

FAMILY STUDIES

What is Family Studies? (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/soc-fam.html>)

“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.”

What is this career like? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>)

Family Studies graduates are qualified to work in a wide variety of professional settings, including social service agencies, hospitals, community education centers, the judicial system, police departments, rape crisis centers, employee assistance agencies and child care centers. The family studies field is for those with a “strong desire to help improve people’s lives.” Individuals working in the social service field “assist people by helping them cope with issues in their everyday lives, deal with their relationships, and solve personal and family problems. Some help clients who face a disability or a life-threatening disease or a social problem, such as inadequate housing, unemployment, or substance abuse.” Social service professionals also “assist families that have serious domestic conflicts, sometimes involving child or spousal abuse. Some conduct research, advocate for improved services, engage in systems design, or are involved in planning or policy development.”

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

Admissions Counselor	Day Care Worker	Mental Health Worker
Adoption Agent	Delinquency Counselor	Marriage and Family Counselor
Aging Specialist	Family Guidance Clinic	Parole/Probation Officer
Alcohol/ Drug Case Worker	Foster Care Worker	Peace Corps/VISTA
Case Aid Worker	Human Resources	Program Assistant
Child Welfare Officer	Independent Living Train.	Rehabilitation Counselor
Community Service Agency	School Counselor	Resident Assistant
Cooperative Extension Agent	Social Movements Org.	Research Assistant
Correctional Case Worker	Social Scientist	Recreation Therapist
Corrections Officer	Social Welfare Examiner	Veterans Affairs Spec.
Health Educator	Child Care Counselor	Children’s Advocate

Case Manager
Mental Health Counselor
Teacher

Therapeutic Staff Support
Child Life Therapist
Social Worker

Training Coordinator
Client Services Specialist
Welfare Counselor

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 (<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/>)

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? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>)

“Employment of child, family and school social workers is expected to grow by 19 percent, which is faster than the average for all occupations. One of the major contributing factors is the

rise in the elderly population. Social workers, particularly family social workers, will be needed to assist in finding the best care for the aging and to support their families. Furthermore, demand for school social workers will increase and lead to more jobs as efforts are expanded to respond to rising student enrollments as well as the continued emphasis on integrating disabled children into the general school population. There could be competition for school social work jobs in some areas because of the limited number of openings. The availability of federal, state and local funding will be a major factor in determining the actual job growth in schools. The demand for child and family social workers may also be tied to the availability of government funding.”

For additional job outlook information, refer to www.bls.gov/oco.

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 in Sociology](#), by W. Richard Stephens, Jr.
- [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 Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

Job and Internship Search Links

- AcademyHealth, <http://www.academyhealth.org/career/>
- Action Without Borders, <http://www.idealists.org/>
- American Sociological Association's Job Bank, <http://jobbank.asanet.org/jobbank/index.cfm>
- AmeriCorps, <http://www.americorps.org>
- Charity Navigator, <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/search.advanced.htm>
- Chronicle of Philanthropy, <http://www.philanthropy.com>
- Human Services Career Network, <http://www.hscareers.com>
- IHireSocialServices, <http://www.ihiresocialservices.com/default.asp>
- National Human Services Assembly, http://www.nassembly.org/nassembly/na_job_display.cfm
- Nonprofit Job Opportunities, <http://www.opportunitynocks.org/>
- Nonprofit Times Jobs, <http://www.nptjobs.com>
- Peace Corps, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- Philanthropy News Network, <http://www.pnnonline.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=phprofession&file=index>
- Social Service, <http://www.socialservice.com>
- Social Service Jobs <http://www.socialworkjobbank.com>
- Society of Human Resource Management, <http://www.shrm.org/jobs/>
- American Counseling Association, <http://www.counseling.org/CareerCenter/Opportunities/TP/Home/CT2.aspx>
- American Psychological Association, <http://www.psyccareers.com/>
- Association of Psychological Science, <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/jobs/>
- Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, <http://www.appic.org/>
- Community Career Center (Nonprofit Jobs), <http://www.nonprofitjobs.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.sjob>
- Corporation for National & Community Service (includes Americorp), <http://www.nationalservice.org/>
- PsycCareers, <http://www.apa.org/ads/>
- Psych job listings in geocities, <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/5353/classes/psychjobs/>
- Psych Watch, http://www.psychwatch.com/job_page.htm
- Social Psychology Network, <http://www.socialpsychology.org/forums/jobforum/>
- Social Work Job Bank, <http://www.socialworkjobbank.com>
- Social Work, <http://www.socialwork.com>
- United Way, <http://national.unitedway.org/>
- Society for I/O Psychology, <http://www.siop.org/JobNet/>

Federal Links:

- Federal Government Employment, <http://www.usajobs.gov/>

- Government Departments and Agencies, http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml
- National Security Agency, <http://www.nsa.gov/careers>
- U.S. Government Manual, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>
- U.S. Government Office of Personnel Management, <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection, <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/careers>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.dhhs.gov/jobs/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hud.gov/jobs/index.cfm>

Career Planning Links

- Guide to Careers in Child and Family Policy, <http://cfp.igpa.uiuc.edu/brSeek/homesearch.htm>
- Careers in Clinical Sociology, http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/clinsoc_45575v2.pdf
- The Sociology Major: As Preparation for Careers in Business and Organizations, <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Careers+and+Jobs&name=Sociology+Major+-++Preparation+for+Careers>
- Sociology Virtual Library, <http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/w3virtsoclib>
- Careers in Sociology, <http://www.saludos.com/fields/soc.html>
- Accredited Graduate Programs in Counseling (from CACREP), <http://www.cacrep.org/directory.html>
- American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, <http://www.abecsw.org>
- American Counseling Association, <http://www.counseling.org>
- Association for Community Organization and Social Administration, <http://www.acosa.org>
- Association of Social Work Boards (licensure), <http://www.aswb.org>
- Council on Social Work Education (accredited programs), <http://www.cswe.org>
- Careers in School Psychology, <http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ediv16/G&O.htm>
- Eye on Psi Chi, <http://www.psichi.org/pubs/eye>
- Non-Academic Careers in Psychology, http://www.apa.org/science/nonacad_careers.html
- PsycCrawler, <http://www.psychcrawler.com>
- Psych Web, <http://www.psywww.com>
- PsychGrad, <http://www.psychgrad.org>
- Psychology Careers, <http://www.apa.org/students/brochure/>
- Social Psychology Network (info for all areas of psychology), <http://www.socialpsychology.org>

Professional Association Links

- American Sociological Association (Careers and Jobs), <http://www.asanet.org>
- American Counseling Association, <http://www.counseling.org/>
- American Psychological Association, <http://www.apa.org>
- American Psychological Society, <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>

- National Association of Social Workers, <http://www.naswdc.org/>
- National Board of Certified Counselors, <http://www.nbcc.org>
- Social Work Access Network, <http://cosw.sc.edu/swan>