

Department of Sociology Career Advising Guide

The grid below lists some of the jobs typically open to Roanoke College graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. The list is by no means exhaustive, so think of it as a starting point—a source of ideas from which you can branch out and discover some of the possible career tracks you would most enjoy. As was stated in the preceding section, why you chose sociology as your field is as important as the degree itself. Also important are the non-academic experiences and skills you acquire outside the classroom: part-time or summer jobs, volunteer work, special training, extracurricular activities, and internships. If you have questions about any of the occupational fields or need other information, talk to a faculty member in the Sociology Department or a staff member in the Career Services office.

General Occupational Field	Sample Job Titles/Job Areas	Employment Outlook	Recommended Preparation
Academic Administration (College or University)	Admissions Counselor, Financial Aid, Counselor, Student Activities Planner, Multicultural Affairs, Human Resources, Residential Life, Internship Coordinator, Career Development, Public Relations	Moderate number of openings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective courses on race, gender, social class, and social inequality • Coursework in education or a concentration in Human Resources, depending on areas of interest
Community Services with private non-profit agencies	Advocacy work, Community Organizing, Church work, Volunteer Recruitment, Program Development, Human Resources, Demographer, Statistician, Social Gerontology, Youth Services Worker, Program Development and Evaluation, Grants Writer/Fundraiser, Public Education, Migrant Services	Moderate number of openings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective courses in social problems, social inequality, race, gender, social class, and social welfare • Get relevant applied experience through internships, service learning, and volunteer work • Useful to have multiple skills that can be used in small agencies such as research, public speaking, writing, photography, and social media communication
Criminal Justice	Probation Officer, Parole Officer, Counselor, Police Officer, Corrections Officer	Good prospects – an expanding field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double major with Criminal Justice or a concentration in Crime, Deviance, & Social Control • Special training required such as police academy • Internships are highly recommended • May be helpful to do Masters-level work in Criminal Justice or Criminology
Government	Intake/Eligibility Worker (Social Services, Employment, Social Security, Veterans Affairs), Researcher, Political Aide, Human Resources	Moderate number of openings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions in local, state, and federal government are options • Both service-related and administrative work (including research) are possibilities • Coursework in Political Sociology, Public Affairs, Social Welfare, Business can be helpful • Washington Semester recommended for coursework, internships, and contacts

General Occupational Field	Sample Job Titles/Job Areas	Employment Outlook	Recommended Preparation
Health Services	Health Planner, Hospital or Clinic Administration, Substance Abuse Counselor, Family Planning Counselor	Good prospects – one of the fastest growing occupational fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care delivery concentration • Coursework in Social Welfare and Business, depending on area of interest • Internships are highly recommended
Media	Market Research, Advertising, Public Relations, Television, Radio, or Documentary Film Work in Writing, Production, and Performance	Moderate number of openings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hone critical thinking skills through the major • Get additional experience with major or minor in Communications or concentration in Information Analysis • Other relevant courses are in Art, English, and Public Affairs
Social Work, with government or private agencies	Public Assistance Caseworker, Protective Services, Foster Care, School Counselor, Victim Advocacy, Family and Sexual Abuse Counselor	Considerable number of openings Stiff competition for government jobs MSW usually required for therapeutic work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take courses in Sociology and Psychology, plus relevant courses in Education, English, and Public Affairs • Focus on diversity • Get applied experience through volunteer work, internships, service learning, part-time and summer work, perhaps focusing on a particular group (children, the elderly, immigrants, etc.) • Internships are highly recommended
Teaching	Elementary, Secondary, or College	Positions in secondary school and at the college level are limited and competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate teacher certification is needed for public school • PhD required for most college-level teaching

For many of these career areas – particularly public service positions – it is advisable to be fluent in a second language, such as Spanish. Some of the areas listed above may seem non-traditional, but Sociology majors have been working in these fields for years. Many Sociology majors go into the corporate world in Sales, Management, Human Relations, or Market Research, although the business sector is not usually linked to Sociology. Similarly, Law is an area where an increasing number of Sociology graduates pursue careers. Less traditional yet are Sociology majors who do graduate work in Nursing, Midwifery, Occupational or Physical Therapy, but relevant courses in the discipline prepare them well for such work.

A BA in Sociology from a liberal arts institution such as Roanoke College will hold you in good stead in many career paths and prepare you for graduate or professional school in a multitude of areas.

Department of Sociology
Anthropology Concentration
Career Advising Guide

MAJORS	SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES	RELATED OCCUPATIONS	ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
<p>Sociology History Art History Public Health Studies Psychology Foreign Languages Communications Elementary Education Music Political Science/Int'l Relations Religion Biology Environmental Science/Policy Health and Human Performance Business Administration Others</p>	<p>Social agility: able to function well in a variety of cultural settings</p> <p>Social Sensitivity: awareness of perspectives informing diverse behaviors</p> <p>Observation and data analysis: interviews, field research, qualitative and quantitative analysis</p> <p>Contextualizing: attention to details within cultural, environmental, and historical contexts</p> <p>Simplifying information for communication to non-technical audiences</p> <p>Persuasive writing, including representation of particular cultural groups</p> <p>Problem-solving, including calculation of the effects of social change on multiple stakeholders</p> <p><i>(In part from: http://www.as.ua.edu/ant/Careers.pdf)</i></p>	<p>Museum Work Archaeology/Cultural Resource Management Historic preservation Library Reference/Research Art Gallery Work Zoos Parks and historic sites – Interpretative and Community work Community centers – Planning and program design International development Ethnic and cultural organization leadership and consulting Environmental policy and planning Social service agency staff/leadership Refugee/immigrant services Federal/state/local/tribal government College research and/or teaching High School teaching Elementary School teaching Law Police work and forensics Travel research/guidance Documentary film making Photography Environmental impact assessment Social impact assessment Diversity training/consulting/mediation Mission organizations Translating and interpreting Bilingual education Cultural brokerage International business Management Marketing Personnel (Human Resources) Public relations Public administration Medical and health-related jobs Genetics counseling Fund-raising International diplomacy <i>(In part from: http://anthropology.nku.edu/index.php/careers-in-anthropology)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Whitney Leeson Department of History Bank Building 316 X2541 wleeson@roanoke.edu</p> <p>Dr. Chad Morris Department of Sociology Trout Hall 206 X4926 cmorris@roanoke.edu</p>

***Department of Sociology
Health Care Delivery Concentration****

Career Advising Guide

MAJORS	SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES	RELATED OCCUPATIONS	ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Sociology Psychology Biology Chemistry Biochemistry Physics Health and Human Performance International Relations Political Science Others	Interest in health care field Interest in working with people Interest in working in a service field Proficient in oral and written communication	Health care professional fields (physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, physician assistant, veterinary, clinical psychologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, nuclear medicine, dietician) Public Health Global Health Community Development/Agency Work Medical social worker Genetics counselor Mental health worker Substance abuse counselor Various occupations in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, health insurance companies, voluntary health agencies, nursing homes, medical clinics, family planning agencies, psychiatric clinics	Health Care Delivery Advisors: Dr. Shannon Anderson Department of Sociology Trout Hall 304 X5104 Dr. Chad Morris Department of Sociology Trout Hall 206 X4926

*With the opening of Public Health Studies, the HCD concentration is being phased out. Beginning Fall 2017 there will be no new declarations in HCD. Anyone who has declared HCD should speak with Dr. Shannon Anderson about the best strategy given your course of study, if you have not done so already.

Department of Sociology
Information Analysis Concentration
Career Advising Guide

MAJORS	SKILLS/ ATTRIBUTES	RELATED OCCUPATIONS	ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
<p>Appropriate for <u>all</u> Majors</p> <p><u>Especially:</u></p> <p>Sociology Psychology Political Science Criminal Justice</p>	<p>Interest in social research Interest in data collection, analysis, and management Interest in statistical analysis Interest in computers Proficient in oral and written communication</p>	<p>Social media development and network analysis Social science research Market research Government program planner Government data analyst Journalism and Public relations Advertising Useful package of skills for almost any career and very helpful for persons attending graduate school in social science</p>	<p>Dr. Gil Dunn Department of Sociology Trout Hall 303 X2418</p>

ROANOKE COLLEGE
Department of Sociology
Pre-Social Work Advising Program
Career Advising Guide

MAJORS	SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES	*RELATED OCCUPATIONS	EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT RC	ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Any; Advantage with Sociology or Psychology BA/BS	Sensitivity, empathy, patience Respect for confidentiality Able to apply policy and procedures Good communication skills Ability to make sound judgements & decisions Tactfulness Integrity Works well under pressure Ability to work with diverse populations Desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others	Clinical Social Worker Family Therapist Gerontologist Probation Officer Rehabilitation Counselor Substance Abuse Counselor	Resident Assistant Community Service Urban or Appalachian plunge Service Organizations Service Spring/Fall break trips	Dr. Kristi Hoffman, Pre-Social Work Advisor, x2027 Trout Hall 201 National Assoc. of Social Workers 7981 Eastern Ave. Silver Springs, MD 20910

Social Work is a dynamic profession dedicated to improving social functioning in an ever-changing world. The profession can be characterized by its diversity—diversity of clientele, diversity of knowledge and skill base, and diversity of career opportunities. Social workers also respect the diversity of people and are committed to the promotion of empowerment and opportunity for oppressed groups.

Job opportunities are widely varied. In addition to working directly with people, indirect roles such as supervision, planning, development, and management are also employment possibilities. While some positions focus on people's problems through individual, family, or group intervention, other positions focus on system change and development. Social Workers are employed in child welfare, health, aging, mental health, corrections, schools, business and industry, substance abuse, domestic violence, preschools, mental retardation, and family services.

Average Starting Salary without MSW: \$35,000 - \$50,000 (depending on position—comparable to other human services professions)

*Master's degree in social work would be useful in pursuing many of these occupations.

ROANOKE COLLEGE
 Department of Sociology
 Crime, Deviance and Social Control Concentration
 Career Advising Guide

MAJORS	SKILLS/ATTITUDES	RELATED OCCUPATIONS	EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT RC	ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Any. Advantage with Sociology, Criminal Justice, Psychology	Ability to apply policy and procedure, respect for confidentiality, ability to work with diverse populations, integrity, ability to connect with people, knowledge of behavior change models and interpersonal relationship building skills, skills in maintaining professional relationships, ability to effectively problem solve often in time-limited situations, crisis intervention skills	Direct care and Community Corrections- (Probation, Parole, Residential), Law enforcement, Corrections and Public Administration, Restorative Justice/Diversion, Social Worker, Case Manager	Community Service, Resident Advisor, Academic Integrity Board, Student Conduct Council, Bond	Dr. Kristi Hoffman or Prof. Diane V. Brogan

The **crime, deviance and social control concentration** guides students toward a deeper understanding of the behaviors designated by societies as deviant or criminal, as well as methods used to manage those behaviors.

Typical Salary Range-\$35,000 to \$50,000.