

Sociology is a social science involving the study of the social lives of people, groups, and institutions in all social contexts.

What is Sociology?

It is a social science that links all studies of humankind, including communications, economics, history, and psychology.

Major Options in Sociology

Undergraduates majoring in Sociology at Cal State LA need to choose one of the four Sociology Major Options: (1) General Sociology, (2) Inequalities and Diversity, (3) Law and Society, or (4) Social Gerontology.

The General Sociology Option provides the basis for those who wish to do applied research or gain an overall understanding of society before seeking careers related to social agency, public policy, public administration, urban planning, counseling, and other service occupations.

The Inequalities and Diversity Option provides students with a concentrated study of topics relevant to various types of social inequalities based on race, ethnicity, class, gender and/or sexual orientation, thus preparing students for careers in an increasingly diverse, multicultural, and global society.

The Law and Society Option explores a broad range of social and scientific issues concerning multiple facets of the law, including crime, deviance, human rights, and legal institutions from a sociological perspective. It is designed for students who wish to pursue careers in law, criminal justice, politics, policy analysis, or environmental planning.

The Social Gerontology Option provides students with the background in the sociology of aging needed to develop social programs for the elderly and to evaluate their effectiveness. Social Gerontology is multidisciplinary allowing students to take courses related to the socio-cultural, developmental, and policy aspects of aging from childhood to late life.

NOTE: To emphasize the differences among these four Options in the major, we present different careers. However, in reality ALL options qualify students to go into ANY of the careers listed below.

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**Market Research Analyst**

Interstate

General Sociology

“Consumer researchers are often beacons for companies, as they determine when consumer demands or tastes change. This enables companies to alter marketing strategies to meet consumer’s needs. Most consumer researchers create questionnaires for marketing research surveys. Surveys are administered either by phone, direct mail, online, or personal interviews. Consumer researchers analyze data from surveys and write reports. They analyze how people responded to questions, noting both exceptional and poor results. Consumer researchers typically have at least a bachelor’s degree in marketing, market research, statistics, com- puter science, math, social sciences, business administration, or communications” (Market Research Analyst, 2020). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, a market research analyst’s median pay in 2023 was $74,680 (bls.gov).

**Behavioral Therapist**

“Behavioral therapists work with patients diagnosed with mental health disorders or clients trying to overcome personal issues. They work with adults or children in group or one-on-one counseling settings. Through observation, interviews, and counseling sessions, behavioral therapists collect data about clients and diagnosing specific disorders. Once a diagnosis has been made, behavioral therapists implement treatment interventions tailored to individual clients. Behavioral therapists work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, or community health centers. Typical work activities of a behavioral therapist are assessing patient condition, fostering positive behavior, minimizing negative habits, monitoring progress, and helping improve patient’s lives. Requirements for this position include a master’s degree (psychology, social work, counseling, or related field), state license, 1-3 years’ experience, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and complex problem-solving skills” (Terry, 2020). In May 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the median wage was $53,710.

**Recruiter**

A recruiter is responsible for finding, attracting, and hiring qualified candidates for open positions within an organization. They manage the full recruitment lifecycle, from job posting and sourcing to interviewing and onboarding. Key responsibilities include collaborating with hiring managers to understand staffing needs, writing and posting job descriptions online, coordinate interview with hiring teams and gather feedback. Required skills and qualifications include having completed a bachelor’s degree in a human Resources, Business, Psychology, Sociology or a related field. Having effective communication skills and interpersonal skills is also a recommended skill. According to the website salary explorer.com, a recruiter at an entry level can make $45,000 per year.

**Human Resource Manager**

“Human resources managers plan, direct, and coordinate the administrative functions of an organization. They oversee the recruiting, interviewing, and hiring of new staff, consult with top executives on strategic planning; and serve as a link between an organization’s management and its employees. Managers also ensure that firms adhere to changing, complex employment laws regarding occupational safety and health, equal opportunity, healthcare, wages, and retirement plans.

Candidates need a combination of education and several years of related work experience to become a human resources manager. Human resource managers

usually need a bachelor’s degree in human resources or business administration. Alternatively, candidates can complete a bache- lor’s degree in another field and take courses in human resource subjects, such as labor or industrial relations, organizational development, or industrial psychology. Some higher-level jobs require a master’s degree in hu- man resources, labor relations, or a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Overall employment of human resource managers is projected to grow 13 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations” (Human Resources Manager, 2020). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, human resource managers earned a median annual salary of $136,350 as of May 2023.

**Public Relations Specialist**

“Public relations specialists create and maintain a favorable public image for the organization they represent. They design media and releases to shape public perception of their organization and to increase awareness of its work and goals.

Public relations specialists typically need a bachelor’s degree. Entry-level workers typically begin by maintaining files of material about an organization’s activities, skimming, and retaining relevant me- dia articles, and assembling information for speeches and pamphlets. After gaining experience, public relations specialists begin to write news releases, statements, articles for publication, or carry out public relations pro- grams. Internships at public relations firms can be helpful in getting a job as a public relations specialist. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, public relationsspecialists earned a median annual salary of

$ 134,760in 2023. Employment of public relations specialists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations” (Public Relations Specialist, 2020).

**Public affairs specialist**

A Public Affairs Specialist manages communication between an organization and the public, media, government agencies, and other stakeholders. They help build and maintain a positive image of the organization through strategic messaging, public relations, and community engagement. Key responsibilities include, serving as an organizations spokesperson or coordinating with spokes people, building and maintaining relationships with media, government officials, and community leaders. Required skills and qualifications include having completed a bachelor’s degree in communications, Public Relations, Political Science, Sociology, or related field, having great written and verbal communication skills, ability to network and communicate effectively with several people.

According to salary.com, the annual average salary of a public affairs specialist is about

$72,654.

**School Counselor**

“School counselors help students develop social skills and succeed in school. School counselors help students understand and overcome social and behavioral problems, collaborate with school staff and parents to help students succeed, and refer students and parents to resources for additional support. The specific duties of school counselors vary with the ages of the students they work with. School counselors must be credentialed, which often requires a master’s degree. Public school counselors must have 1 to 2 years of classroom teaching experience or to hold a teaching license before being certified. School counselors earned a median annual salary of

$61,710 in 2023 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rising student enrollments in elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges and universities, are expected to increase demand for school counselors” (School Counselor, 2020).

**Career counselor**

A Career Counselor helps individuals—often students, job seekers, or career changers— identify their strengths, interests, and goals to find suitable career paths. They provide guidance on education, job searching, resume building, and interview preparation, aiming to support clients in achieving meaningful employment or career advancement. Key responsibilities include conducting one on one group career counseling sessions, assessing client’s skills, interest and values, most importantly helping clients find career options.

Required skills and qualifications include having a bachelor’s degree in counseling, Psychology, Sociology, Education, or a related field (Master’s is preferred). The average annual salary for this job is approximately$63,937.

**Social and Community Service Manager**

“Social and community service managers coordinate and supervise social service programs and community organizations. The responsibilities of a social and community service manager also include analyzing data to determine the effectiveness of programs, implementing improvements to services, and writing proposals for social services funding.

Social and community service managers work for a variety of social and human ser- vice organizations. The organizations focus on working with a particular demographic, such as children, peo- ple who are homeless, older adults, or veterans. A bachelor’s degree in social work, urban studies, public ad- ministration, or related field is the minimum requirement. Many employers prefer workers with a master’s de- gree in social work, public or business administration, public health, or related field. Coursework in statistics, program management, and policy analysis are considered helpful. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Sta- tistics, social and community managers earned a median annual salary of $ 77,030 in 2023. Much of the job growth in this occupation is the result of meeting the needs of an aging population and people seeking treat- ment for their addictions” (Social and Community Service Managers, 2021).

**Licensed Mental Health Counselor or Therapist**

Licensed Mental Health Counselors or Therapist provide professional counseling services to individuals, couples, families, or groups. They assess client needs, create treatment plans, and offer effective interventions to help clients overcome personal, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Key responsibilities include conducting intake assessments, mental health evaluations, and risk assessments. As well as creating and implementing personalized treatment plans for each client. Qualifications include obtaining a Master’s or Doctoral degree in Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, or a related mental health field. Current licensure (e.g., LPC, LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, PsyD, or equivalent) in the state of practice. Minimum of 1–2 years of clinical experience preferred. Having a Sociology degree is not enough to peruse a career as a Mental Health counselor. It is a great place to start but a degree in a related field is required. A mental health counselor makes about $55,000 per year at an aneurysm level job but the longer you are in that field, the more you will earn in the coming years.

**Social Worker**

“Social workers help clients handle everyday life problems. They often assist clients who have issues caused by neglect, abuse, domestic violence, mental health, and parental substance abuse. The tasks and responsibili- ties of a social worker include assisting clients in receiving services by telephone and in person, making refer- rals to other agencies and services, report any signs of child or elder abuse, and provide crisis intervention. So- cial workers work in numerous settings such as hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, nursing homes, com- munity health clinics, and child welfare agencies. The most common requirement for an entry-level position is a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, sociology, or any related field. Some jobs, including those in schools and in healthcare, frequently require a master’s degree in social work (MSW). Social workers earned a median annual salary of $58,380 in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Academic Advisor**

The Academic Advisor supports students in achieving their educational and career goals by providing guidance on academic planning, course selection, degree requirements, and institutional policies. The advisor fosters student success by helping learners make informed decisions and connect with resources that enhance their academic journey. Qualifications include bachelor’s degree required, master’s degree in Higher Education, Counseling, Student Affairs, or related field preferred. Experience in academic advising, student services, or education is preferred. The annual salary in Los Angeles is of approximately $63,074 (Glassdoor.com).

**Census Worker**

Census Workers are responsible for collecting population data by interviewing residents in person or by phone, verifying information, and ensuring accurate, complete census responses. This role plays a crucial part in helping the government allocate funding, determine congressional representation, and plan for public services. Responsibilities include visiting assigned households to conduct interviews and gather data for the census, collaborating with team members and report challenges or unusual situations to supervisors. Qualifications include being a US citizen and at least 18 years old, having strong communication skills, having a valid drivers license. The average salary in Los Angeles according to unbiased.com is $101,000.

Housing coordinator

A housing coordinator in California plays a vital role in assisting individuals and families in securing stable housing, often within affordable housing programs or supportive housing initiatives. Their responsibilities encompass a range of tasks aimed at ensuring access to safe and suitable living conditions for clients. Key responsibilities include, doing client intakes which means assessing a client’s situation and housing needs.

Other responsibilities include assisting clients with applications by guiding them through the application process. Job duties also include keeping track of client data and records like client interactions, housing placements, and outcomes, often using systems like the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The average salary according to Glassdoor.com is $69,000 per year.

**Immigration Specialist**

Interstate

Inequalities & Diversity

“Some legal careers require students to complete a law school degree, but sociology students, who are inter- ested in starting a law career immediately after college, may consider working as a paralegal.

Immigration Specialist are typically lawyers or paralegals at law firms who assist foreign nationals with immigration proce- dures. They help individuals apply for work permits, citizenship, adoptions, or deal with homeland security issues. A bachelor’s degree in history, English, laws, social sciences, or another field related to the services provided by the department will increase the chances of employment. Immigration specialist must be an Amer- ican citizen or U.S. national, pass a background investigation and drug screening, and meet relevant work ex- perience or education requirements” (Green, 2018). According to the

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the me- dian annual wage for paralegals and legal assistants was $50,940 in May .

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Immigration specialist must be an American citizen or U.S. national, pass a background investigation and drug screening, and meet relevant work experience or education requirements” (Green, 2018). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for paralegals and legal assistants was $50,940 in May 2018.

**Labor Relations Specialist**

“Labor relations specialists interpret and administer labor contracts regarding issues such as wages and salaries, healthcare, pensions, and union and management practices. The responsibilities of a labor relations specialist are to ensure that human resources policies are consistent with union agreements, investigate the validity of labor grievances, meet with union representatives, and draft proposals and rules. A bachelor’s degree in labor relations, human resources, business, or related field is required. However, the level of education re- quired to become a labor relations specialist varies by position and employer. Some colleges and universities offer labor relations certificates to specialists who prefer greater specialization in certain topics, such as mediation. Earning these certificates give participants a better understanding of labor law, the collective bargaining process, and worker grievance procedures. Labor relations specialists should also be

detail-oriented, effective listeners, interpersonal skills, and strong writing skills” (Labor Relation Specialist, 2020). Labor relations specialists earned a median annual salary of

$89,980 in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Outplacement Consultant/Specialist**

“Outplacement consultant assist employees who have been, or are about to be, laid off from their jobs. In the initial stages of assistance, outplacement consultants counsel employees about the psychological effects of job loss and how best to prepare for looking for a new job. They may also test employees to assess their personali- ty and skills.

Following this evaluation, consultants spend time coaching employees in job-hunting skills, in- terviewing, resume writing, and how to market their expertise. There is no specific training needed to become an outplacement consultant. Employers usually require that consultants have a college education in personnel administration, personnel management, business, psychology, or sociology. Many outplacement consultants have master’s degrees in counseling or behavioral sciences, and some have doctoral degrees.

The annual salary for an outplacement consultant is $78,980. The number of outplacement firms is expected to increase as out- placement services become an accepted part of employee benefits packages. Openings for qualified people will increase as outplacement firms begin to offer services such as management personnel assessment and prere- tirement” (Outplacement Consultant, n.d.).

**Policy Scientist**

“Policy scientists study the origin, development, and operation of political systems. They research political ideas and analyze governments, policies, political trends, and related issues. Political scientists usually conduct research within one of four primary subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, or political theory. Political scientists also work as policy analysts. In this position, they may work for a variety of organizations that have a stake in policy, such as government, labor, and political organizations. They also evaluate current policies and events using public opinion surveys, economic data, and election results. From these sources, they can learn the expected impact of new policies. Many people with a political science back- ground become postsecondary teachers and high school teachers. Political scientists need a master’s degree or Ph.D. in political science, public administration, or related field. Political scientists should possess analytical skills, critical-thinking skills, and persuasive writing skills” (Political Scientist, 2020). Employment of political scientists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to Policy scientists earned a median annual salary of

$132,350 in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Program Evaluator**

“Program evaluators research, analyze, and assess various kinds of programs. They work in a variety of industries, including healthcare, education, business, and government agencies. During an assessment, a program evaluator gathers essential information about a specific program. Then they analyze that data to identify areas that need improvement and report the findings to their client. Results may also need to be presented to stake- holders, program designers, and investors. Entry-level evaluator positions require at least a bachelor’s degree in evaluation, business administration or a related field. Advanced positions require a master’s or doctoral degree. Coursework should cover business, evaluation, marketing, program design, psychology, research and statistics. Many employers require additional education and experience in the industry for which the job serves. While there are degrees specific to program evaluation, you can also use expertise from other areas of study as long as it is relevant to the program being evaluated. Salaries for program evaluators vary considerably from the public to private-sector jobs” (Beest, 2017). Zip recruiter reported the median annual salary for management analysts at

$71,976,660 in 2025.

**Urban & Regional Planner**

“Urban and regional planners develop land use plans and programs that help create communities, accommodate population growth and revitalize physical facilities in towns, cities, counties, and metropolitan areas. Ur- ban and regional planners help communities manage economic, social, and environmental issues, such as planning a new park, sheltering the homeless, and making the region more attractive to businesses. Regional planners work within various sectors: local, state, and federal government, real estate developers, nonprofit organizations, and consulting firms. Most urban and regional planners have a master’s degree from an accredited urban and regional planning program. Many master’s programs accept students with a wide range of undergraduate backgrounds. Although not necessary for all positions, some entry-level positions require 1 to 2 years of work experience in a related field, such as architecture, public policy, or economic development” (Urban & Regional Planner, 2020). Urban and regional planners earned a median annual salary of $81,800 in 2023, ac- cording to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment of urban and regional planners is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.

**Federal Law Enforcement**

Interstate

Law and Society

“An FBI agent career can involve a variety of job duties, including investigating crimes and counterterrorism.

The FBI agent's job outlook is positive, and salaries for these agents can increase over time. FBI agents are tasked with protecting society, working for justice, and enforcing the law. FBI agent duties are typically broken down into the categories of cyber, intelligence, criminal, counterintelligence, or counterterrorism. Becoming an FBI agent is competitive and rigorous. Candidates must be highly skilled and usually need to undergo formal education, work experience, and training, all while meeting other physical and personal qualification standards. FBI agents need to hold at least a bachelor's degree. A typical degree option for these agents is a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Criminal Justice, but there are several different colleges that offer criminal investigation degree programs. It is not required, but a master's degree may increase an applicant's chance of being accepted into the bureau” (Federal Law Enforcement, 2020). FBI agents earned a median annual salary of $184,000 in 2024, according to Glassdoor.

**Lawyer**

Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses, and government agencies on legal issues and disputes. Lawyers, also called attorneys, act as both advocates and advisors. As advocates, they represent one of the parties in criminal or civil trials by presenting evidence and arguing in support of their client. As ad- visors, lawyers counsel their clients about their legal rights and obligations and suggest courses of action in business and personal matters. All attorneys research the intent of laws and judicial decisions and apply the agents to the specific circumstances that their clients face. A bachelor’s degree is required for entry into most law schools, and courses in English, public speaking, government, history, economics, and mathematics are useful.

Becoming a lawyer usually takes 7 years of full-time study after high school- 4 years of undergraduate education, followed by 3 years of law school. Salaries of experienced lawyers vary widely according to the type, size, and location of their employer.

Employment of lawyers is projected to grow 10 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand for legal work will continue as individuals, businesses, and all levels of government require legal services in many areas. Lawyers who own their own practices earn less than those who are partners in law firms” (Lawyer, 2020). Lawyers earned a median annual salary of $145,760 in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Police Officer**

“Police officers protect lives and property. Uniformed police officers enforce laws, respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, patrol assigned areas, obtain warrants, and write detailed reports. Police agencies are usually organized into geographic districts, with uniformed officers assigned to patrol a specific area. Officers in large agencies often patrol with a partner. During patrols, officers look for any signs of criminal activity and may conduct searches and arrest suspected criminals. They may also respond to emergency calls, investigate complaints, and enforce traffic laws. Officers, especially those working in large departments, may work in specialized units, such as horseback, motorcycle, canine corps, and special weapons and tactics teams. Typically, officers must work as patrol officers for a certain number of years before they may be appointed to one of these units.

Police and detective applicants must have at least a high school education or GED and be a graduate of their agency’s training academy. Individuals with a bachelor’s degree and law enforcement or military experience, as well as those who speak more than one language, should have the best job opportunities” (Police Officer, 2020). Police officers earned a median annual salary of $71,380 in 2021, ac- cording to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Probation and Parole Officer**

“Probation officers, who are called community supervision officers in some states, supervise people who have been placed on probation instead of being sent to prison. They work to ensure that the offender is not a danger to the community and to help in their rehabilitation. Probation officers write reports that detail each offender’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 jail and are serving parole, to help them re-enter society. Parole officers monitor post-release offenders and provide them with information on various resources, such as substance-abuse counseling or job training, to aid in their rehabilitation. Both probation and parole officers schedule contact with offenders by telephone or through office visits, and they also may check on offenders at their homes or places of work. A bachelor’s degree in social work, criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or a related field is usually required” (Probation and Parole Officer, 2020).

Some employers require a master’s degree in a related field. Probation and parole officers earned a median annual salary of

$61,800 in 2023, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment growth depends primarily on the amount of state and local government funding for corrections, especially the amount allocated to probation and parole systems.

**Public Health Inspector**

“Public health inspectors regularly inspect restaurants, child care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and other public establishments. From the inspections, health departments rate, or grade, the establishment of sanitation practices and conditions. Investigators learn and examine the temperature of refrigerators and food storage equipment, food handling by employees and the overall cleanliness of the establishment. Health departments file complaints and reports of health violations, disease outbreaks, food poisoning, emergencies and other incidents. Inspectors inform and educate on proper sanitation and how to prevent the onset and spread of infectious diseases. Methods include distributing literature and speaking to community groups, schools and public gatherings.

Public health inspectors need at least an associates degree in a natural science or health field, though some employers prefer candidates with a bachelor's degree. The board will consider other degrees as long as certain minimum requirements are met. Take additional courses in industrial hygiene if your degree is not in that area or you have deficiencies in meeting the certification requirements” (Lewis, 2017). According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, a health and safety specialist or technician make from $81,140-57,920.

**Victim Advocate**

he Victim Advocate provides emotional support, crisis intervention, resources, and guidance to individuals who have experienced trauma due to crime, abuse, or violence. They assist victims in navigating legal, medical, and social service systems and work to ensure their rights and safety are protected throughout the recovery and justice process. Some qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, or related field (a sociology degree is appropriate). 1–2 years of experience in advocacy, crisis intervention, or a related human services role preferred. Strong interpersonal and communication skills among

**Residential Juvenile Counselor**

“Residential youth counselor is responsible for day-to-day care and counseling of at-risk teens with special needs in a residential treatment program. Residential youth counselors provide high-quality care and ensure the safety of residents, staff, and sites per policy, helping to implement the treatment/behavior plans for each resident in collaboration with an experienced multidisciplinary team. Counselors build relationships with youth and their families in a supportive environment that utilizes a strengths-based, culturally responsive, trauma- informed approach and values compassion, respect, diversity, and accountability.

Education requirements include a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science, human services, social services, counseling, or psychology often preferred. Supervisory positions in youth counseling often require graduate education and 2-3 years of experience. Graduate certificates or master’s degree in youth development or human services provide training in youth development, counseling and youth program administration. Although licensure is not required to work as a youth counselor, it is necessary to work as a clinical or mental health counselor who diagnoses and treats mental and emotional disorders” (Miller, 2018) .

The salary for a residential counselor, according to the jobs website Glassdoor, ranges from

$25,000 to $36,000 annually, as of 2014.

**Substance abuse counselor**

A Substance Abuse Counselor helps individuals struggling with drug and alcohol addiction by providing support, counseling, and treatment plans. They work in settings such as rehabilitation centers, hospitals, community organizations, and private practices to guide clients toward recovery and improved well-being. Key responsibilities include conducting individual and group counseling sessions focused on addiction, assessing client's substance abuse history, and educating clients and families about addiction and coping strategies. Required skills and qualifications include, having a degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, or related field (often required; some positions may require a Master’s). Having certification or licensure as a Substance Abuse Counselor (varies by state). According to Glassdoor.com, the annual salary in Los

Angeles is about $65,340.

Interstate

Social Gerentology

**Clinical Sociologist**

“Clinical sociologists develop and apply techniques to change human behavior, usually in a group setting. Rather than just researching and observing, clinical sociologists intervene with their subjects to improve social functioning. This job typically requires a master's degree in sociology, with some employers preferring candidates who hold a Ph.D. in Sociology. Licensure is not necessarily needed, but a clinical sociologist with an advanced degree can become professionally endorsed as a Certified Sociological Practitioner (C.S.P.) from the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACP). This job might appeal to individuals with interests in psychology, social/cultural interaction, and human behavior. This job typically requires a master's degree in sociology, with some employers preferring candidates who hold a Ph.D. in Sociology. Licensure is not necessarily needed, but a clinical sociologist with an advanced degree can become professionally endorsed as a Certified Sociological Practitioner (C.S.P.) from the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACP). This job might appeal to individuals with

interests in psychology, social/cultural interaction, and human behavior. With a broad background of knowledge, clinical sociologists can work in a variety of venues. They might conduct therapy or applied research, or they might work as organizational consultants, professors, or criminal mitigation experts. Many clinical sociologists work as university professors and perform intervention-type sociology practice as a part-time job. They may specialize in one type of sociology, such as gender relations, family interactions, or social psychology” (Clinical Sociologist, 2021). The median annual wage for sociologists was

$92,910 in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sociologists can expect intense competition because sociology is a popular field of study with a relatively small number of positions.

**Grant Writer**

“Grant writers in gerontology-specific and related settings work with grants for research studies, program development and evaluation, basic program operation, staffing and staff development, and special projects. They write grants for both pilot projects and for the continuation and expansion of existing projects. They identify and do research on government, foundation, corporate, and other sources of funding; work with program

/agency staff to determine the goals and objectives of funding needs; alert staff members of requests for proposals (RTP) that are relevant to the program or agency’s funding needs; and track the status of proposal documents. A bachelor’s degree or higher (master’s degree preferred) in a field directly related to the nature and mission of the employing agency, organization, or facility is a bonus, but not required. Two or more years of professional practice in a related field and evidence of successful grant writing is preferred. Some positions may be part time or on a contractual fee-for-service basis. The employment outlook is good for those grant writers who have demonstrated success at securing funding from a variety of fund-granting sources. Organizations, agencies, and facilities look for funding from new sources to meet the interests and needs of the expanding older adult population” (Grabinski, 2015). According to Glassdoor.com, a grant writer makes an average of $62,960 per year.

**In Home Program Director**

In-Home Services Program Director, County Commission on Aging

“The In-Home Services Program Director for a County Commission on Aging (COA) administers the day-to-day operation of in-home services, such as case management, homemaking, personal care, respite care, caregiver training, prescription drug assistance and emergency need, chore services, and related supplemental programs for per- sons 60 years of age and to maintain independence. The director is responsible for the preparation of program grant proposals; oversight of grant-funded program delivery; evaluation of grant project effectiveness; development of program budgets and maintenance of budget-related records; recruitment, training, supervision, speaking publicly on behalf of the commission. In a smaller COA, the director of in- home services may also serve, formally or informally, as associate or assistant director of the agency. A bachelor’s (BSW) or master’s (MSW) degree in social work from accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CWSE) is required (MSW if preferred). At least five or more years of professional experience in aging services, including 1 to 2 years of both administrative and supervisory experience are expected.

Gerontology coursework or a degree component is strongly recommend- ed or required. Directors must meet the requirements for licensure and licensure renewal in the state where the professional practice occurs and continuing education requirements of the employing agency. Employment out- look is good, but may be affected by budgetary issues or by longevity in position, especially in more rural

areas” (Grabinski, 2015). According to Indeed.com, the average salary of a program director is $94,323 per year.

**Mediator/Family Mediator/ Elder Care Mediator**

“Alternate dispute resolution (ADR) grew out of the need for identifying ways to resolve conflicts other than by taking a dispute into the courts or resorting to violence. ADR is also known by the more common terms of conflict resolution and mediation. Mediation is the type of conflict resolution service most frequently requested in family dispute situations. Mediators who work with family conflict resolution deal with a wide variety of family conflict issues, including prenuptial agreements, divorce, custody issues, adoption, parent- child and sibling- sibling relationship problems, inheritance, and conflicts with neighbors or among friends. Requirements for mediator education, training, and credentialing is handled at the state level. For family mediators, an undergraduate degree or graduate degree in family studies or marriage and family therapy is strongly encouraged. The range in compensation may include volunteer services, pro bono work, part-time wages, and part-time of full-time salary or fee of service. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, a mediator earns a median annual salary of

$71,540 in 2023. Mediators common work in the following workplaces courts, human service agencies, law firms, state and federal agencies, long-term care and assisted living centers, senior centers, and other community-based settings that serve older adults and private practices or consultancies” (Grabinski, 2015).

**Strategic Policy Analyst/ Policy Advisor**

“Strategic policy advisors and analysts identify emerging policy issues, propose and advocate for policy legislation and regulations that fit organizational mission and goals, monitor relevant proposed legislation, and keep or- generational peers and constituents apprised of relevant policy actions. They serve as resource persons for professional peers within the organization and represent the organization in external interactive or collaborative policy efforts.

They may conduct or oversee original research related to policy issues of concern; prepare, review, and/or provide oversight for reports and organizational publications; and make presentations at press conferences and professional meetings. This profession requires a master’s or doctoral degree in public policy, political science, social sciences, law, or a closely related field with doctorate preferred. Five or more years of directly relevant pol- icy experience usually is required. No licensure is required, but continuing education is required for this position. Strategic policy analysts work within national advocacy organizations, legislative staff positions, lobbying organi- zations, and professional organizations. The employment outlook is good and there needs to be more recognition for policy professionals with gerontology expertise”(Grabinski, 2015). According to Ziprecruiter, the average annual pay for a Policy advisor is $112,880.

# Job websites

**Career Development Center**

(https://[www.calstatela.edu/careercenter)](http://www.calstatela.edu/careercenter%29)

 Services include: assistance with resumes & cover letters, interview skills, networking, internships, jobs on campus, and exploring career paths.

# A screenshot of a website  AI-generated content may be incorrect.LosAngeles County Jobs

(https://[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lacounty)](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lacounty%29)

 Search for jobswithin LosAngelesCounty.

# A screenshot of a computer  AI-generated content may be incorrect.Indeed

(https://[www.indeed.com/)](http://www.indeed.com/%29)

 Indeed is a free service to job seekers, where you can up- load a resume, create job alert emails, search for jobs, save them and apply to them directly.

# A screenshot of a website  AI-generated content may be incorrect.Zippia: The Career Expert

(https://[www.zippia.com/sociology-major/)](http://www.zippia.com/sociology-major/%29)

 Helps you explore career options related to a specific major.

# A person sitting at a table with a computer  AI-generated content may be incorrect.LinkedIn

(https://[www.linkedin.com/)](http://www.linkedin.com/%29)

 LinkedIn is a social mediaplatform geared to professionals. It enables you to network and to build your professional portfolio, but you can also go out into the world and look for a new job.

**All of the following books are available at the University’s library.**

**Resources Ahead**

Ferguson Publishing. (2009). *The top 100: the fastest-growing careers for the 21st century.* (4th ed.). Checkmark Books. Friedman, Kovner, & Kovner, Anthony R. (2018). *101 careers in healthcare management* (Second edition.). Springer

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Garner, G. O. (2008). *Careers in social & rehabilitation services* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.

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James M Williams. (1997). Careers in Sociology / The Sociology Major as Preparation for Careers in Business and Organizations / Sociologists in the Corporate World / Embarking Upon a Career with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology / Mastering the Job Market with a Graduate Degree. *Teaching Sociology*, *25*(2), 193.

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Seltzer, B., & Ebsco. (2016). *101+ careers in public health* (Second edition.). Springer Publishing Company. Stephens, W. R. (2004). *Careers in sociology* (3rd ed.). Allyn and Bacon.

Williams, L. (2018). *Ultimate job search: master the art of finding your ideal job, getting an interview and networking* (Fifth edition.). Kogan Pages.

**Feel free to view the following YouTube videos of various careers.**

Market Analyst: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7daTtUvMfVM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7daTtUvMfVM) Behavioral Therapist: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7-TkUcDejs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7-TkUcDejs) Human Resource Manager: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp7oM9mAIXQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp7oM9mAIXQ) Public Relations Specialist: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ptiYPcIeM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ptiYPcIeM8) School Counselor: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbJgs4R3vdo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbJgs4R3vdo)

Social and Community Service Manager: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccr\_PlfoWjs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccr_PlfoWjs) Social Worker: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\_G3Fn12Vz0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_G3Fn12Vz0)

Immigration Specialist: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwiON4mptbM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwiON4mptbM) Outplacement Consultant/ Specialist:

Program Evaluator: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZUg9rJ0pQ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZUg9rJ0pQ4)

Urban & Regional Planner: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=URLOGQhJWj0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URLOGQhJWj0)

**Feel free to view the following YouTube videos of various careers.**

Lawyer: https:/[/www](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyh-93I6juA).[youtube.com/watch?v=Jyh-93I6juA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyh-93I6juA)

Probation/ Parole Officer: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8A6a3phDGQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8A6a3phDGQ) Public Health Inspector: https:/[/www](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLKrDUzYdEs).[youtube.com/watch?v=MLKrDUzYdEs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLKrDUzYdEs) Residential Juvenile Counselor: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQB6xCTDHVo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQB6xCTDHVo) Substance Abuse Counselor: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAjhBnyRp4U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAjhBnyRp4U)

In-Home Services Program Director:

Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT): https:[//ww](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8762ekfd9_8)w.[youtube.com/watch?v=8762ekfd9\_8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8762ekfd9_8) Mediator: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCWSjaHA6lM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCWSjaHA6lM)

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