



SOCIOLOGY—

Major Steps

Please note: *Every effort had been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Students should seek additional information from HCC and university advisors.*

Thinking about majoring in Sociology?

While in High School, enroll in

- Advanced Algebra
A statistics course would be helpful for acquiring research skills
- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English.
Develop strong writing & critical thinking skills
- Computer classes particularly Word and Excel will be helpful
- Social Sciences courses- sociology, psychology, history, economics, anthropology

What does the study of sociologist entail and what can I do with this major?

Sociology is the scientific or systematic study of the behavior and relationships of groups of people such as families, tribes and communities. An undergraduate major provides valuable insights into factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, and social class and how they affect patterns of social relations and interactions.

“Sociologists plan and develop ways to collect information about people. Then they observe and interview groups of people to collect data. They might study how the group was formed or how people act

within the group. Once sociologists have gathered data, they analyze and evaluate it. They use the results to identify problems and develop ways to solve them. They prepare reports and other publications that discuss their findings and suggest solutions. They may assist lawmakers or other officials who make social policy. Most sociologists work in one or more specialties. These specialties include race and ethnic relations, education, family, and social psychology.”

(Source: Washington Occupational Information System - WOIS)

Pay varies with the worker's field, education level, work setting, and experience. Sociologists who have a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) will earn much more than those with a lower degree.

For details regarding salaries, go to www.wois.org (If you access this Web site from off-campus, you will need a password. Contact Highline's Counseling Office (206-878-3710, ext. 3353) to obtain a password.

Working with your faculty advisor

Working with a sociology faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and good guidance about careers in sociology. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who really knows you can enhance your application to a sociology program in the future.

To request a faculty advisor, go to: www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to: www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning.

Interested in exploring more about a career in sociology? Call for an appointment with a Highline Community College counselor at (206) 878-3710, ext. 3353.

Sociology: A World of Opportunities

Although few occupations include "sociologist" in their title at the bachelor's level, the sociological perspective is an excellent preparation for a wide variety of occupations. A major in sociology can open doors to a diverse variety of careers in business, education, the justice system, journalism, public relations, community development, social service, among others.

While at Highline, you should continue to enhance your skills in the following areas: public speaking, writing, critical thinking, research and computer applications. It is also important that you learn to express ideas clearly, read and understand written information and are interested in understanding issues of class, human behavior and social change. You should also develop a keen eye for detail and be able to understand relationships between pieces of information.

If you are interested majoring in sociology at a baccalaureate institution, you should complete the **Associate of Arts (AA) Option A degree** at Highline Community College and include the following courses: **Sociology 110 (Introduction to Sociology) and Sociology 120 (Social Problems)**

Be sure to also maintain a competitive grade point average (GPA) for your overall AA degree, including achieving excellent grades in the courses listed above.

Additionally, you should always be in contact with the sociology department at your four-year school to verify all admission requirements.

If you have an area of interest or focus (for example: human resources, public relations or social work), it is a good idea to gain some experience through internships, volunteer work or paid jobs in a relevant organization. These opportunities can provide you with valuable experience and connections that may lead to permanent positions in the future.

Partial Listing of Washington State Sociology Programs

Please note:

Sociology programs are offered at a number of colleges and universities in Washington State. The following is *only* a partial listing of programs:

University of Washington-Seattle
www.washington.edu

Seattle University
www.seattleu.edu

Washington State University
www.wsu.edu

Western Washington University
www.wvu.edu

American Sociological Association
www.asanet.org

The Association of Black Sociologists
www.blacksociologists.org

Educational Planning
and Advising
MS 6-10
P.O. 98000
Des Moines WA
98198-9800

Fax: (206) 870-3772
E-mail: edplanning@highline.edu