"What can I do with a BA in sociology?"

Not a bad question. As a well-established liberal arts major, sociology provides several answers you’ll want to consider. Read on, and see which parts of this flyer best apply to you and your interests. And for more information, contact Dr Will Holton (521 Holmes) or Dr Steven Vallas (505 Holmes).

- Most obviously: A BA in sociology is excellent preparation for future graduate work in sociology in order to become a professor, researcher, or applied sociologist.

- Less obvious: The undergraduate degree provides a strong liberal arts preparation for entry level positions throughout the business, social service, and government worlds. Employers look for people with the analytical skills and substantive knowledge that an undergraduate education in sociology can provide.

- Since its subject matter is intrinsically relevant to many domains, sociology offers a flexible path into careers in social services, business, journalism, politics, public relations, government, and other such fields.

- Many students choose sociology because they see it as a broad liberal arts base for professions such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counseling. Sociology provides a rich fund of knowledge that directly pertains to each of these fields.

Nearing Graduation?

Although few occupations include "sociologist" in their title at the bachelor's level, the sociological perspective positions you to pursue a wide variety of entry-level occupations. You should...

- Gain experience through internships and co-op
- Think about a minor that complements your training in sociology, and signals your interest in a particular domain
- pursue extra-curricular interests that connect you with organizations of various types.
- Think about “bundling” your courses in ways that position you to pursue a particular field. Thus:
  - Sociology majors who are interested in organizations gravitate toward organizational planning, development, and training.
• Majors who study work and occupations may pursue careers in human resources management (personnel) and employment industrial relations.
• Students who especially enjoy research design, statistics, and data analysis seek positions in marketing, public relations, and organizational research.
• Courses in economic sociology, racial and ethnic diversity, social conflict and globalization can lead toward positions in international business (especially with a business minor).
• Likewise, training in urban sociology, economic development, health care disparities, conflict and violence and the social problems of cities can position you for careers in city government, regional planning, and social service entities.

Regardless of your career path, the breadth of your preparation as a liberal arts major is very important.

As you near the job market...

• Realize that interviewers will seek to determine if applicants can easily adapt to organizational life in the private sector.
• In particular, this means the ability to work well with others as part of a team.
• Employers value graduates who have excellent grades, strong methodological and analytical training, a keen understanding of the impact of cultural, racial, and gender diversity in the workplace, and who comprehend the global nature of business and industry.

For more information, visit these two websites:

www.socant.neu.edu (for information on coursework and links to external professional associations)

www.asanet.org (see especially the link to “Careers and Jobs”)