



THE PATHWAY FROM **EDUCATION TO VOCATION**

Becoming a Difference Maker in
SOCIOLOGY

Why Study **Sociology** at Azusa Pacific University?

Sociology helps us understand how we relate to others in an increasingly diverse, polarized, and multicultural society. The subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob, from crime to religion, and from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture. In fact, few fields have such a broad scope and relevance. In a world that is growing more and more complex economically, religiously, politically, and socially, sociologists play a critical role in helping our businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations make decisions and understand the dynamics at play. As experts in human behavior coming from a Christian worldview, APU sociology majors are uniquely equipped to lead their organizations to interact with those of different countries and creeds in a compassionate, ethical manner.

In keeping with the principles of liberal arts education, the mission of the sociology program is to lead students in exploring the relationships between individuals, groups, social institutions, and culture; to facilitate the development of skills necessary for the study and critical analysis of these relationships from the perspectives of the Christian faith; and to develop a community of scholars who have a solid grasp of social theory and research who are prepared to systematically confront social problems and enact change at all levels of society.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A SOCIOLOGY MAJOR IF YOU:

- Are interested in social dynamics and human interactions
- Want a major that will prepare you for a wide range of careers
- Want to make a difference in the world through social change
- Want to explore the world's challenges through a biblical lens
- Want to better understand how cultural, economic and gender diversity impact social life



JOSH MILES '12
Strategist
Egg Strategy

After APU, Josh received his M.A. in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. Now he partners with companies by researching and analyzing qualitative data to create consumer-inspired strategies for growth.

“Take advantage of the resources you have at APU, and remember that your greatest resource is the people.”



ALLEN HERNANDEZ '04
Lead Organizer
California Sierra Club

Allen earned his M.A. in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. Now he works on supporting communities into action around fighting for clean air in the most impacted communities.

“Input is so important not only to foster meaningful conversation, but also to advocate for yourself in the workplace.”

SOCIOLOGY MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Critical reflective thinking
- A solid foundation in social theory, applied statistics, and research methods
- Exploring the reciprocal nature of the relationship between the Christian faith and sociology
- Advanced study in human diversity, the sociology of religion, social stratification, crime and delinquency, social psychology, and philosophical concepts of human nature
- Recognizing the influence of race, class, and gender on human behavior and social conditions
- Developing well-designed research projects
- Understanding and effecting social change at both the grassroots and institutional levels

GRADUATES IN SOCIOLOGY WORK AS:

- Counselors/Case Managers
- Administrative Support
- Sales/Marketing
- Teachers/Librarians
- Criminal Justice Workers
- Other Professional (IT, PR, Law)
- Human Resources Management
- Social Science Researchers
- Community Activists
- Nurses

**Many of these careers may require additional training and/or graduate education*



JESSICA BARRON, Ph.D. '05
Postdoctoral Fellow & Research Scientist
Duke University

Jessica is responsible for producing original research and publications related to her area of specialization, gender and race stratification, at a top Research-1 institution. Additionally, she teaches a class entitled Theory and Society, serves as a research consultant, and has five publications in prestigious journals.

“The education I received at APU helps to compliment my continued spiritual growth.”

To connect with these and other APU alumni, email clasalumni@apu.edu

STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (SOC 120)**
Learn about the origins and development of Sociology as a response to pressing social problems.
- **CONSULT WITH A FACULTY ADVISOR**
Meet with a faculty advisor to discuss the relationship/relevance of Sociology to your career plans and strategize for potential further graduate education.
- **LEARN HOW TO APPLY YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOUR ACADEMICS, LIFE, AND CAREER**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or Strengths Mentor.
- **CONSIDER CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR MAJOR**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or your faculty advisor to explore and discuss requirements for your career options.

BE PREPARED.

IDENTIFY. STRENGTHEN. PRACTICE.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS (MATH 130)**
This math class will prepare you for your Research Methods requirement and fulfill your General Education Math requirement.
- **BUILD YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS**
In Qualitative Social Research Methods (SOC 471), students collect field-based research in an organizational setting. In Quantitative Social Research Methods (SOC 472), students learn how to collect quantifiable data and how to use computer programs to organize, enter and statistically analyze the data.
- **GO TO LA TERM**
LA TERM is an opportunity to learn about and become active in the Los Angeles community. It provides a great academic and social environment in which to explore how Sociology relates to community activism and service.
- **SECURE AN INTERNSHIP**
The course on Community Transformation (GLBL 330) offers formal and experiential study of the transformation of urban, multicultural communities with the goal of developing a service ethic through a semester-long internship (LA TERM).
- **RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR INTERVIEWING ABILITIES**
Complete a Mock Interview with a Career Consultant*
- **CREATE A RESUME TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your resume and cover letter. Run them by your professors, too.
- **GROW YOUR SKILLS IN AN ON CAMPUS JOB OR STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION**
Talk to Student Employment or Student Life about the available opportunities.
- **VOLUNTEER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO SHAPE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**
Talk to the Center for Student Action about how you can serve.
- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**
Do informational interviews or go to a career-related event to learn more about your career, degree, and experience requirements.

BE CONNECTED.

JOIN. NETWORK. BE ACTIVE.

- **ATTEND SOCIOLOGY CLUB**
Connect with other Sociology majors and learn about developmental opportunities for Sociology majors.
- **JOIN APU CONNECT**
Use the exclusive online networking portal to connect with other alumni.
- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**
Join APUConnect.com and start reaching out. You can also email clasalumni@apu.edu* for help connecting with alumni.
- **GET ACTIVE ON LINKEDIN**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your profile and learn how to use LinkedIn.
- **ATTEND CAREER-RELATED EVENTS**
Keep an eye out for career events related to your major or that are happening around campus.
- **HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON HAND**
Request them from professors and advisors at least a month before due.

* Visit apucareer.youcanbook.me/ to make an appointment with a Career Consultant

* Use subject line: Connect me with APU alumni

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

EXPLORE.



Learn more at
www.apu.edu/career/graduateschool

SELECT.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU

[Peterson's Guide](#)
GradSchools.com
[The Princeton Review](#)
[National Assoc. of Graduate Professional Students](#)
[The Council of Graduate Schools](#)
[APU Pew Society Graduate Guide](#)

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY APU SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES:

[University of Chicago](#)
[London School of Economics](#)
[Washington University \(St. Louis\) Law School](#)
[Boston University](#)
[Loyola University \(Chicago\)](#)

APPLY.

- APPLICATION FORM AND FEES**
Follow instructions carefully and have one or more people check for errors.
- ENTRANCE ESSAY**
Provide a writing example that shows your personal objectives.
- TRANSCRIPT**
Ask APU to send it directly to the school you are applying to.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
Schools usually require three letters, so get them early.
- INTERVIEWS**
If your potential school requests an interview, treat it as a job interview.

FINDING YOUR CAREER

IDENTIFY.

- Search online job boards and professional associations in the Sociology field
- Regularly check-in with your organizations of interest and network with those who can inform you of opportunities
- Look on APU Career Network for possible opportunities

SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATIONS:

[American Sociological Association](#)
[Pacific Sociological Association](#)
[Popular Culture/American Culture Association](#)
[Southwest Popular Culture Association](#)
[Association for the Sociology of Religion](#)
[Religious Research Association](#)
[Society for the Study of Social Problems](#)

PREPARE.

BRAINSTORM YOUR EXPERIENCE

What have you done? What is relevant?



TAILOR YOUR RESUME

What does the job description say?



WRITE GOOD BULLET POINTS

Do you focus on your accomplishments?



FORMAT YOUR RESUME

Is it easy to read and follow?



PRACTICE INTERVIEWING

Know yourself.
Know the position.
Know the organization.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

www.bls.gov/ooh/

O*NET ONLINE

www.onetonline.org

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE

www.weddles.com/associations

NETWORK.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?
WHO DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



WHY NETWORK?

- Learn about different options in your field
- Research companies and positions of interest
- Find hidden opportunities that are not advertised
- Obtain referrals from those who have influence

EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES THAT HIRE APU SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES:

Quest Law Firm
Southern California Edison
YMCA
NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pearson
PEOPLE OneSource
VSCO (Visual Supply Company)
Google
Nike
Homeboy Industries