

# 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 May 2006, anthropologists and archaeologists had median annual wage-and-salary earnings of \$49,930; sociologists had median annual earnings of \$60,290.

### 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.

### 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. Anthropologists are able to find jobs almost anywhere. 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.

- **Sociocultural** 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.
- **Biophysical** 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.
- **Physical** anthropologists examine human remains found at archaeological sites in order to understand population demographics and factors, such as nutrition and disease, which affected these populations.
- **Business** anthropologists can work with companies and help them gain a better understanding of their activities and customers.

### 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

**Government, Service & Educ.**  
Admissions Counselor  
Adoption Agent  
Hospital Administrator

Mental Health Agent  
Museum Curator  
Museum Technician  
Nutritionist/Dietician

Opinion Surveyor  
Peace Corps Volunteer  
Preservationist  
Public Health Educator

Rehab Counselor  
Research Assistant  
Social Scientist  
Social Worker

## ***Sample job titles, continued***

### **Industry and Commerce**

Community Relations  
Director/Agency Worker  
Compensation/Benefits Worker  
Demographics Analyst  
Human Resources Administrator  
Insurance  
Labor Relations Representative  
Market Research Analyst

Motivational Speaker  
Public Relations  
Retail Trade

### **Arts, Media, and Entertainment**

Advertising Manager  
Biographer  
Foreign Correspondent  
Foreign Rights Manager

Media Planner  
News Correspondent  
News Media  
Travel Writer  
Aging Specialist  
Alcohol Case Worker  
Anthropologist  
Archeology Fieldworker  
Archivist

Career Services Counselor  
Child Welfare Worker  
Consumer Advocate  
Correctional Case Worker  
Delinquency Counselor  
Family Preservation  
Family/Group Therapy  
FBI Agent  
Foster Care Worker

## ***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)  
Casa Marianella (Austin, TX)  
Consumer Federation of America  
Council for a Livable World (Washington, DC)  
DC Rape Crisis Center (Washington, DC)  
ElderHealth  
Environmental Planning Group (Phoenix, AZ)  
Georgetown Project (Georgetown, TX)  
Helping Hand Home of Children (Austin, TX)

Lance Armstrong Foundation (Austin, TX)  
Law Offices of Mark R. Lee  
Legal Aid of Central Texas  
Make-A-Wish Foundation  
MAXIS Consulting Group (Tigard, OR)  
Pace University (New York, NY)  
Salvation Army (Austin, TX)  
Texas Memorial Museum (Austin, TX)  
The American University (Washington, DC)  
The Carter Center (Atlanta, GA)  
Williamson County Health District  
Youth for Understanding

## ***Sample full-time employers of SU students***

Administrative Assistant (JPMorgan Chase)  
Administrative Bookkeeper (Buffalo Exchange)  
Claims Adjuster (Mercury Insurance)  
Consultant (Accenture Consulting)  
Customer Service Rep. (Dunn & Bradstreet)  
Dance Teacher (Cheryl's Dance Studio)  
Data Entry (Burnett Personnel Services)  
Housing Case Manager (Jesuit Volunteer Corp.)  
Human Resources (Lyondell-Citgo Refining)

Legal Clinic Coordinator  
Manager in Training (Pifco Industries)  
Office Manager (GraphX Creative)  
Project Assistant (Vinson & Elikins Law Firm)  
Public Relations (Tate Austin)  
Special Education Assistant (Northeast ISD)  
Teacher (Georgetown ISD)  
Vice President for Operations (Armadillo Pub.)  
Volunteer (Texas Alliance for Human Needs)

## ***Professional associations***

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

## ***Additional Web resources***

Anthropology Resources: [www.anthropologie.net](http://www.anthropologie.net)  
Good Works - Social Change Careers: [goodworksfirst.org](http://goodworksfirst.org)  
Non-Profit Organization & Opportunities: [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)  
Shovelbus.org (The Archaeology Resource for Jobs): [www.shovelbuses.org](http://www.shovelbuses.org)  
The SocioWeb: [www.socioweb.com](http://www.socioweb.com)  
United Way of America: [national.unitedway.org](http://national.unitedway.org)  
The Urban Institute: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)  
USA Jobs: [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)

## ***Career Services' print resources***

Anthropology: Career Resources Handbook  
Careers in Anthropology  
Careers in Counseling and Human Development  
Careers in Sociology  
Graduate Programs in Social Sciences  
Great Jobs for Anthropology Majors

Great Jobs for Sociology Majors  
Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers  
Opportunities in Social Science Careers  
Opportunities in Social Work Careers  
Social Work Career Development  
U.S. Internships