What can I do with a degree in sociology?

Before considering specific job search strategies, it is essential for you to gain a sense of the kinds of positions sociology graduates actually hold. While illustrative and not exhaustive, this list of potential jobs for B.A.s in sociology provides an overview of options. The titles were compiled from data supplied by Career Placement Offices and Sociology Departments at three major institutions of higher education in the United States.

Positions for those with M.A. or Ph.D. degrees in the field will find some that include the word sociologist. Notice that at the B.A. level, none of these job titles include the word “sociology” - nor will you find many entries under “sociologist” in the Sunday paper’s employment ads. However, all of these positions are open to and appropriate for sociology graduates; they require the skills and theoretical perspective secured through sociological training. Your special interests, experiences, and work setting preference will help you decide which of these career paths to select.

In addition to the positions listed here, sociologist work in many other professional areas, including positions of political and national leadership. For example, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) had a doctorate in sociology and civil rights leaders Jesse Jackson and Ralph Abernathy earned B.A.s in sociology. Take this list as a starting point, not as an endpoint.

Now that you have a better idea of possible job titles, we can proceed to strategies that will help you find employment.