

A photograph of a university campus during autumn. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads through a grassy area with trees displaying vibrant yellow and orange leaves. Several students are walking along the path; some are carrying trays with food and drinks. A tall, black, ornate lamppost stands prominently, with a dark blue banner hanging from it that features the university's crest and the text "EASTERN 1889". Another similar lamppost is visible to the left. The background shows more trees and a building under a clear sky.

**Eastern
Connecticut
State
University**

**SOCIOLOGY
PROGRAM**

**EMPLOYABILITY
HANDBOOK**

With thanks to Marsha Cwikla, Francelis Gonzalez-Pérez, Danielle Romanelli, Fiorella Otiniano, and David Zachas for their insights, and to the University of Sheffield, UK, whose Department of Sociological Studies Employability Handbook inspired this one.

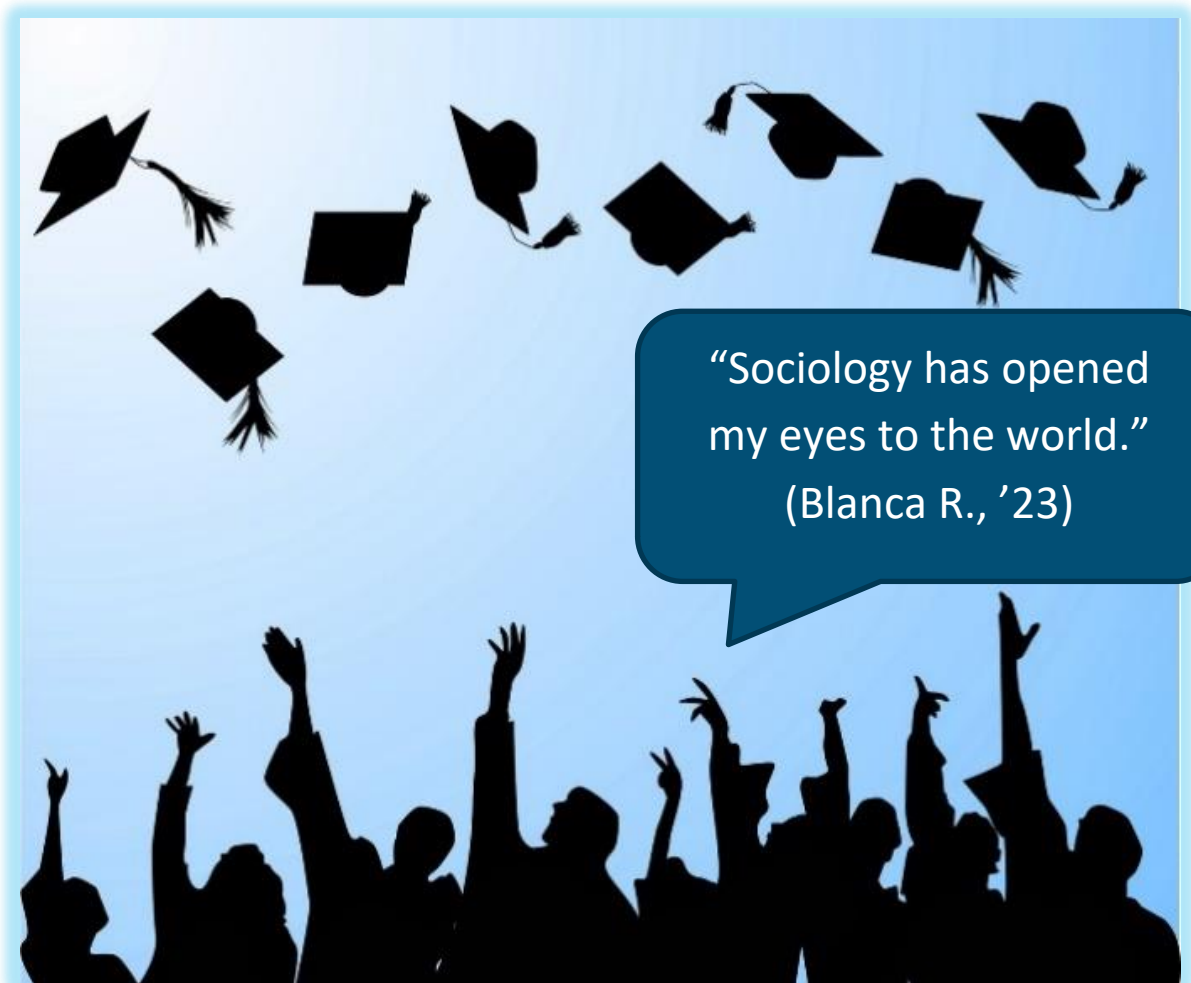
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is Sociology?	3
What is Employability?.....	4
Sociology Learning Outcomes	5
Sociology Concentrations.....	6
What do Sociology graduates do?	7
Where do Eastern Sociology graduates work?	8
Alumni Profiles.....	10
How can I gain additional skills and experience?.....	11
What's next?	13



“Sociology has opened
my eyes to the world.”
(Blanca R., '23)

You may be wondering...



What is

SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Sociologists study it all: from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious traditions; from the divisions of race, gender, sexuality, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.

**Adapted from the American Sociological Association,
"21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in
Sociology"**

What Is Employability?

“Employability is a set of achievements—skills, understandings and personal attributes—that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, benefiting themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy.”

— From “Learning for Life and Work Report of the Commission on Higher Education & Employability” (NEBHE, March 2018, p. 11)
https://nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/Learning_for_Life_and_Work_Report.pdf

“Classes are diverse and teachers require you to think outside of your own little box.” (Presley C., '23)

“This major has given me critical thinking skills, along with the ability to communicate with others” (Evan M., '23)



Salary Potential

\$79,750

Median Salary

\$42-147K

Salary Range

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sociology Learning Outcomes

Our core and elective Sociology courses cover a wide variety of skills. For each category, we have highlighted a few sample classes where you will hone these skills.

100: Introduction To Sociology	312: Sociology of Mental Illness
107: Social Problems	314: LGBTQ+ Families
208: Gay, Lesbian/Bisexual Lives	320: Video Games & Society
209: Juvenile Delinquency	346: Race And Ethnic Relations
212: Sociology of Families	350: Research Methods
220: Sociology of Corrections	351: Statistics For Social Research
240: Sociology Of Gender	357: The Sociology of Development
250: Social Inequality	358: Sociology of Labor
275: The Sociology of Globalization	373: Collective Behavior & Social Movements
276: Caribbean Society Structure	400: Senior Seminar
300: Sociological Theory	480: Independent Study
311: Drugs & Society	

1. Communication

- **Written communication:** essays, reports, research summaries & proposals. [Soc. 350, 400](#)
- **Verbal communication:** oral presentations, group discussions. [Soc. 208, 373, 400](#)
- **Interpersonal skills:** working successfully in a team towards a common goal, getting along well with colleagues, debating effectively. [Soc. 208, 400](#)

2. Quantitative literacy

- **Computer literacy:** Using various software packages to retrieve, present & store information. [Soc. 320, 351](#)
- **Information literacy:** using information technology to find, evaluate, use & communicate relevant information. [Soc. 350, 351, 400](#)
- **Data analysis:** Collecting & analyzing primary qualitative & quantitative data, analyzing secondary qualitative & quantitative data, interpreting statistics. [Soc. 275, 300, 351, 357, 358, 400](#)

3. Ethical reasoning and research skills

- **Qualitative research methods:** applying qualitative methods (interviews, focus groups, observations) to social problems & issues. [Soc. 240, 350, 400](#)
- **Quantitative research methods:** applying quantitative methods (questionnaires, statistical testing, numerical modelling) to social problems & issues. [Soc. 350, 351, 400](#)
- **Research ethics:** planning, organizing & carrying out research in an ethically-informed way to ensure rigor, respect & responsibility. [Soc. 209, 350, 351, 400, 480](#)
- **Awareness of work, employment & business:** understanding the national & global work, employment & business environment, assessing relevant ideological & ethical issues. [Soc. 275, 357, 358, 375, 480, 492](#)



4. Understanding Diversity



- **Cultural & political awareness:** demonstrating cross-cultural awareness, supporting equality & diversity issues, showing civic responsibility. [Soc. 100, 107, 208, 240, 250, 275, 276, 314, 346](#)
- **Understanding Diverse experiences:** Ability to recognize multiple perspectives and relate to diverse people and having global awareness. [Soc. 100, 107, 208, 275, 314](#)
- **Social responsibility:** critiquing the status quo, understanding the dynamics of inequality, becoming an active citizen. [Soc. 209, 212, 220, 275, 311, 375, 400](#)

5. Critical Thinking

- **Thinking sociologically:** Understanding the complexity & diversity of social situations & organizations, reflecting on the role of historical events & social processes, applying personal circumstances to the wider social context, applying theory to ‘real world’ situations. [Soc. 100, 107, 209, 212, 220, 275, 312, 400](#)
- **Developing a reasoned argument:** logical thinking & extracting supporting information by analyzing & evaluating a wide range of evidence. [Soc. 250, 300, 350, 351, 400](#)
- **Problem solving & applying sociological knowledge to the ‘real world’:** Developing solutions to social problems, assessing & evaluating policy. [Soc. 209, 220, 300, 311, 312, 351, 400](#)



NEW

3 CONCENTRATIONS in Sociology

1) Mental Health & Social Services

Students will take the foundational elective (Sociology of Mental Health) and then choose from a variety of other courses, such as Social Policy, Drugs & Society, Sociology of Families, and Sociology of Corrections, and many others.



3) Generalist

For students who would prefer to explore the broadest range of topics and electives in the discipline, the Generalist concentration will provide a comprehensive survey of Sociology as a whole, with the full array of electives available.

Brand new! Students who declare a Sociology major beginning in Fall 2023 will be able to choose from one of three concentrations, which will allow electives to be focused on a particular area, thus enhancing graduate school readiness and employability.

2) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

After taking the foundational elective in Social Inequality, students will choose from a range of other courses that explore DEI from multiple vantage points (Sociology of Gender, GLB Lives, Race & Ethnic Relations, Women and Crime, and many others)



What Do Sociology Graduates Do?



“Sociologists study social change, diverse communities and their interactions, and use scientific methods to find empirical answers to complex social questions. Studying sociology fosters creativity, innovation, critical thinking, analytic problem solving and communication skills. Sociology challenges you to see the world through the lens of different cultures and communities.”

American Sociological Association, “What Sociologists Do”



TABLE 1: OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SOCIOLOGY BACCALAUREATES BY JOB STATUS

OCCUPATION	INTERNSHIP	PART-TIME (>35 Hours)	FULL TIME (35 hours or more)
Social Services, Counselors, Psychologists	54.8%	17.5%	26.5%
Clerical/administrative support	4.8%	12.5%	15.8%
Management	2.4%	5.8%	14.4%
Teachers, Librarians	4.8%	18.3%	8.1%
Services	0%	18.3%	8.3%
Sales, Marketing	0%	10.8%	10.1%
Social Science, Researchers	23.8%	12.5%	5.7%
Others	7.1%	2.5%	4.4%
Other Professionals (includes PR and IT)	2.4%	1.7%	6.8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Source: ASA Research and Development Department, *What Can I Do With a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology? Wave I and Wave II*

Where Do Sociology Graduates Work?

Check out a few of the diverse workplaces where our recent Sociology graduates are employed.

BUSINESS



CIVIL & PUBLIC SERVICE



COMMUNITY AGENCIES



United Way of Connecticut



EDUCATION

SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- ABCD Head Start, Bridgeport
- Capitol Region Education Council
- Counselor, Regional School District #8
- EASTCONN Autism Program
- Springfield JCC Early Learning Center
- Wethersfield Middle School
- Windsor Public Schools, special education

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Clarkson University
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Stonehill College
- University of Connecticut
- University of Nebraska

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(B.A. in Sociology, Morehouse College, 1948)



...AND MANY MORE!



ALUMNI PROFILES



Jonah Badiab ('19) is a law student at the University of Connecticut. "My sociology classes truly helped me build my research skills and taught me how to efficiently analyze research and write a cohesive report. These skills and abilities have been crucial in my graduate studies."

Jennifer Portella ('17) is a Student Services Counselor at Quinnipiac University. "Sociology taught me to consider the societal factors that influence individuals and groups. I learned how to gather information, assess it, analyze it and incorporate theories about human behavior to help me better understand people."



Jenna Mushin ('17) is the McGraw Family Librarian at Darien Public Library. "My background in Sociology lays the foundation for all of the work that I do as a public librarian and as a citizen of the world. It has provided a framework for research, constant learning, and most importantly, implementing social justice values within the library (and beyond) to foster a more equitable and inclusive space."

Where can Sociology take you?



Tanika Mangum ('06) is an Outreach Specialist in the Federal Student Aid Office of the U.S. Department of Education.

"At Eastern I was inspired by a diverse group of students and experiences that helped develop my leadership skills."

How Can I Gain Additional Skills & Experience?



1. Volunteer with the Center for Community Engagement

<http://www.easternct.edu/cce/>

2. Get involved with campus leadership activities

<http://www.easternct.edu/studentactivities/clubs-orgs/club-index/>

- Join Sociology Club
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society)

3. Do an Independent Study (SOC 480) or Senior Thesis (SOC 495)

- In your junior or senior year (60+ credits), you may choose to work one-on-one with a faculty member on a research project that can be presented at a professional conference or at the CREATE Conference at Eastern.

4. Do an Internship for course credit (SOC 490, 491, 492, 493)

<https://www.internships.com/>

- In your junior or senior year, you may choose to do an on-campus or off-campus internship to develop professional skills.

5. Study abroad for a semester or take a Global Field

Course: <https://www.easternct.edu/global-studies/>



Sociology “has given me a greater appreciation of diversity and understanding of intersectionality which will be helpful in understanding my future students.” (Annika C., '23)

What's Next?

“Use your resources! Email professors, go to office hours, and ask questions. The professors welcome it, and it makes a world of difference.” (Alyssa L., '22)



Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Sociology Honor Society Inductees

Explore Eastern's Center for Career Success & the Eastern Career Network, which allow you to build your profile, upload your resume, complete a mock interview and search for internship and employment opportunities:



<https://www.easternct.edu/career/>



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