



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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	Career Counselor	Foreign Correspondent	Parole/Corrections Officer
Administrator	Case Worker	Foreign Service Officer	Project Coordinator
Admissions Counselor	Community Organizer	Health Administrator	Policy Maker/Analyst
Adoption Agent	Community Relations Specialist	Human Resources Administrator	Pollster
Advertising Executive Advocate	Compensation/Benefits Worker	Labor Relations Representative	Preservationist
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	Ethnologist	Museum Technician	Teacher
Archivist	FBI/CIA Agent	News Correspondent	Writer
Biographer			

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Alliance for Children and Families Policy Office	Helping Hand Home for Children (Austin, TX)
Attorney General's Office (Austin, TX)	Legal Aid of Central Texas
Austin/Travis County Mental Health Center (Austin, TX)	Love is Respect (Austin, TX)
C3 Presents (Austin, TX)	Make-A-Wish Foundation
Caritas (Austin, TX)	Migrant Clinicians Network (Austin, TX)
Carver Elementary School, Georgetown ISD (Georgetown, TX)	Ride On Center for Kids (Georgetown, TX)
Casa Marianella (Austin, TX)	Salvation Army (Austin, TX)
City of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce	STARRY Foster Care (Round Rock, TX)
Consumer Federation of America	Texas Memorial Museum (Austin, TX)
Council for a Livable World (Washington, DC)	The Carter Center (Atlanta, GA)
DC Rape Crisis Center (Washington, DC)	United Way (Round Rock, TX)
GENaustin (Austin, TX)	Williamson County and Cities Health District
Georgetown Project (Georgetown, TX)	Williamson Museum (Georgetown, TX)

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Students

Business Developer (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ft. Worth)	Housing Case Manager (Jesuit Volunteer Corps)
Clinical Drug Trials Researcher (CODA, Inc.)	Human Resources (Lyondell-Citgo Refining)
Clinical Research Coordinator (UNT Health Science Center)	Junior Fellow (Library of Congress)
College Retention Coordinator (College Forward)	Mental Health Technician (Rivercrest Hospital)
Community Education Project Planner (SafePlace)	National Teaching Fellow (Citizens School)
Community Relations Coordinator (North Texas Food Bank)	Patron Services Coordinator (Ballet Austin)
Consultant (Accenture Consulting)	Public Relations (Tate Austin)
Development VISTA (American Red Cross of Central Texas)	Qualified Mental Health Professional (Austin State School)
Direct Care Staff (Shiloh Residential Treatment Facility)	Research Analyst/Community Organizer (PODER)
Director of Children's Ministries (First United Methodist Church)	Research Associate (Population Research Center)
Education Instructional Specialist (4-H Capital)	Resource Development Coordinator (Catholic Charities)
English Teaching Assistant (Fulbright US Student Program)	Teacher (Teach for America, Georgetown ISD, World Teach)
Fellow (Public Strategies, Inc.)	Web Facilitator (KZTV Action 10)
Field Data Coordinator (UT Austin)	Youth Outreach Coordinator (AmeriCorps)
Health Volunteer (Peace Corps)	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