

Social Capital, Organizational Context, and the Job Market for Sociology Majors**Student Questionnaire****What it's about --**

For a long time, sociology students, their parents, and the public have asked, “What can you do with a bachelor’s degree in sociology?” To find out what sociology graduates actually do, the American Sociological Association (ASA)—the national membership organization of 14,000 sociologists—is conducting a three-wave longitudinal survey. The National Science Foundation is supporting the study.

You are one of the undergraduates from eighty departments invited to collaborate in this first-time national survey of senior sociology majors. You will be asked why you chose sociology as a major, what skills and concepts you learned, and what you intend to do now. We will also ask a number of background questions about your parents’ education and about your age, gender, marital status, and race or ethnicity in order to compare your responses to those of students in other groups. Finally, we will ask for your contact information so that we may interview you again, both next year and the year after, to learn about your post-graduate experiences and your view of the utility of the skills and concepts you learned as a sociology major.

The information from this longitudinal survey will help sociology faculty and administrators at your school to improve the collegiate experiences of undergraduates and to make these experiences more relevant to the world of work. We will provide you with a set of survey findings and a CD on careers in sociology.

Things you should know about participating in this first phase of the survey --

For each question, please check the box that best describes your experience. There are no right or wrong answers. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

Your participation is voluntary. You must be age 18 or over to participate. You may decline participation and you may stop at any point in the survey. In either case your answers will be destroyed. If you do decide to participate, your individual responses, including any contact information you provide, are confidential and will not be shared with sociology departments, colleges, or universities. Your name will not appear in any publication of results. Instead, sociology departments will be provided with summary data for all of their majors and recent graduates so they can compare the views of their students with those of students from other schools. No one will use the information in any way that could cause problems for you. If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact Roberta Spalter-Roth by e-mailing spalter-roth@asanet.org or calling 202-383-9005 x317.

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in this research have not been respected, you may contact ASA’s Institutional Review Board: WIRB (address and phone number will be listed here).

On to the survey --

If you have read this form and agree to take part in this survey, click the “Proceed to the survey” button. If you do not wish to participate, please click the “Decline” button.

Thank you very much for your participation.

1. Which of the following best describes your major? Please check one.

- Sociology alone
- Sociology and anthropology
- Sociology and social work, or sociology with social work emphasis
- Sociology and criminal justice, or sociology with criminal justice emphasis
- Sociology and psychology
- Sociology and another discipline
- Other (please list)

1A. What is (or was) your minor or your second most important field of study?**2. Why did you major in sociology? Please check how important each of the following reasons was to you.**

	1 Very important	2 Somewhat important	3 Not too important	4 Not at all important
A. I heard good things about the sociology department at this school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. I enjoyed the first course I had in sociology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. I thought it would prepare me for the job I want.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. I thought it would prepare me for graduate or professional school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. I found that the major required fewer credit hours than others I could have chosen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. I found that the concepts interested me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. I was looking for a more general major rather than one focused on a specific career.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. I found that the course sequence was flexible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. I found that I had enough credit hours to do so.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. I thought it would prepare me to help me to change society.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. I thought it would prepare me to understand how individuals function in socio-economic situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. I thought it would prepare me to do different kinds of research.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. I thought it would help me to understand my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

N. Other (please specify).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Now, we would like to know whether you gained proficiency at each of the following skills as part of your sociology major. Please check the extent to which you believe you are able to use each skill.

As part of your sociology major, to what extent did you learn how to...	1 Yes, definitely	2 Yes, somewhat	3 Not at all	4 Don't recall
A. Create a hypothesis with independent and dependent variables.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Use computers to find information to develop a bibliography or a list of references.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Use standard software packages, such as SPSS, SAS, and STATA, to analyze data.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods (e.g., surveys, in-depth interviews, participant observation) for answering specific research questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Gather information to make an argument based on evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Describe percentages and statistics in a two variable table.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Interpret the results of different types of data gathering such as surveys, experiments, case studies, or other qualitative studies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Identify ethical issues in sociological research.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Write a report from sociological information that can be understood by non-sociologists.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Learned to use computer graphics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Learned to lead diverse groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Learned to use qualitative data package	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. Learned to write proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N. Write a resume	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Do you list any of these skills on your resume?

- Yes
- No

5. Did you gain the ability to describe and explain the following concepts as part of your sociology major? Please check the extent to which you learned to describe or explain each concept.

As part of your sociology major, to what extent did you learn to ...	1 Yes, definitely	2 Yes, somewhat	3 Not at all	4 Don't recall
A. Present sociological explanations about current social issues such as crime, racism, poverty, family formation, or religion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Discuss what is meant by a social institution and give examples of their impact on individuals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Discuss basic sociological theories or theoretical orientations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D.	Explain basic concepts in sociology (including culture, socialization, institutions, or stratification).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.	Explain important differences in the life experiences of people as they vary by race, class, gender, age, disability and other ascribed statuses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.	To understand the ways organizations function in modern society.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. As part of your sociology major, did you participate in the following activities? Please check yes or no.

		1 Yes	2 No	3 Don't recall
A.	Internship.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.	Work with a political party or other group advocating for some cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.	Community or other volunteer activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.	Mentoring program, where a faculty member or student worked closely with you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.	Service learning project, where you worked in an agency or in the community as part of a class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.	Faculty research project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G.	Jobs fairs, on-campus interviews by firms, career-related mentorship programs, or other networking opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H.	Leadership development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I.	Alpha Kappa Delta or other sociology club.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J.	Honors program associated with your department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K.	Study abroad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L.	Attended a local, state, regional, or national sociology meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. How satisfied were you with your experiences with the department in which you took your major? Please check the answer that most closely matches your experience.

	1 Yes, very satisfied	2 Yes, somewhat satisfied	3 Not at all satisfied	4 Not applicable
A.	The quality of BA advising.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.	The quality of graduate school advising.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.	The quality of career advising.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.	The ease in getting the courses you needed to graduate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E.	The ease in seeing faculty outside of class as often as you needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.	Close interaction with peers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G.	Out of class activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Future Plans

8. What are your plans for the next 12 months? Please check as many as apply.

<p>Go to graduate or professional school.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> If you checked “Yes”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please provide the name of school you wish to attend. <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> ➤ What degree do you intend to pursue? <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
<p>Find a new job.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> If you checked “Yes”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do you know the name of your prospective employer? Please specify. <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> ➤ Do you know your job title? Please specify. <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
<p>Continue to work at my current job.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> If you checked “Yes”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please specify job title. <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
<p>Other. Please describe.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Job Search

8A. If you plan to find a new job, please tell us the job search methods that you have used or are currently using. (Please check all that apply.) If you did not enter the job market please check 1, below.

- 1. Will not enter the job market
- 2. Faculty advisor(s) in sociology department
- 3. Job Workshop in sociology department
- 4. Part of capstone seminar in sociology
- 5. Informal channel (e.g., colleague or friend)
 - 5a. Informal channel—Fellow student in sociology department
 - 5b. Informal channel—Student outside sociology department
 - 5c. Informal channel—Relative
 - 5d. Informal channel—Friend outside the university
- 6. Newspaper advertisements
- 7. College Career Services
- 8. Current job or internship supervisor
- 9. Employment agency
- 10. Met employer through former job or position
- 11. Sent unsolicited vitae
- 12. Received unsolicited offer
- 13. Electronic resource
- 14. Other. Please specify: _____

8B. Which, if any, have been the two most effective job-search methods? (Please use the numbers listed in question J8 or check “none effective” OR “not applicable” if appropriate.)

 None effective

 Not applicable

9. If you had to go to someone at your college/university for information related to your job search, who would the 5 most likely people be? Please rank the first 5 of the list below.

A. The first column describes your potential relationship with each of the 5 people. If there are people with the same relationship among your 5 picks you can check more than one.

	This person is my ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Sociology faculty	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	Internship advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	Faculty mentor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	Faculty with whom you worked on a research project or a service learning project	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5	Other faculty	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6	Student mentor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7	Classmate from a sociology class	<input type="checkbox"/>				
8	Classmate from a service learning project	<input type="checkbox"/>				
9	Classmate from other classes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
10	Career counselor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
11	A person I met while doing an internship, a service learning or research project	<input type="checkbox"/>				
12	A person I met at a job fair, during on-campus interviews, and other networking opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
13	Fellow students from Alpha Kappa Delta or other sociology club	<input type="checkbox"/>				
14	Fellow students from other student organizations on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>				
16	Other relationship. <i>Please describe below.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

B. How often do you interact with this person (see each other, talk on the phone, etc.)? Please check only one box for each person.

	I interact with this person ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Almost daily	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	About once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	About once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	Less than once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				

C. On the scale from 1 to 5 ranging from ‘distant’ to ‘very close’, how close would you say you are to this person? Please check only one box for each person.

	I feel to this person ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Very close	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2		<input type="checkbox"/>				
3		<input type="checkbox"/>				
4		<input type="checkbox"/>				

5	Distant	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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10. If you had to go to someone in your family for information related to your job search, who would these people be? Please answer the questions below about these people.

10 A. What is your relationship to that person? (Check all that apply.)

	This person is my ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	Spouse/fiancé	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	Cousin	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5	Aunt/uncle	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6	Other relationship. <i>Please describe below.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

B. How often do you interact with this person (see each other, talk on the phone, etc.)? Please check only one box for each person.

	I interact with this person ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Almost daily	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	About once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	About once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	Less than once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				

C. On the scale from 1 to 5 ranging from 'distant' to 'very close', how close would you say you are to this person? Please check only one box for each person.

	I feel to this person ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Very close	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2		<input type="checkbox"/>				
3		<input type="checkbox"/>				
4		<input type="checkbox"/>				
5	Distant	<input type="checkbox"/>				

11. If you had to go to someone else besides your family and college-related contacts for information related to your job search, who would these people be? Please answer the questions below about these people.

11A. What is your relationship to that person? (Check all that apply.)

	This person is not connected to my university and she/he is my ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Fellow friend from a voluntary organization (including church and political organizations)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	Friend/roommate	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	Friend/acquaintance from my previous job	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	High school teacher/coach/mentor	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5	Other relationship. <i>Please describe below.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

B. How often do you interact with this person (see each other, talk on the phone, etc.)? Please check only one box for each person.

	I interact with this person ...	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Almost daily	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	About once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	About once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4	Less than once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>				

C. On the scale from 1 to 5 ranging from ‘distant’ to ‘very close’, how close would you say you are to this person? Please check only one box for each person.

		Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1	Very close	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2		<input type="checkbox"/>				
3		<input type="checkbox"/>				
4		<input type="checkbox"/>				
5	Distant	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Tell us the following characteristics about yourself?**12. Please list your year of birth:** **13 What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male

14. Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your father (or primary male guardian)?

- Not a high school graduate
- High School graduate (or GED)
- Some college
- College graduate
- Some graduate or professional school
- Graduate/Professional school graduate
- Not applicable

15. Which of the following best describes the highest level of education completed by your mother (or primary female guardian)?

- Not a high school graduate
- High School graduate (or GED)
- Some college
- College graduate
- Some graduate or professional school
- Graduate/Professional school graduate
- Not applicable

16. Which of the following categories best describes your race/ethnicity? Check as many as apply.

- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaskan Native Population
- White or Caucasian
- Other

17. Are you currently employed 20 hours per week or more?

- Yes
- No

18.. While working for your degree, did you attend school full time, part-time, or a combination?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Combination

19.Did you transfer to your current school from some other school?

- No, I started here as a freshman
- Yes, I transferred from a community (junior) college
- Yes, I transferred from another four-year college or university

20.What was (or is) your GPA in sociology?

GPA in sociology courses

21.What was (or is) your overall GPA?

Overall GPA

22. When did or do you anticipate graduating?

Month Year

Thank you very much for answering this survey.

22. Finally, we'd like to be able to learn how your plans turned out one year from now. Would you please share the following information with us? This information will not be shared with anyone besides the Research Department of the American Sociological Association.

Your name:

Current e-mail address:

Current telephone:

Permanent (family) address:

Permanent telephone:

Permanent e-mail address:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Would you like us to share the results with you?

- Yes
- No