Sociology Career Outlook 2014-2015

Sociology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:
Major: Sociology (B.A.)
Field of Emphasis: Social Studies: Sociology-Anthropology
Minor: Sociology
Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/sociology/

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:
Broadly speaking, sociologists study social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociology majors acquire a broad knowledge of the social structural world (i.e., social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces of social change and resistance, and how social structures work). They also develop a range of research skills, including analyzing and interpreting information, collecting and organizing detailed research notes into a logical presentation, communicating findings both orally and in writing, and using a computer for data processing and analysis. Employers look for people with the skills and knowledge that the undergraduate sociology degree provides. Some career options for students to consider are in the areas of human services, criminal justice, education, government, social science research, environment, marketing and business.

EMPLOYMENT AREAS:
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that social and community service managers held about 132,900 jobs in 2012. About 23% of social and community service managers worked for individual and family services; 19% worked for state and local governments; 15% worked for social and religious organizations; 10% worked for nursing residential care facilities; and 10% worked for community and vocational rehabilitation services. An American Sociological Association (asанet.org) study published in 2010 shows that the largest job category for graduates with bachelor’s degrees is social service, counselor, psychologist followed by clerical and administrative support and manager.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS IN MINNESOTA:
MnCareers and iSeek.org websites did not have any specific information for sociologists in Minnesota. This is a very small occupation, and individuals with a sociology major often work in various social science fields. Additionally, many choose to further their education to increase their employment prospects.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS NATIONWIDE:
Focus™² reports that the nationwide demand for sociologists is expected to grow faster than average through 2022, with people established in their career generally earning between $53,300 and $91,000 per year. While a Bachelor’s degree is occasionally adequate, a master’s degree in sociology is usually the minimum requirement for employment in applied research or teaching. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, average salaries offered beginning sociologists with a bachelor’s degree were $36,700 per year in 2012.

PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES:
Of the Bemidji State University 2012-2013 Bachelor of Arts Sociology graduates, 25% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.

LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlas Canada</td>
<td>Government Specialist</td>
<td>Oakville, Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle Plaine School District</td>
<td>Media Specialist Para</td>
<td>Belle Plaine, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-County CAP, Inc.</td>
<td>Self-Sufficiency Counselor</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club-Leech Lake Area</td>
<td>Unit Director</td>
<td>Cass Lake, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-CAP</td>
<td>Outside Sales Representative</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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For information on employment options see: “What Are They Doing With A Bachelor’s Degree In Sociology?”
ASA Publication at asanet.org/employment/factsoncareers.cfm The “Data Brief on Current Jobs” provides
information from graduates on their occupations.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES HAVE
GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, MN
St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

University of Minnesota-Duluth, Duluth, MN
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.
Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study
positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a
tight job market.
Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication
methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
FOCUS II, Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2015)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in Sattgast 207 or call us at
218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.
For more job listings please visit:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/