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JOBS, CAREERS & SOCIOLOGICAL SKILLS

The Early Employment
Experiences of 2012
Sociology Majors

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TABLE 1. Distribution of Respondents' Job Categories and Percent in Career-Type Jobs.

Job Category	N	% in Job Type	% in Career-type Job
Social Services/Counselors	123	21.9	77.9
Admin. Support/Clerical	94	16.7	42.4
Sales/Marketing	71	12.6	47.8
Teachers/Librarians	66	11.7	66.7
Service Occupations (waitresses, police, cooks)	52	9.3	26.5
Other Professional (inc. Prgm. Assistant, IT, PR)	50	8.9	75.5
Management-related	43	7.7	83.7
Social Science Researcher	30	5.3	90.0
Other	33	5.9	60.6
Total w/job category info.	562	100.0	62.2*
No info. on job category	13		

* Based on N=553

SOURCE: American Sociological Association. *Social Capital, Organizational Capital, and the Job Market for New Sociology Graduates, 2012, Wave III.*

TABLE 2. Examples of Job Titles and Work Descriptions by Major Job Category

Social Services/Counselors	Admin. Support/Clerical
<p>Domestic Violence Victims Advocate “I work as an advocate for victims of domestic violence in a public assistance office.”</p> <p>Residential Crisis Counselor “Counselor for homeless and runaway youth in a shelter.”</p> <p>Justice and Peace Liaison “I was hired by the diocese to heighten awareness of social justice issues at the parish level.”</p> <p>Teen Court Case Manager “Case manager for first-time juvenile offenders participating in alternative program to traditional juvenile court.”</p>	<p>Office Manager “Budget management, general accounting, supervision of other employees.”</p> <p>HR Assistant “Provide support within different parts of Human Resources (including recruiting, benefits, payroll, and director of HR).”</p> <p>Executive Assistant and Externship Outreach Coordinator “Assisting the CEO of the institution, along with assisting the Externship/Internship department.”</p> <p>Analyst “Coordinating levels of management, facilitating communication between department, financial forecasting.”</p>
Sales and Marketing	Teacher/Librarian
<p>Account Executive “I sell survey software – specifically I sell 360 feedback software.”</p> <p>Social Media/Marketing Analyst “Assessed the performance of social media strategies as they relate to traffic growth, reader engagement, SEO, sales, and marketing. Created quantitative analyses using advanced Excel, Omniture, Google Analytics, and Wordpress.”</p> <p>Events and Marketing Coordinator “I plan the events and do all marketing and communication for the mentoring and career services office...”</p> <p>Marketing Associate “Outreaching to hospital executives in order to schedule sales meetings for healthcare performance technologies.”</p>	<p>Elementary School Teacher “I am a Kindergarten teacher: I instruct students in the Spanish language.”</p> <p>EFL Teacher “I’m an English as a Foreign Language teacher in [Latin America] at a technical college...”</p> <p>High School Special Education Teacher “I am a high school special education teacher who supports approximately 120 10-12th students who receive special education services (...) in their English classes...”</p> <p>Assistant Site Manager “I manage a before and after school program for elementary students that includes activities, lessons and enrichment.”</p>

SOURCE: American Sociological Association. Social Capital, Organizational Capital, and the Job Market for New Sociology Graduates, 2012, Wave III.

The background of the top section of the page features a light blue, semi-transparent image of several hands reaching towards each other from different directions, symbolizing unity or collaboration. The hands are positioned around the central text.

2005 graduates

What are they Doing with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology?

DATA BRIEF ON CURRENT JOBS

Roberta Spalter-Roth and Nicole Van Vooren

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DATA BRIEF ON CURRENT JOBS

TABLE 1: OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES OF SOCIOLOGY BACCALAUREATES BY JOB STATUS

OCCUPATION	INTERNSHIP	PART-TIME (>35 Hours)	FULL TIME (35 hours or more)
Social Services, Counselors, Psychologists	54.8%	17.5%	26.5%
Clerical/administrative support	4.8%	12.5%	15.8%
Management	2.4%	5.8%	14.4%
Teachers, Librarians	4.8%	18.3%	8.1%
Services	0%	18.3%	8.3%
Sales, Marketing	0%	10.8%	10.1%
Social Science, Researchers	23.8%	12.5%	5.7%
Others	7.1%	2.5%	4.4%
Other Professionals (includes PR and IT)	2.4%	1.7%	6.8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Source: ASA Research and Development Department, *What Can I Do With a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology? Wave I and Wave II*

What are they doing with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology?

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 1:

SOCIAL SERVICES, COUNSELORS

- I am an academic mentor through Americorps. I work in a high school classroom with a student body made up of adolescents of varying ages currently involved in the juvenile justice system. I support the students in the classroom by helping them improve academically.
- Specifically, I am an ongoing caseworker for abused and neglected children, which means I deal with cases that get open for services [placement, counseling, truancy prevention, etc.].
- I am the Director of client services for a meals-on-wheels program. My job duties include client intake interviews with elderly/homebound individuals and ongoing case management of client base of 175+.
- I am a contract Forensic Interviewer for a child advocacy center. I interview children for a child abuse investigation. I went through training specifically for this position.
- I determine the eligibility of families for food stamps, Medicaid, and daycare programs.
- I am the funds coordinator hired post-Katrina. I do volunteer coordination, benefit execution and logistics, in-take of individuals, businesses, and groups, looking for assistance, tracked donations, and handle social service referrals.
- I work for a not-for-profit organization, which specializes in creating and managing service-learning programs for young people.
- I work for the Home Energy Assistance Target Program. This is a program designed to help individuals in the community who meet standards of poverty with an annual payment to help with their heating expenses over the winter months.
- I am a Migrant Recruiter. I contact and interview families involved in agriculturally related seasonal/temporary work and provided referrals and

resources to address needs of families and students.

- I provide threshold case management to HIV+ individuals in need of medical care. I oversee the HIV Outreach team and ensure appropriate HIV education sessions are provided throughout the organizations transitional shelter housing.
- I work with victims of domestic violence, specifically educating and transporting victims; providing court advocacy, one-on-one sessions, and crisis calls; and handle annual government reporting and budgeting.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 2:

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- I am a paralegal. I research, summarize medical records and depositions, and also handle filing at the courthouse.
- I am an onsite manager of Information Technology. I report to a contracted IT consultant on all matters relating to our network and technology. Mainly, I troubleshoot a variety of issues that pop up with computers, printers, Blackberrys, etc.
- I am an immigration specialist for a large company. I write petitions for people to receive their H1Bs and green cards.
- I work as a marketing assistant and customer service representative for a company.
- I maintain client files, collect client statistics, and edit the program's website.
- I manage the office, including Accounts Payables, Account Receivables, Human Resources, Maintenance Contract Proposals, Training, Customer Relations
- I manage the schedule of a State Representative. I research policy and legislation options, organize town hall events, and assisting constituents in accessing state government.
- I provide support for school coordinators over a five county area.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 3:

MANAGEMENT

- I handle employment and labor relations, ensuring equal employment opportunity, conflict negotiation, etc. My job functions include recruitment and staffing; classification; employee grievance and appeals; disciplinary actions; workers compensation; benefits; and training and development.
- I handle a government contract for the State Department to plan interagency intelligence conferences. I also plan all the lecture programs for the general public about international topics.
- I am the Director of Marketing and Admissions at a Residential Treatment Center.
- I work in a branch of the NIMS Integration Center with FEMA called Resource Planning and Coordination. I specifically work coordinating efforts with different entities [state, local, tribal...]
- I provide management and financial analysis. The work involves forecasting and tracking revenue for large multimillion dollar efforts, as well as labor relations.
- I provide personnel functions including hiring, training, and employee evaluation. I oversee the supervisory staff and design and maintain the personnel database.
- I am the Quality Assurance manager, and am responsible for assuring that the quality of the products meet customer specification, ensure that the measurements being taken were right and that the plant was in compliance with government regulations.
- I do workforce planning and data analysis for an agency.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 4:

TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS

- I teach Conversational English and American Studies classes at a Secondary School in Southeastern Ukraine.
- I am a full-time AmeriCorps member working in an alternative charter school for 18-21 year old high school drop-outs. I teach a service learning course on how to use hip-hop and other art forms as advocacy tools for community change.
- I teach Family & Consumer Science [formerly called Home Economics].

- I am a library administrator in private university.
- I am a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher in a middle school in a large urban city.
- I provide reference, research, and database searching services.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 5:

SERVICES

- I am a Crime Scene Technician.
- I am a police officer in a large urban city, assigned to patrol division.
- I am a probation/parole officer in a city. My job duties include supervising and counseling offenders regarding their probation/parole requirements as ordered by the court.
- I manage a ski school front line sales office for a major ski resort.
- I am a Pastry Chef.
- I am a police officer. My job duties include patrolling, traffic control, fire and medical emergencies, crime abatement, surveillance, public awareness, warrant service, court witness, DUI enforcement, crime scene investigation, death notification, and accident scene investigation.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 6:

SALES, MARKETING

- I work in the business development of technology hardware and professional services. This includes client sales, marketing, consulting, project management, contracts.
- I assist with the planning and development of marketing strategies for my organization, which includes executing the marketing plan, developing an E-commerce website, executing email marketing campaigns, developing promotional materials, and executing a quarterly Direct Mail campaign.
- I am a Marketing Consultant for a Broadcasting company. I consult medium to small businesses on marketing decisions, create commercial and promotional schedules, and write creative commercial copy to air on one of their radio stations.
- I created a kick-off event for a capital campaign for my employer as well as developed a program for

managing volunteers and interns. My overall work involves the stewardship of donors and the creation of marketing materials.

- I work in admissions. I interviewed students and started them in programs that they were interested in.
- I work as a real estate consultant. I specialize in helping people all over the country invest in real estate creatively. I also manage a team of 10 real estate consultants and am responsible for making sure they are training the company's clients effectively

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 7:

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS

- I assist research investigators in conducting longitudinal studies of human aggression including: Refining and documenting interview procedures to be used in studies; organizing and scheduling interviews, conducting interviews, and compiling and refining measures.
- I am a homeless advocate. I lobby, gather data on the homeless, provide technical assistance for service providers, coordinate and help write grants, and perform administrative tasks.
- I conduct program evaluation of an after-school arts program at two sites. This research assistantship is part of the living wage/stipend I receive for my graduate work in the doctoral program in Social Work and Sociology
- I research climate change policies in several western states and write memos about the policies and legislation. I research [and write] the legal holdings of First Nations [Canadians Native American].
- I use statistical software [specifically MPLUS] to run SEM analyses of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey -Birth Cohort [ECLS-B] to explore the relationships between household food insecurity during infancy and later obesity.
- I work for a non-profit prison ministry. Within the ministry, I care for infants of incarcerated mothers, while also acting as a case manager for the mothers.
- I research current transportation issues including managing lanes concepts, equity in tolling, and other issues related to high occupancy toll lane implementation. I also write summaries and reports for meetings and literature. In addition, I attend interagency meetings.
- I am a statistician in the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch of the US Census Bureau.
- I work as a research associate at a consulting firm to philanthropic organizations. I support Analysts and Senior Analysts in program mapping/logic modeling, survey design, analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and in conducting online research.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR CATEGORY 10:

OTHER PROFESSIONALS (INCLUDING PR AND IT)

- I am an Assistant Editor for a magazine. I write and research feature stories, coordinate photo spreads, and hire and manage freelance writers.
- I am a Help Desk Technician specializing in Desktop Support and Break/Fix Support. My basic job functions include responding to internal customer support needs and troubleshooting incident requests.
- I am the Head Womens Lacrosse Coach at Wesley College. My duties include recruiting potential student athletes, monitoring the academic progress of student-athletes, budgeting, scheduling and running practices, and any and all day-to-day activities.
- I fundraise and plan special events that benefit a pediatric cancer center [which is part of a larger not-for-profit childrens hospital]. I also plan special events for the patients of the hospital.
- I am the Director of Alumni Relations and am in charge of memberships, managing the USC Sumter Alumni Council, writing articles, planning alumni events, raising money, and maintaining the database.
- I maintain PC and Mac computers. Specific job duties include data entry using microsoft office programs, website design, creating brochures and flyers, and using audio and video equipment.
- My work is basically coordinating existing environmental justice programs and consulting with governmental agencies to influence public policy.
- I am an Army Transportation Corp Platoon Leader.
- I am the intelligence officer for an aviation unit and have 3 analysts that work for me.
- I work with the university to get students more civically engaged through curricular and co-curricular experiences in the community. The overall goal is to address the needs of low-income K-12 students in the area.