



**EASTERN**  
CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY



# "WHAT CAN I DO WITH SOCIOLOGY?"

Employability Handbook

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*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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*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](https://nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/Learning_for_Life_and_Work_Report.pdf)

**\$92,910**

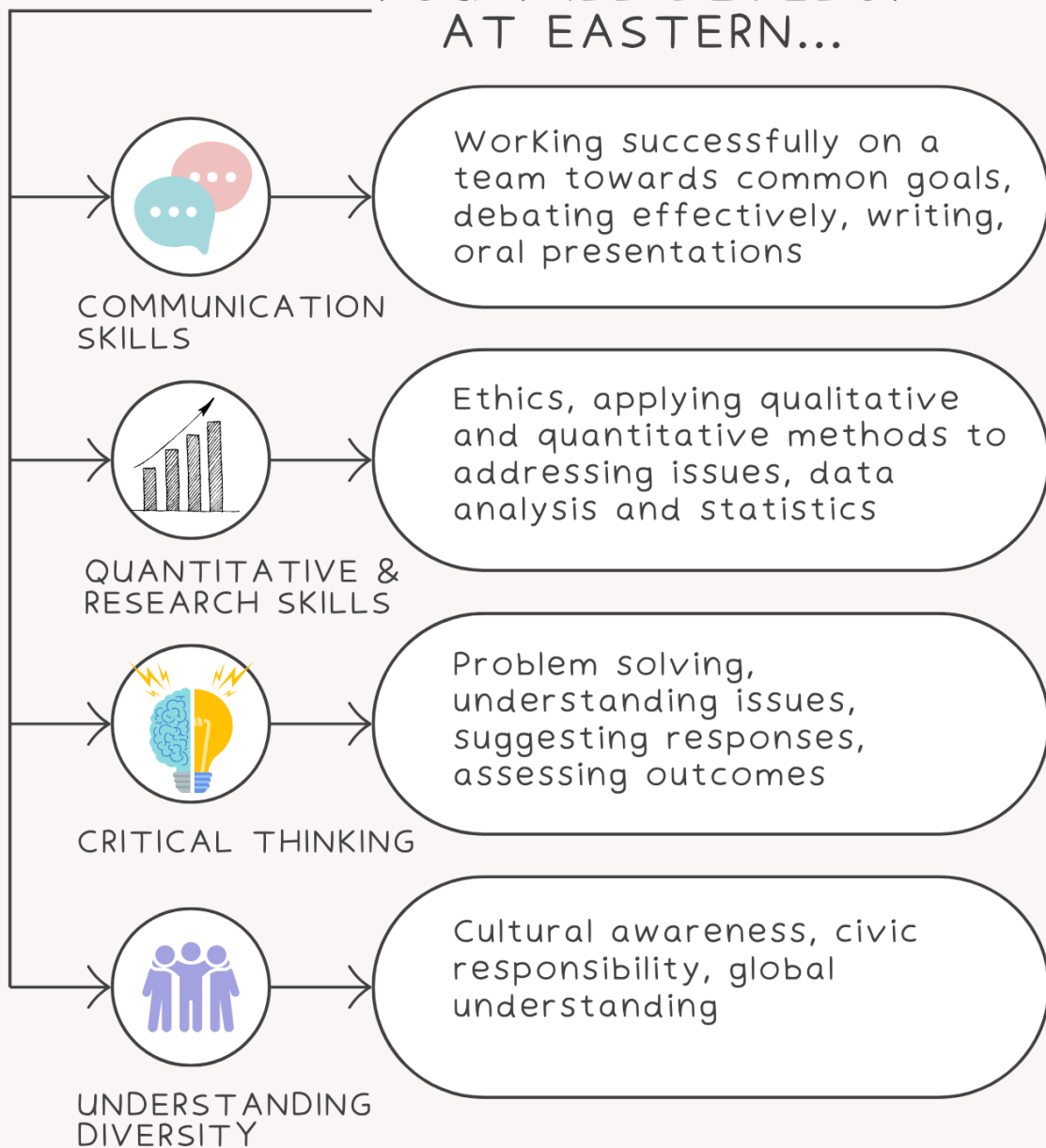
Median salary, Sociologists (with master's)

\* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# SOCIOLOGY

## Skills

YOU WILL DEVELOP  
AT EASTERN...





## 3 CONCENTRATIONS in Sociology

Sociology majors choose among three concentrations, thus enhancing graduate school readiness and employability. Students may choose up to 2 concentrations, as long as they carry 9 unique credits of electives for each concentration.

### 2) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

After taking the required foundational course, Social Inequality (Soc 250), students will choose from a range of other courses that explore DEI from multiple vantage points (Sociology of Gender, LGBTQ+ Families, Race & Ethnic Relations, Women and Crime, and many others)



### 1) Mental Health & Social Services

Students will take the required foundational course, Sociology of Mental Health (Soc 312), and then choose from a variety of other electives, such as Social Policy, Drugs & Society, Sociology of Families, 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 to complete the major.



# Where Do Eastern Sociology Graduates Work?

Check out just a few of the diverse workplaces that employ Eastern Sociology graduates!

## Business



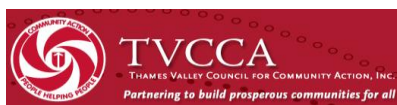
**Resolute  
Dental Partners**



## Public service



## Community agencies



United Way of Connecticut



## Schools & school districts

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

## Higher education



And many more...





## EASTERN SOCIOLOGY ALUMNI PROFILES



**Jonah Badiab ('19)** earned his J.D. from 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 [were] 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."



**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."

**Jenna Mushin ('17)** earned her MLIS from Simmons University and is the McGraw Family Librarian at Darien Public Library. "My background in Sociology 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."



# 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 organizations & leadership activities

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



Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Sociology



## 3. Join the ESPS (Emergency Services & Public Safety) Pathways Program

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

## 4. Do an **Independent Study** (SOC 480) or **Senior Thesis** (SOC 495)

- 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.

## 5. Study abroad or take a Global Field Course

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



## 6. Do an Internship for course credit

- Do an on- or off-campus internship or work as a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant to explore careers and develop professional skills.

## Need a few more testimonials?

“Being surrounded by students in Eastern’s Sociology major has challenged me intellectually to think critically and try to see things from a different perspective.”  
(Valeria H., '23)

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

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



“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)





**JOIN US IN SOCIOLOGY!**