Major Possibilities: Sociology & Anthropology

Quick Facts

- 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, 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. Internships (including research) help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.
- The typical entry-level education for research, teaching or clinical roles in these fields is at least a master’s degree. Bachelor’s degrees are sufficient for positions in non-profits.

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 non-industrialized 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 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**
**Archivist**
**Biographer**
**Career Counselor**
**Case Worker**
**Community Organizer**
**Community Relations Specialist**
**Compensation/Benefits Worker**
**Consultant**
**Delinquency Counselor**
**Demographer**
**Education Specialist**
**Ethnologist**
**FBI/CIA Agent**
**Foreign Correspondent**
**Foreign Service Officer**
**Health Administrator**
**Human Resources Administrator**
**Labor Relations Representative**
**Market Research Analyst**
**Media Planner**
**Mental Health Specialist**
**Museum Curator**
**Museum Technician**
**News Correspondent**
**Parole/Corrections Officer**
**Project Coordinator**
**Policy Maker/Analyst**
**Pollster**
**Preservationist**
**Rehabilitation Counselor**
**Researcher**
**Social/Welfare Worker**
**Sociologist**
**Teacher**
**Writer**

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Alliance for Children and Families Policy Office
Attorney General’s Office (Austin, TX)
Austin/Travis County Mental Health Center (Austin, TX)
C3 Presents (Austin, TX)
Caritas (Austin, TX)
Carver Elementary School, Georgetown ISD (Georgetown, 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)
GENaustin (Austin, TX)
Georgetown Project (Georgetown, TX)

Helping Hand Home for Children (Austin, TX)
Legal Aid of Central Texas
Love is Respect (Austin, TX)
Make-A-Wish Foundation
Migrant Clinicians Network (Austin, TX)
Ride On Center for Kids (Georgetown, TX)
Salvation Army (Austin, TX)
STARRY Foster Care (Round Rock, TX)
The Carter Center (Atlanta, GA)
United Way (Round Rock, TX)
Williamson County and Cities Health District
Williamson Museum (Georgetown, TX)

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Students

Business Developer (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ft. Worth)
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)
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)
Fellow (Public Strategies, Inc.)
Field Data Coordinator (UT Austin)
Health Volunteer (Peace Corps)

Housing Case Manager (Jesuit Volunteer Corps)
Human Resources (Lyondell-Citgo Refining)
Junior Fellow (Library of Congress)
Mental Health Technician (Rivercrest Hospital)
National Teaching Fellow (Citizens School)
Patron Services Coordinator (Ballet Austin)
Public Relations (Tate Austin)
Qualified Mental Health Professional (Austin State School)
Research Analyst/Community Organizer (PODER)
Research Associate (Population Research Center)
Resource Development Coordinator (Catholic Charities)
Teacher (Teach for America, Georgetown ISD, World Teach)
Web Facilitator (KZTV Action 10)
Youth Outreach Coordinator (AmeriCorps)
Youth Specialist (YWCA Austin, Lifeworks)
Professional Associations
American Anthropological Association
American Alliance of Museums
American Foreign Service Association
American Public Human Services Association
American Sociological Association
Foreign Policy Association
National Association of Social Workers
Society for Applied Anthropology