FAMILY STUDIES


“The family studies track (of sociology) provides students with an extensive academic understanding of family systems and their relationship to the development and social participation of their members, as well as the skills to evaluate and conduct research on topics related to family interaction. The course requirements for students in this program focus on understanding the family as a social group and the dynamics of family participation in American society as well as in a global context. Students are introduced to the theory of group formation, the external forces that impinge upon family functioning, and the methods that can be used to measure and anticipate family dysfunctions. Students who combine family studies with another major may enter the employment market immediately upon graduation in fields such as preschool education, elementary education and residential treatment and care, or they may pursue a graduate degree in family studies.”

Related Career Titles (Some may require education beyond bachelor’s degree)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admissions Counselor</th>
<th>Day Care Worker</th>
<th>Mental Health Worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption Agent</td>
<td>Delinquency Counselor</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aging Specialist</td>
<td>Family Guidance Clinic</td>
<td>Parole/Probation Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/Drug Case Worker</td>
<td>Foster Care Worker</td>
<td>Peace Corps/VISTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Aid Worker</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Program Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Independent Living Train.</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service Agency</td>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>Resident Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Extension Agent</td>
<td>Social Movements Org.</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Case Worker</td>
<td>Social Scientist</td>
<td>Recreation Therapist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections Officer</td>
<td>Social Welfare Examiner</td>
<td>Veterans Affairs Spec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Educator</td>
<td>Child Care Counselor</td>
<td>Children’s Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Manager</td>
<td>Therapeutic Staff Support</td>
<td>Training Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Counselor</td>
<td>Child Life Therapist</td>
<td>Client Services Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>Welfare Counselor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do you get ready?

- Many transferable skills such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork, and oral/written communication are associated with the sociology degree.
- Internships, part-time jobs, summer jobs, and/or volunteer experiences are critical.
- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions in business, industry and government. However, a graduate degree is likely to be more desirable in a competitive market.
- An undergraduate degree in sociology is great preparation for graduate or professional education in sociology, law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college student personnel, higher education administration, and other related fields. Research prerequisites for graduate or professional programs of interest.
- To enhance graduate or professional school opportunities, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, join student or professional organizations, and gain relevant experience outside the classroom through work, internship, volunteer and research opportunities.
- A Ph.D. is required for teaching at the four-year university level.
- For human or social service positions, gain experience with a population of interest (i.e., children, college students, elderly adults) and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding.
- Talk with professionals working in areas of interest.

Related Major Skills

| Analyze, Synthesize and Interpret Information | Knowledge of Social Structures and Change |
| Interpersonal Communication (oral and written) | Interact well with Diverse Cultures/Groups |
| Knowledge of Community Resources | Research and Planning (sociological) |
| Statistical Abilities | Critical Thinking |
| Ability to Understand & Improve Human Relationships | Resolve Conflicts/ Counseling |
| Insight into Group Dynamics | Work Well Under Pressure |
| Computer Skills (data processing and analysis) | |

What about the future?

“Employment of child, family, and school social workers is projected to grow 15 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. Child and family social workers will be needed to work with families to strengthen parenting skills, prevent child abuse, and identify alternative homes for children who are unable to live with their biological families. In schools, more social workers will be needed due to rising student enrollments.”
For additional job outlook information, refer to [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

**Available at Albright College Career Development Center’s Resource Library**

- Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors, by Blythe Camenson
- Great Jobs for Psychology Majors, by Julie DeGalan and Stephen Lambert
- Great Jobs for Sociology Majors, by Stephen Lambert
- Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Kids At Heart and Others Who Adore Children, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Opportunities in Child Care Careers, by Renee Wittenberg
- Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers, by Neale Baxter and Philip A. Perry
- Opportunities in Education Support Careers, by Mark Rowh
- Opportunities in Nonprofit Organizations, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Gerontology and Aging Services Careers, by Ellen Williams
- Opportunities in Hospital Administration Careers, by I. Donald Snook, Jr.
- Opportunities in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Careers, by James Stinchcomb
- Opportunities in Social Science Careers, by Rosanne J. Marek
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Public Health Careers, by George E. Pickett and Terry W. Pickett
- Opportunities in Psychology Careers, by Charles M. Super & Donald E. Super
- Opportunities in Social Work Careers, by Renee Wittenberg
- Opportunities in Special Education Careers, by Robert Connelly
- Opportunities in Speech-Language Pathology Careers, by Patricia Larkins Hicks
- Opportunities in Teaching Careers, by Janet Fine

**Disclaimer**

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

**Job and Internship Search Links**

- AmeriCorps, [http://www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)
- Charity Navigator, [http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.advanced.htm](http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.advanced.htm)
• Nonprofit Times Jobs, http://www.nptjobs.com
• Social Service, http://www.socialservice.com
• American Psychological Association, http://www.psyccareers.com/
• Association of Psychological Science, http://www.psychologicalscience.org/jobs/

Federal Links:

• Government Departments and Agencies, http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml

Career Planning Links

• American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, http://www.abecsw.org
• Association of Social Work Boards (licensure), http://www.aswb.org
• Council on Social Work Education (accredited programs), http://www.cswe.org
• Psych Web, http://www.psywww.com
• Social Psychology Network http://www.socialpsychology.org

Professional Association Links

• American Sociological Association, http://www.asanet.org
• American Counseling Association, http://www.counseling.org/
• American Psychological Association, http://www.apa.org
• National Board of Certified Counselors, http://www.nbcc.org
• American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/
• National Council on Family Relations http://www.ncfr.org/
• Family Science Association http://www.familyscienceassociation.org
• Association for Community Organization and Social Administration, http://www.acosa.org