.g., "1984: __________

Gender

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
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
__ White or Caucasian
__ Other, please specify: __________

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 responsibility?

__ Yes
__ No

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, or 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)
ASA Master's Degree and Beyond Survey
Section IV: Financial Information

During your most recent semester, did you receive a full or partial tuition remission (waiver) for your Master's studies?

__ Yes
__ No

Was it:
__ Less than full tuition remission
__ Full tuition remission

Which of the following were sources of financial support at any point during graduate school? Select all that apply:

__ Fellowship, scholarship
__ Grant, stipend
__ Teaching assistantship
__ Research assistantship
__ Other assistantship
__ Traineeship
__ Internship
__ Loans (from any source)
__ Personal savings
__ Personal earnings during graduate school (other than sources listed above)
__ Spouse’s, partner’s or family earnings or savings
__ Employer reimbursement/assistance
__ Foreign (non-U.S.) support
__ Other, please specify: __________

Are you currently employed (if you have a graduate assistantship please DO NOT consider that in answering this question)?

__ Yes
__ No

How many hours per week, on average, do you work in paid employment (DO NOT include graduate assistantships)?
Please enter a numeric response. (example: 15 hours)
Is your job related to your studies in sociology?

__ Yes
__ No

Thank you very much for your participation. Please let us know if you would like to receive the study findings when they are available. Also, would you please provide us with a permanent address or email at which we can reach you after graduation.