What to do with a degree in ... **SOCIOLOGY**

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
Sociology and Social Anthropology investigate social processes that are fundamental to how society works, but often invisible and misunderstood. They focus on how relationships among people shape their experiences. They unpacks deterministic and egocentric understandings in order to offer better account of a wide range of pressing social issues, such as the environment, health, crime, inequality, immigration, transnationalism, identity, and social change.

Sociology and Social Anthropology teaches you how to research, collect and analyze data to understand the problems people face in society. Anyone who wants to challenge, observe or comment on how we live today will find these degrees useful. [Dalhousie Sociology and Social Anthropology Department]

Sociology degrees prepare you to be able to pursue a wide range of careers. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed both inside and outside of your education in addition to your interests and goals. When considering where to start, keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

The skills you will have developed in this degree will make you competitive in the following areas:

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<tr>
<th>Sociologist</th>
<th>Public Administrator</th>
<th>NGO Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy Analyst</td>
<td>Police Officer</td>
<td>Judicial Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Officer</td>
<td>Community Service Worker</td>
<td>Economic Development Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Investment Advisor</td>
<td>Public Health Statistician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correctional Service Officer</td>
<td>Population Analyst</td>
<td>Archivist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Councillor</td>
<td>Youth Care Worker</td>
<td>Foreign Service Officer</td>
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Though a degree in sociology can lead to employment directly in the field of sociology, it also develops a number of transferable skills that can be used across multiple careers. These skills include:

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<th>Research</th>
<th>Bibliographic skills</th>
<th>Synthesizing ideas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Written/Verbal Communication</td>
<td>Persuasive communicator</td>
<td>Organizing materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical reading</td>
<td>Meeting deadlines</td>
<td>Numeracy skills</td>
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Your options will be largely influenced by your level of education. If you pursue a Masters or PhD, your career opportunities directly related to the field will improve, but alternatively, individuals that complete additional graduate or certification programs to supplement their degree may expand into other fields. Here are some options available to a sociology graduate who has completed additional training:

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<th>Librarian</th>
<th>Executive Director</th>
<th>Accountant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>Healthcare Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Gerontologist</td>
<td>Public Health Nurse</td>
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With the plethora of options a sociology graduate can choose, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Opportunities in Your Program

Study Abroad - Through Dalhousie Student Exchange Services you can see the world while you study.

Research - There are multiple opportunities in your program to conduct meaningful research. You can complete an independent research project while working with a faculty member. You can also offer your assistance to a faculty research project.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many different avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider joining a program like DALConnects or a Dalhousie society like the ones listed below:

- Dalhousie Sociology and Social Anthropology Society
- Sociology and Social Anthropology Graduate Association
- Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society
- Dal Action

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work are another great way to develop experience. They also give you the chance to develop specialties and discover what you like in a job and what you dislike. Even if your summer job doesn’t directly relate to your field you can focus on building transferable skills. Check out these great resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. This is especially true for graduate students.

If you are an undergraduate keep your eyes open for any undergraduate conferences around Halifax. Below is a sample listing of professional associations and conferences that may be worth examining.

International Sociological Association
www.isa-sociology.org/

Canadian Sociological Association
http://www.csa-scs.ca/
Undergraduate Program

Dalhousie's Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology offers a unique program of research and teaching that is interdisciplinary, comparative, and critically engaged. The program draws on the strengths of our two disciplines – sociology and social anthropology – by recognizing their distinct intellectual and methodological heritages, while emphasizing how they complement each other.

Sociology and Social Anthropology provide a broad and rigorous academic training, which develops knowledge and research skills that can be translated to the job market, future studies, and everyday life.

Graduate Program

Dalhousie graduate programs are capable of meeting the diverse intellectual needs of most students. The programs emphasize faculty expertise and interest in three designated areas of departmental concentration. An Advanced Issues course is offered every year in each of these departmental concentrations: Social Justice and Inequality, Economy, Work, and Development, and Critical Health Studies.

Masters Program

Masters's degree programs each involve five credits, including classwork and a thesis which may be pursued on a full-time basis, or part-time basis. Full-time students who set themselves the goal of finishing the MA in 12 months may do so, especially if they elect to do a thesis that does not require fieldwork/data gathering and ethics approval. Students who choose to do fieldwork or gather original data generally take between 18 and 24 months to finish the MA.

Doctoral Program

Students complete comprehensive examinations 12 months after beginning the program, present a thesis proposal before the department, and then engage in dissertation research and writing, with the expectation of finishing at the end of their fourth year of registration. However, many students find that their fieldwork and writing require them to take a fifth or even sixth year to complete the degree. [Dalhousie Sociology webpage]
There are many other established sociology programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable sociology programs as identified by 2013-2015 QS world University Rankings:

**University of Toronto #16**
Location: Toronto, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Immigration & Ethnicity; Health and Mental Health; Networks & Community; Crime & Socio-Legal; Gender and Family; Work & Labour Markets; Political Sociology; Culture

**Queen's University #45**
Location: Kingston, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Communication and Information Technology, Feminist Sociology, Socio-Legal Studies, Sociological Theory Research

**McGill University #33**
Location: Montreal, Quebec  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Development and Social Change; Deviance and Social Control; Race and Ethnic Relations; Medical Sociology; Population Dynamics; Sex and Gender; Social Stratification

**Université de Montréal #51-100**
Location: Montreal, Quebec  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Trajectoires et temps de vie; Identités, frontières, territoires; (Re)penser l’économie et le travail; Action collective et arènes politiques; Sciences, savoirs et technologies

**University of British Columbia #40**
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Environment, Community & Social Movement; Family & Life Course; Gender & Sexuality; Health and Healthcare; Knowledge, Culture, & Power; Race, Ethnicity & Immigration; Work, Economy & Globalization

**University of Alberta #51-100**
Location: Edmonton, Alberta  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Social Structure and Policy; Theory and Cultural Studies; Criminology and Socio-legal Studies
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a sociology degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that sociology students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni in appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Education
- Media and Communication
- Legal
- Research
- Community and Social Services
- Operations
- Sales
- Entrepreneurship
- Consulting
- Marketing
- Information Technology
- Administrative

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★

(3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a sociology degree are in the health sector, sales or IT. In the health sector jobs such as LPNs, RPNs, and patient service associates are given a good outlook. In the IT sector, jobs such as software tester, and systems tester are given a good outlook while network technicians and support technicians are given a fair outlook. Sales positions with a good outlook include retail salesperson, sales clerk, wholesale trade representative, and retail trade supervisors.

Fair Outlook ★★★

(2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for sociology majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include; archive technicians, librarians, translators, terminologists, interpreters, authors and writers. Public relations and communications jobs also share a fair outlook. Education, social services and legal fields have fair outlooks within Nova Scotia. Education related career paths include college instructors, education counsellors, education policy researchers and consultants. Career paths for Computer and Information Systems Managers also has a fair outlook in the province. For legal careers jobs include lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants, legal advisers, and barristers.

Limited Outlook ★★★

(1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia jobs include: conservators, curators, journalists, editors, and technical occupations related to museums and art galleries.

Out of the possible occupations a sociology graduate could pursue, additional jobs with a limited outlook in Nova Scotia include: senior government managers, government program officers, and secondary school teachers.
Resources

Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.

Print


*The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Sentor Media inc.


*Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Sample Job Ad

Proband Officer
Position: Full Time  -  Salary: $ 44,000-71,000  -  Hours: 40

The Probation Officer provides Community Corrections services with respect to adult and youth offenders. Responsibilities include usage of electronic case management system in the supervision of offenders serving community-based dispositions, which includes the management, administration, supervision and enforcement of an adult and youth offender Community Corrections caseload.

Duties

• Supervision and management of offenders within caseload.
• Delivery of community-based programs for offenders.
• Preparation of investigative reports for courts and court attendance.
• Maintaining collateral contacts with offender employers, schools, and family to assist in supervision process.
• Assisting in general community program development.
• Co-ordination of Volunteers-in-Corrections.
• Making appropriate agency or program referrals.
• Cultivate a strong network of accessible community resources.

Qualifications & Skills

• Preference for degree in the Social Sciences (e.g. Sociology, Psychology)
• Minimum requirement: Bachelor’s Degree plus one year experience or Honour’s Degree.
• Previous experience employing the knowledge and understanding of criminal and deviant behaviour and family dynamics
• Demonstrated sound judgement, impartiality and solid decision making
• Excellent writing and public relation skills.
• Interpersonal and organizational skills with a strong team-player ethic
• Knowledge of pertinent federal and provincial legislation
• Experience in the use of computers and office equipment.
• Criminal reference check will be required.
• Experience working with volunteers.

Skills you can hone while volunteering or by doing an internship:

You may want to list a class that you developed these skills in

You may want to focus attention on any major written work you have put together inside or outside school

Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop at a summer job

Experience can be developed through volunteer work
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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