WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY?
1. Study human behavior by examining the origin, formation, development and interaction of society groups and formal organizations.
2. Assess and counsel clients.
3. Design programs to address social needs.
4. Act as an advocate for increasing funds and/or improving delivery systems for publicly funded services.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS:
1. Social Service Agencies
2. Health Service Agencies
4. Penal Institutes
5. Law Firms
6. Academia
7. Private Industry
8. Nursing Homes
9. Local Governments
10. Halfway Houses
11. Community Centers
12. Recreation Departments
13. Research Organizations
14. Hospital and Mental Health Clinics

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM SOCIOLOGY ALUMNI:
* Child and Family Therapist
* Psychiatric Social Worker
* Career Counselor
* Social Welfare Manager
* Teacher
* Family Worker
* Caseworker
* Special Agent
* Program Director
* Counselor-Children’s Home
* Clinical Social Worker
* Assistant Professor

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Social Worker: helps individuals and families deal with problems such as poverty, mental/physical illness, abuse, old age and family or personal difficulties. May specialize in the following fields: child welfare, family services, public/mental health or other type of case management.
2. Health Services Worker: researches and analyzes data based on the health care system at the state or national level. Coordinates and manages public and private hospitals, nursing homes, med-centers, clinics, mental health organizations, community health programs, etc.
3. Gerontologist: studies the aging process. May specialize in social gerontology or geriatrics. Studies the socio-cultural influences on aging and the relationship of the older adult to society.
4. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Counselor: meets with employees in a confidential setting to determine the nature of their concerns. Focuses on problem assessment and referral to appropriate community resources, i.e. mental health centers, alcohol treatment centers, credit counseling services, attorneys, psychologists, etc.
ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, freshman year.
2. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
3. Get career related experience: INTERNSHIPS, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career related association or organization.
4. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume and cover letter writing, portfolio development, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
5. Skills to develop: advising, counseling, interviewing, coordinating work with others, assessing, explaining, preparing reports, keeping records, planning, maintaining composure in stressful situations and problem solving.

SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:

* Child Welfare League of America
  - Devoted to improving life for “at-risk” children, youth and their families. Dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect and improving services for children involved with the child welfare system.
  - Intern will assist program directors with on-going initiatives, primary and secondary research, and writing.

* American Public Welfare Association
  - A non-profit organization representing the 50 state human service agencies and individuals concerned with social welfare policy and practice.
  - Intern will attend hearings on Capital Hill and report on proceedings, write articles for publications, analyze legislation, attend and help organize APWA conferences & meetings, assist with developing surveys and compile results and keep members posted on developments in Congress.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET

* Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
* Learn job search strategies
* Borrow resources from SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Library
* Seek advice from faculty
* Network w/employers at Career/Job Fairs
* Prepare for an interview
* Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
* Visit SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Web Site at: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career
* Develop Networking Cards

SOME EMPLOYERS OF SOCIOLOGY ALUMNI:

* Pediatric Counseling Center
* St. Lawrence Co. Psychiatric Center
* St. Lawrence County
* Jefferson County
* Family Counseling and Medication Ser.
* St. Lawrence Co. Head Start
* St. Lawrence Co. NYSARC
* Women’s Center Inc., of Jefferson Co.
* Unity House
* Dutchess County
* Seneca Falls School District
* RICA-Rockville
* Consolidated Industries
* Ogdensburg Correctional Facility

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

1. SOCIOLOGY DEPT., SUNY Potsdam, 311 Satterlee Hall
   * Talk with faculty
   * Talk with Students
   * Talk with Alumni

2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall
   * Individual Career Assistance
   * Workshops/Seminars
   * Employer Literature
   * Career Assessment Programs
   * Career and Job Fairs
   * Networking Assistance
   * Alumni Mentor
   * Job Vacancies
   * Summer Jobs
   * Reference file
   * Career Planning Web Site
   * Career Library
   * A Major Affair
   * Free Handouts Available
WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL? RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:
* On-Campus Graduate School Fair
* Graduate School handout
* GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
* Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
* Financial aid information about graduate school
* Peterson’s Graduate Programs (G7F, G7G, G7H, G7I, G7J, G7K)
* Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS & CAREER INFORMATION:
RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:
* The Career Guide Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
* Job Hunter’s Sourcebook (R26D)
* Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
* UWASIS II (C46A)
* Greater Capital Region Human Services Directory (R46B)
* St. Lawrence County Reachout Desk Reference (R46L)
* Building Healthy Families (R46O)
* Great Jobs for Sociology Majors (C46H)
* Careers in Sociology (C46I)
* Social Service Directory (R46A – R46Q)
* Careers in Social and Rehabilitation Services (C46F)
* Careers in Childcare (C46E)
* Career Planning Web Site
* Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:
* American Sociological Association
  1722 N. Street, NW
  Washington, DC 20036
  (703) 823-9800
  www.asanet.org

* American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
  1100 17th Street, NW, 10th Floor
  Suite 407
  Washington, DC 20036
  (202) 452-0109
  www.aamft.org

* American Counseling Association
  5999 Stevenson Avenue
  Alexandria, VA 22304
  (202) 833-3410
  www.counseling.org

* American Public Health Association
  1015 15th Street, NW, Suite 300
  Washington, DC 20005
  (202) 789-5600
  www.apha.org

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