

# Major Possibilities: Sociology & Anthropology



## Summary

- Sociology is the study of human group life and of the patterns and processes of social structure and social change. Anthropology concerns the study of culture and symbols and meaning that give significance to human societies in various times and places.
- Social justice interests many sociology and anthropology majors, guiding them toward non-profit, social work, cultural and advocacy organizations for internships and careers.
- In 2015, anthropologists had median annual wage earnings of \$61,220; sociologists had median annual earnings of \$73,760. The typical entry-level education for these roles is at least a master's degree.

## 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	Business Developer	Foreign Correspondent	Peace Corps Volunteer
Administrator	Career Counselor	Foreign Service Officer	Project Coordinator
Admissions Counselor	Case Worker	Health Administrator	Policy Maker/Analyst
Adoption Agent	Community Organizer	Human Resources Administrator	Pollster
Advertising Executive	Community Relations Specialist	Insurance Agent	Preservationist
Advocate	Compensation/Benefits Worker	Labor Relations Representative	Public Relations Officer
Agency Worker/Director	Consultant	Market Research Analyst	Rehabilitation Counselor
Aging Specialist	Delinquency Counselor	Media Planner	Researcher
Analyst	Demographer	Mental Health Specialist	Social/Welfare Worker
Anthropologist	Education Specialist	Museum Curator	Sociologist
Archaeologist	Environmental Scientist	Museum Technician	Teacher
Archivist	Ethnologist	News Correspondent	Web Developer
Biographer	FBI/CIA Agent	Parole/Corrections Officer	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 Sarapiquí, CR)  
Pace University (New York, NY)  
Ride On Center for Kids (Georgetown, TX)  
Salvation Army (Austin, TX)  
Scott & White Hospital (Temple, 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)  
United Way (Round Rock, TX)  
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)  
Campaign Manager (Jimmy Paver for City Council)  
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)  
Coordinator of Civic Engagement (Southwestern University)  
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)  
English Teaching Assistant (Fulbright US Student Program)  
Escrow Assistant (Ham & Lowe)  
Fellow (Public Strategies, Inc)  
Financial Director (State Representative Chris Turner)

Housing Case Manager (Jesuit Volunteer Corps)  
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)  
Research Assistant (UT Southwestern Medical Center)  
Research Associate (Population Research Center)  
Resource Development Coordinator (Catholic Charities)  
Special Education Assistant (Northeast ISD)  
Teacher (Teach for America, 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](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)  
The Archaeology Resource for Jobs: [www.shovelbums.org](http://www.shovelbums.org)  
Good Works - Social Change Careers: [www.goodworksfirst.org](http://www.goodworksfirst.org)  
Non-Profit Organization & Opportunities: [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

Sociology Career Facts: [www.lcc.edu/ssh/sociology-anthro/careerfacts](http://www.lcc.edu/ssh/sociology-anthro/careerfacts)  
United Way of America: [www.national.unitedway.org](http://www.national.unitedway.org)  
The Urban Institute: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)  
USA Jobs: [www.usajobs.gov](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> 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