



SOCIOLOGY

Program Objectives

Sociology is the study of social life and the social origins and consequences of human behavior. Sociology's subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from crime to religion, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of common culture, from the sociology of work to the sociology of sport.

Sociology is a liberal arts major with particular emphasis on developing students' abilities to think critically about complex issues, to analyze social issues and organizations, to design and carry out research, and to write with clarity and economy.

The undergraduate major in sociology at USM offers valuable preparation for careers in social work, social research, criminal justice, politics, public administration, law, business, and education. The major also provides an excellent basis for graduate study in sociology, law, criminology, public policy, and social work.

Degrees & Concentrations Offered

Graduation Planner: usm.maine.edu/advising/degreeplanning

Degree Offered: Bachelor of Arts

Major Offered: Sociology

Minor Offered: Sociology

Sociology Department

Portland Campus, 120 Bedford Street
(207) 780-4100

Web Address: usm.maine.edu/sociology

Facebook: [University of Southern Maine Sociology Department](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofSouthernMaineSociologyDepartment)

Career Possibilities*

Administrator
Advocate
Businessperson
Case Manager
City Planner
Counselor
Data Analyst
Demographer
Positions in Education
Positions in Law
Positions in Law Enforcement
Market Researcher
Mental Health Service Agent
Policy Analyst
Program Developer
Public Administrator
Researcher
Positions in Social Services
Teacher

* Additional education, training or experience may be required.

Acquired Transferable Skills

Analyzing Data
Clear and Effective Writing
Collaborating
Conducting Research
Critical Listening
Critical Reading
Designing Research
Problem Solving
Public Speaking

For more information on transferable skills go to:
usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/career-tools

What can I do with this major?*

AREA	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
BUSINESS	Insurance firms Manufacturing companies Service industries Non-profit organizations Healthcare organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn a minor in business • Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships. • Develop excellent computer skills. • Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing.
GOVERNMENT	Federal departments and agencies Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services State and local government Peace Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop exceptional computer, communication, research skills. • Gain work experience via internships, part-time, or summer work. • Develop a specialty such as aging, family, criminal justice, or healthcare. • Supplement curriculum with coursework in statistics and social research.
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH	Universities Government agencies Research institutes Non-profit agencies Private industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to use statistics software packages as well as database, spreadsheet, desktop publishing programs. • Volunteer to help a professor with a research project. • Earn certification in applied social research by The American Sociological Association.
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY	Local planning agencies Environmental advocacy groups Regional, state, and local agencies Consulting firms Private industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance curriculum with courses in ecology, environmental science, and statistics. • Join environment-related student organizations. • Volunteer to work on environmental clean-up projects. • Find a related internship, part-time, or summer job.

*To learn about these areas and much more visit: whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major • © 2011 What Can I Do With This Major

Enrichment Opportunities

<u>Internships</u>	For more information contact Dept. of Sociology usm.maine.edu/cecd
<u>Study Abroad</u>	For more information contact the USM Office of International Programs. usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad
<u>Clubs & Organizations</u>	Sociology Students' Association Alpha Kappa Delta For a complete list of student organizations: webapp.usm.maine.edu/pathways/list
<u>USM Corporate Partners</u>	The USM Corporate Partners are over 350 business people, from nearly 100 companies. usm.maine.edu/corporatepartners

Helpful Career Links

USMCareerConnections:

USM's career network for job and internship searches. usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/usmcareerconnections

O*NET OnLine:

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with O*NET. onetonline.org

Occupational Outlook Handbook:

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with OOH. bls.gov/ooH

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS To name a few...

[American Sociological Association Resources for Students](#)

[International Sociological Association](#)

[Society for the Study of Social Problems](#)

[International Sociological Association](#)

[The American Society for Criminology](#)

[Global Studies Association of North America](#)

[Justice Studies Association](#)



PORTLAND • GORHAM • LEWISTON • ONLINE

Office of Community Engagement and Career Development • usm.maine.edu/cecd

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