Major Possibilities: Sociology & Anthropology

Career Services

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Summary

- Sociology is the study of human group life and of the patterns and processes of social structure and social change. Anthropology is concerned with the study of culture and with symbols and meaning that give significance to human societies in various times and places.
- Numerous local museums and other organizations offer internships and research opportunities. Archaeological field schools instruct future anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians in how to interpret historical sites.
- In 2012, anthropologists had median annual wage earnings of $57,420; sociologists had median annual earnings of $74,460.

Sociology & Anthropology major synopses

Combining sociology's focus on contemporary and historical patterns of social interaction with anthropology's interests in systems of shared and contested cultural meanings, the department's offerings encourage awareness and understanding of human diversity and cultural variation locally and globally. Both the Anthropology major and the Sociology major offer classes in conformance, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, and more. Sociology majors are required to take Intro to Statistics, and Anthropology majors are required to conduct in-depth ethnographic research to yield data for use in their Capstone.

Anthropology

Anthropologists study the origin and the physical, social, and cultural development and behavior of humans. They may examine the way of life, archaeological remains, language, or physical characteristics of people in various parts of the world. Some compare the customs, values, and social patterns of different cultures. They can also become archaeologists, who examine and recover material evidence including the ruins of buildings, tools, pottery, and other objects remaining from past human cultures in order to determine the history, customs, and living habits of earlier civilizations.

- **Social or Cultural** anthropologists study the customs, cultures, and social lives of groups in settings that range from unindustrialized societies to modern urban centers.
- **Linguistic** anthropologists investigate the role of, and changes to, language over time in various cultures.
- **Physical** anthropologists research the evolution of the human body, look for the earliest evidences of human life, and analyze how culture and biology influence one another.
- **Archaeologists** examine human remains found at archaeological sites in order to understand population demographics and factors, such as nutrition and disease, which affected these populations.
- **Applied** anthropologists work with non-academic groups like businesses and governments to improve their understanding of their activities and clients.

Sociology

Sociologists study the behavior of, and interaction among, groups, organizations, institutions, and nations and how they react to phenomena such as the spread of technology, health epidemics, crime, and social movements. They also trace the origin and growth of these groups and interactions. Sociologists analyze how social influences affect different individuals. They also are concerned with the ways organizations and institutions affect the daily lives of individuals and groups. To analyze social patterns, sociologists design research projects that use a variety of methods, including historical analysis, comparative analysis, and quantitative and qualitative techniques. The results of sociological research aid educators, lawmakers, administrators, and others who are interested in resolving social problems and formulating public policy.

- **Racial and ethnic relations** sociology deals with discrimination between races and can study subcultures, as well as other factors.
- **Education** sociology is the study of how public institutions and individual experiences affect education and its outcome.
- **Family** sociology explores the social class of the family and the changing roles of family members, among other factors.
- **Urban** sociology is the sociological study of social life and human interaction in metropolitan areas.
- **Political** sociology is the study of power and the intersection of personality, social structure and politics. It uses comparative history to analyze systems of government and economic organization to understand the political climate of societies.
- **Gender** sociology explores gender roles and has become popular in recent feminist and anthropological studies.

Sample job titles

Activist
Administrator
Admissions Counselor
Adoption Agent
Advertising Executive
Advocate
Agency Worker/Director
Aging Specialist
Analyst
Anthropologist
Archaeologist
Archivist
Biographer
Business Developer
Career Counselor
Case Worker
Community Organizer
Community Relations Specialist
Compensation/Benefits Worker
Consultant
Delinquency Counselor
Demographer
Education Specialist
Environmental Scientist
Ethnologist
FBI/CIA Agent
Foreign Correspondent
Foreign Service Officer
Health Administrator
Human Resources Administrator
Insurance Agent
Labor Relations Representative
Market Research Analyst
Media Planner
Mental Health Specialist
Museum Curator
Museum Technician
News Correspondent
Parole/Corrections Officer
Peace Corps Volunteer
Project Coordinator
Policy Maker/Analyst
Pollster
Preservationist
Public Relations Officer
Rehabilitation Counselor
Researcher
Social/Welfare Worker
Sociologist
Teacher
Web Developer
Writer

Sample internship employers of SU students

Academy for Educational Development
Alliance for Children and Families Policy Office
American College (Dublin, Ireland)
Attorney General's Office (Austin, TX)
Austin/Travis County Mental Health Center (Austin, TX)
Caritas (Austin, TX)
Casa Marianella (Austin, TX)
City of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Consumer Federation of America
Council for a Livable World (Washington, DC)
DC Rape Crisis Center (Washington, DC)
Dianna Maldonado Campaign (Round Rock, TX)
ElderHealth
Environmental Planning Group (Phoenix, AZ)
GENaustin (Austin, TX)
Georgetown Project (Georgetown, TX)
Helping Hand Home for Children (Austin, TX)
Lance Armstrong Foundation (Austin, TX)
Law Offices of Mark R. Lee
Legal Aid of Central Texas
Love is Respect (Austin, TX)
Make-A-Wish Foundation
MAXIS Consulting Group (Tigard, OR)
Methodist Church of Costa Rica (Puerto Viejo de Sarapiqui, CR)
Pace University (New York, NY)
Ride On Center for Kids (Georgetown, TX)
Salvation Army (Austin, TX)
Southwestern University Office of Civic Engagement
STARRY Foster Care (Round Rock, TX)
Texas Memorial Museum (Austin, TX)
The American University (Washington, DC)
The Carter Center (Atlanta, GA)
Williamson County Health District
World Learning

Sample full-time employers of SU students

Administrative Assistant (JPMorgan Chase)
Administrative Bookkeeper (Buffalo Exchange)
Business Developer (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ft. Worth)
Claims Adjuster (Mercury Insurance)
Clinical Drug Trials Researcher (CODA, Inc)
Clinical Research Coordinator (UNT Health Science Center)
College Retention Coordinator (College Forward)
Community Education Project Planner (SafePlace)
Community Relations Coordinator (North Texas Food Bank)
Consultant (Accenture Consulting)
Contract Administrator (Hussman Corporation)
Customer Service Rep. (Dunn & Bradstreet)
Dance Teacher (Cheryl's Dance Studio)
Data Entry (Burnett Personnel Services)
Development VISTA (American Red Cross of Central Texas)
Direct Care Staff (Shiloh Residential Treatment Facility)
Director of Children's Ministries (First United Methodist Church)
Education Instructional Specialist (4-H Capital)
Escrow Assistant (Ham & Lowe)
Fellow (Public Strategies, Inc)
Financial Director (State Representative Chris Turner)
Housing Case Manager (Jesuit Volunteer Corp.)
Human Resources (Lyondell-Citgo Refining)
Legal Clinic Coordinator
Leadership Consultant (Alpha Delta Pi)
Manager in Training (Pifco Industries)
Manager (AT&T)
Mental Health Technician (Rivercrest Hospital)
National Teaching Fellow (Citizens School)
Office Manager (GraphX Creative)
Patron Services Coordinator (Ballet Austin)
Project Assistant (Vinson & Elikins Law Firm)
Public Relations (Tate Austin)
Qualified Mental Health Professional (Austin State School)
Research Analyst/Community Organizer (PODES)
Resource Development Coordinator (Catholic Charities)
Special Education Assistant (Northeast ISD)
Teacher (Fulbright Scholarship, Georgetown ISD, World Teach)
Therapeutic Riding Instructor (Ride On Center for Kids)
Vice President for Operations (Armadillo Pub.)
Volunteer (Texas Alliance for Human Needs)
Web Facilitator (KZTV Action 10)
Youth Specialist (YWCA Austin, Lifeworks)

Professional associations

American Anthropology Association (AAA): www.aaanet.org
American Association of Museums: www.aam-us.org
American Foreign Service Association: www.afsa.org
American Public Human Services Association: www.aphsa.org
American Sociological Association: www.asanet.org
Foreign Policy Association: www.fpa.org
National Association of Social Workers: www.socialworkers.org
Society for Applied Anthropology: www.sfaa.net

Additional Web resources

Anthropology Resources: www.anthropologie.net
Good Works - Social Change Careers: www.goodworksfirst.org
Non-Profit Organization & Opportunities: www.idealist.org
Shovelbums.org (The Archaeology Resource for Jobs): www.shovelbums.org
The SocioWeb: www.socioweb.com
Sociology Career Facts: www.lcc.edu/ssh/sociology-anthro/careerfacts
United Way of America: www.national.unitedway.org
The Urban Institute: www.urban.org
USA Jobs: www.usajobs.gov

Career Services' print resources

101 Careers in Social Work
Anthropology: Career Resources Handbook
Careers in Non-Profit and Government Agencies
Careers in Social and Rehabilitation Services
Career Opportunities in the Non-Profit Sector
Career Opportunities in Politics, Government, and Activism
Careers in Anthropology
Careers in Applied Anthropology in the 21st Century
Careers in Sociology
Great Jobs for Sociology Majors
Insider's Guide to the Peace Corps
Making a Living While Making a Difference
Many Paths, One Purpose: Career Paths for Social Work and Human Services Majors
Opportunities in Social Science Careers
Opportunities in Social Work Careers
Social Work Career Development: A Handbook for Job Hunting and Career Planning
Sociologists in Action: Sociology, Social Change & Social Justice
What Anthropologists Do
Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development