

Careers in Sociology



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



Market Research Analyst

“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, computer 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 2022 was \$68,230 (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 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that workers in the 90th percentile or higher earned \$72,990 or more per year, whereas the bottom 10th percentile earned \$28,240 or less 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 bachelor’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 human 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 \$169,760 as of May 2022.

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 media 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 programs. 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 relations specialists earned a median annual salary of \$ 62,800 in 2021. 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).

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 \$78,540 in 2022 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).

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 service organizations. The organizations focus on working with a particular demographic, such as children, people who are homeless, older adults, or veterans. A bachelor’s degree in social work, urban studies, public administration, or related field is the minimum requirement. Many employers prefer workers with a master’s degree 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 Statistics, social and community managers earned a median annual salary of \$ 79,310 in 2022. Much of the job growth in this occupation is the result of meeting the needs of an aging population and people seeking treatment for their addictions” (Social and Community Service Managers, 2021).

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 responsibilities of a social worker include assisting clients in receiving services by telephone and in person, making referrals to other agencies and services, report any signs of child or elder abuse, and provide crisis intervention. Social workers work in numerous settings such as hospitals, schools, correctional facilities, nursing homes, community 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 \$50,390 in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations” (Social Worker, 2020).



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. Human resource managers usually need a bachelor’s degree in human resources or business administration. Alternatively, candidates can complete a bachelor’s degree in another field and take courses in human resource subjects, such as labor or industrial relations, organizational development, or industrial psychology.

Human resource managers earned a median annual salary of \$169,760, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 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 Resource Manager, 2020).

Immigration Specialist

“Some legal careers require students to complete a law school degree, but sociology students, who are interested 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 procedures. 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 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 required 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 \$87,470 in 2022, 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 personality and skills. Following this evaluation, consultants spend time coaching employees in job-hunting skills, interviewing, 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 \$52,800. The number of outplacement firms is expected to increase as outplacement 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 pre-retirement” (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 background 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 2022. Policy scientists earned a median annual salary of \$122,510 in 2021, 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 stakeholders, 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). The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the median annual salary for management analysts at \$104,660 in 2022.

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. Urban 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 \$78,500 in 2021, according 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

“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 \$85,020 in 2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 advisors, 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 \$127,990 in 2021, 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, according 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 \$64,920 in 2022, 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 associate's 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). The website Glassdoor stated that a public health inspector’s average salary is \$61,782 in 2023.

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

“Substance abuse counselors provide treatment and support to help clients recover from addiction. The counselors work with the clients individually and in group sessions. They teach clients how to cope with stress and life’s problems in ways that help them recover. They also help clients improve their personal relationships and find ways to discuss their addiction or other issues with family and friends. Substance abuse counselors work in a variety of settings, including mental health centers, prisons, probation or parole agencies, and juvenile detention facilities. They also work in halfway houses, detox centers, or in employee assistance programs. Education requirements range from a high school diploma to a master’s degree. Workers with more education can provide more services to their clients, such as private one-on-one counseling sessions, and they require less supervision than those with less education. Substance abuse counselors in private practice must be licensed” (Substance Abuse, 2020). Substance abuse counselors earned a median annual salary of \$44,630 in 2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment of substance abuse counselors is projected to grow 31 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth is expected as addiction and mental health counseling services are increasingly covered by insurance policies.

Advocate



“Advocates inform target audiences, including elders, about relevant issues of concerns. They also work actively with and/or on behalf of elders to raise awareness about needs, identify appropriate responses to those needs, and then participate directly or indirectly in the enactment of relevant public and/or private policy. In some cases, advocates represent their older adult constituency; in others, they assist and support older adults to speak and act for themselves. They fulfill their job responsibilities through a variety of roles, such as educator, facilitator, spokesperson, policy watcher, policy analyst, public developer, and policy opponent or proponent. A bachelor’s degree or higher in public administration, sociology, applied sociology, or social work, or a graduate degree in public policy, law, or policy and aging is preferred. Advocates must meet requirements related to practice in a specific professional field, state, or governmental jurisdiction or employing agency. Compensation varies by one’s education, experience, the nature of the employing organization/agency, and the type or level of the position within the organization hierarchy. The employment outlook is good, especially with the anticipated growth of the older adult population over the next few decades” (Grabinski, 2015).

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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.

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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).

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 persons 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 recommended 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 outlook is good, but may be affected by budgetary issues or by longevity in position, especially in more rural areas” (Grabinski, 2015).

Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)

“Marriage and family therapists (MFTs) are social and mental health professionals who use holistic, psychotherapeutic, and family-systems approach in their professional practice. The family, rather than individual, is the unit of practice, and this often means inclusion of family members from two or more generations of a family. Marriage and family therapy is intentionally short-term, problem-centered, and solution-focused.

The intent of therapy is to move the family unit as effectively, efficiently, and quickly as possible toward solution of the problem on which the therapy is focused. Problems addressed by MFTs include marital distress; child and adolescent behaviors; inter- and multigenerational conflicts; problems related to eating disorders, alcoholism, and drug abuse; chronic physical illnesses; family violence; and sexual abuse. A master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). One can also have a master's or doctoral degree in a related mental health field (e.g., psychiatry, clinical psychology, clinical social work, counseling, education) followed by a postgraduate clinical training program in marriage and family therapy is required. Licensure or certification is required in most states. Eligibility for licensure includes completion of an extensive (approximately 2 years) postgraduate supervised clinical experience and sitting for a state licensing examination. MFTs work within private practices, inpatient physical and mental health facilities, courts and prisons, social services agencies, shelters for homeless persons or victims of domestic violence, or research institutes" (Grabinski, 2015). In 2021 the median annual salary for an MFT was \$49,880 according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021).

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 \$49,410 (2021). 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 organizational 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 policy 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 organizations, and professional organizations. The employment outlook is good and there needs to be more recognition for policy professionals with gerontology expertise"(Grabinski, 2015).

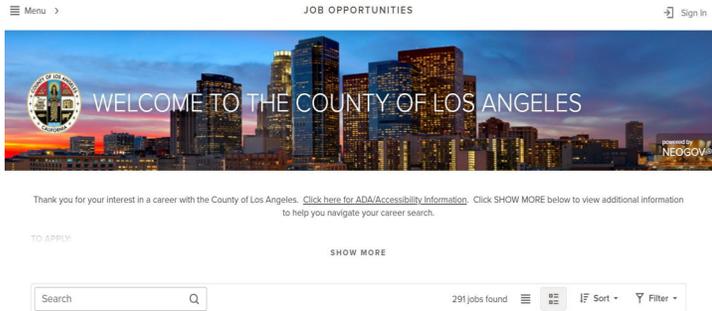
Job websites



Career Development Center

(<https://www.calstatela.edu/careercenter>)

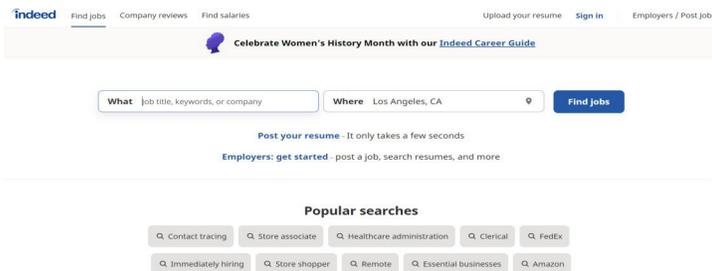
- Services include: assistance with resumes & cover letters, interview skills, networking, internships, jobs on campus, and exploring career paths.



Los Angeles County Jobs

(<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lacounty>)

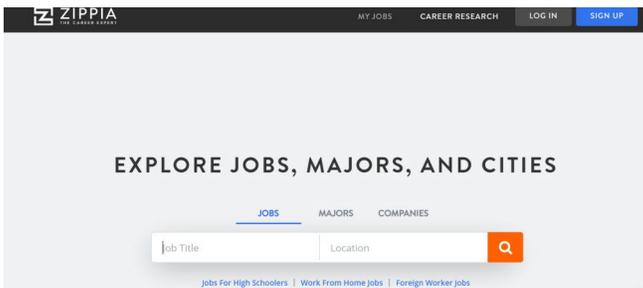
- Search for jobs within Los Angeles County.



Indeed

(<https://www.indeed.com/>)

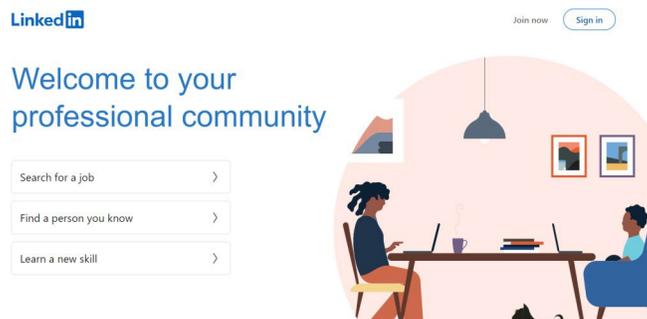
- Indeed is a free service to job seekers, where you can upload a resume, create job alert emails, search for jobs, save them and apply to them directly.



Zippia: The Career Expert

(<https://www.zippia.com/sociology-major/>)

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



LinkedIn

(<https://www.linkedin.com/>)

- LinkedIn is a social media platform 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.

- Ferguson Publishing. (2009). *The top 100: the fastest-growing careers for the 21st century*. (4th ed.). Checkmark Books.
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- Grabinski, C. J. (2015). *101+ careers in gerontology* (Second edition.). Springer Publishing Company.
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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>

Behavioral Therapist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7-TkUcDejs>

Human Resource Manager: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp7oM9mAIXQ>

Public Relations Specialist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ptiYPcIeM8>

School Counselor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbJgs4R3vdo>

Social and Community Service Manager: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccr_PlfoWjs

Social Worker: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_G3Fn12Vz0

Immigration Specialist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwiON4mptbM>

Outplacement Consultant/ Specialist:

Program Evaluator: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZUG9rJ0pQ4>

Urban & Regional Planner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URLOGQhJWj0>

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

Lawyer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyh-93I6juA>

Probation/ Parole Officer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8A6a3phDGQ>

Public Health Inspector: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLKrDUzYdEs>

Residential Juvenile Counselor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQB6xCTDHVo>

Substance Abuse Counselor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAjhBnyRp4U>

In-Home Services Program Director:

Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8762ekfd9_8

Mediator: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCWSjaHA6lM>

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