With a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Sociology you explore a number of contemporary societal issues including globalisation, socio-economic inequality, religion, ethics, social inclusion, the law/criminal justice, organisational change etc.

Graduating with a Sociology major therefore does not train you for a specific job role but allows for the development of a number of useful employability/transferrable skills applicable for a range of areas such as government/public policy, education and training, social research, community development, corporate business development etc.

Sociology graduates have also developed a good understanding of the “bigger picture”, as well as an awareness of cross-cultural sensitivities, the value of different perspectives and the need to be both adaptable and flexible in the workplace. These attributes can serve them well career wise by providing a solid basis for a meaningful and varied working life.

Careers and Employment Centre

Engage in your career before you graduate

Remember that careers are dynamic - they evolve along with your life experiences and you have the ability to make yours meaningful through active engagement in the world around you. This can include purposeful industry-based experience, networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity.

**Useful Links**

TASA Australian Sociological Society  
[www.tasa.org.au](http://www.tasa.org.au)

Graduate Opportunities Directory  
[www.gradaetopportunities.com/](http://www.gradaetopportunities.com/)

ISA – International Sociological Association  
[www.isa-sociology.org/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/)

Australian Public Service Jobs  

Engaging in your career as a student is a good way to develop your industry networks, explore areas of interest and set yourself apart. Ways you can show future employers your strengths and active contributions as a student include:

- undertaking Work Integrated Learning Opportunities (WIL) or in-curriculum industry exposure as part of your degree and/or apply for Internships and Vacation Work offered by industry e.g. Aurora Social Sciences Internships;
- engaging in co-curricular opportunities at university (e.g. Peer Mentoring or Leadership Programmes);
- joining relevant professional associations and industry groups of interest e.g. TASA (Australian Sociological Association);
- entering student team competitions that focus on evidencing your analytical/problem solving and team skills (e.g. the Big Issue, Big Idea inter-university team competition);
- seeking complimentary part-time/casual work or volunteering in areas involving social justice issues, multiculturalism or community. The Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain experience. Email: volunteering@the-guild.com.au or phone: 08 9360 6307.
Careers in Sociology

Careers in Sociology are often not planned and can be very varied. You could be:

• working with or advocating for minority and ethnic groups;
• offering support to job seekers;
• collating young people's opinions on the social issues leading to substance abuse;
• involved in social planning and policy development;
• undertaking research investigating the links between poverty and mental health or;
• implementing a project to build financial literacy among university students, for instance.

Recognising what you are good at doing, being curious and open to opportunity, accepting an element of risk as well as remaining both positive and persistent in your job search can open doors.

Sociology graduates are typically employed in local, state and federal Government departments (public administration; policy analysis; human services; city planning), criminal justice (corrections; rehabilitation; law enforcement; judiciary), community and welfare organisations/ NGOs as well as in private enterprise/corporate sector (human resources; marketing; training and development; recruiting). See our list of job titles that Sociology graduates, including those from Murdoch have secured or progressed onto (some of which have required additional study/skill sets).

Adaptability of your Sociology degree and alternative careers

• Communications specialist
• Community Engagement Officer
• Disability Services Special Projects Officer
• Employment Services Case Manager/Co-ordinator
• Ethnic Liaison Officer
• Housing Officer
• Industrial Relations Officer (Union)
• Multi-cultural Affairs Advisor
• Nursing Home Co-ordinator
• Policy Officer
• Project Management – Corporate Development
• Council worker/member
• Government employee/Civil Servant (e.g. LifeSpan Services)
• Public Affairs Officer
• Research Officer (state government)
• Training Officer/Lecturer/Academic
• Town/City Planner
• Youth worker

Considering a second major or an additional minor (such as Indigenous Studies, Asian Studies, Community Development, Politics and International Studies etc.) can help to increase your employability, by further diversifying your career options.

If you have limited prior industry experience and lacking in professional networks as a student, you should also consider applying for multi-discipline Graduate Programs from the beginning of your final year. Employers offering formal Graduate Programs for Sociology graduates (especially those within the government/ public sector) are often looking for evidence of general employability skills over specific experience. Therefore detailing what skills you have developed throughout your university experience is an important feature on your resume. Some of the skills that an Arts degree, such as yours, will give you include:

Communication skills – through essay writing, oral presentations and group work, Arts degree graduates are able to integrate complex information and communicate it concisely both orally and in written form.

Critical Thinking skills – an Arts degree requires you to critique a lot of information - question the written word, its source and validity. Graduates have therefore learnt to understand issues in context and see the limitations of an argument.

Analytical/Problem Solving – Arts students learn to break ideas and issues down into their component parts, isolate problems and attempt to understand why these problems occurred. Arts students also develop the ability to think out-side the square and come up with creative and innovative ideas and solutions.

Research skills – Arts students spend considerable time sourcing and researching a large number of primary and secondary resources to create a clear argument. Being able to make detailed observations as well as quickly and skilfully navigate the tangled web of information to be found online can be a useful skill employers look for.