

Senior Exit Survey Spring 2011

We invite you to participate in a survey whose aim is to find out what sociology graduates at IU actually do and what they learned while earning their degrees. Your participation is voluntary and your responses are confidential. Your individual responses will not be shared with anyone other than the faculty and staff of the IU Department of Sociology. *As an incentive to your participation, we will randomly select two survey participants to receive \$10 Starbucks gift cards.*

For each question, please check the box that best describes your experience and/or fill in the brief open-ended responses.

1. Which of the following best describes your major or joint major?

- Sociology alone
- Sociology and anthropology
- Sociology and criminal justice
- Sociology and psychology
- Sociology and another discipline, please specify:
- Other, please specify:

2. Why did you major in sociology? Please indicate how important each of the following reasons was to you.

Reason for majoring in sociology	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
2a. I heard good things about the sociology department			
2b. I enjoyed the first course I had in sociology			
2c. I thought it would prepare me for the job I want			
2d. I thought it would prepare me for graduate or professional school			
2e. I thought the courses would be easy			
2f. The concepts interested me			
2g. I was looking for a general major rather than one focused on a specific career			
2h. I had enough credit hours to become a sociology major even though I did not plan to be one			
2i. I thought it would prepare me to help to change society			
2j. I thought it would prepare me to do different kinds of research			
2k. I thought it would help me to understand my life			

3. Do you think that you developed proficiency at each of the following skills as part of your sociology major? Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that you are able to use each skill.

As part of my sociology major, I learned to...	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
3a. Develop a hypothesis with independent and dependent variables				
3b. Use computers to find information to develop a bibliography or a list of references				
3c. Use standard statistical software packages, such as SPSS, SAS, or STATA, to analyze data				
3d. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods (e.g., surveys, in-depth interviews, participant observation) for answering specific research questions				
3e. Gather information to make an argument based on evidence				
3f. Use statistical methods to analyze the relationship between two variables				
3g. Interpret data from different types of studies such as surveys, experiments, case studies, or other qualitative studies				
3h. Identify ethical issues in sociological research				
3i. Write a report from sociological information that can be understood by non-sociologists, such as newspaper readers, government officials, or community groups				
3j. Comprehend complex theories and arguments				
3k. Critically assess ideas and arguments				

4. Will you or do you list any of these skills when you prepare your resume? If so, which ones do you include on your resume?

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

As part of your sociology major, did you learn ...	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
5a. Current sociological explanations for a variety of social issues such as crime, racism, poverty, family formation, or religion				
5b. Basic theoretical perspectives or paradigms in sociology (for example, conflict theory, structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, feminist theory)				
5c. Basic concepts in sociology (including culture, socialization, institutions, or stratification)				
5d. Important differences in the life experiences of people as they vary by race, class, gender, age, disability and other ascribed statuses				
5e. To view society from an alternative or critical perspective				

6. How satisfied are you with each of the following experiences with your sociology major? Please select the answer that most closely matches your experience.

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not at all satisfied
6a. The quality of undergraduate advising			
6b. The quality of advising about graduate school options (write NA if not applicable)			
6c. The quality of career advising			
6d. The ease in getting the courses you needed to graduate			
6e. The ease in seeing faculty outside of class as often as you needed			
6f. The interaction with fellow sociology majors			
6g. The quality of teaching			
6h. The availability of intensive writing (IW) courses in the major			
6i. The range of topics in the 400-level courses			

7. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experiences as a sociology major?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Not at all satisfied

7a. If you answered “somewhat” or “not at all” satisfied, can you tell us more about why you were dissatisfied?

8. In which sociology course at IU did you learn the most?

Course name:

Instructor:

9. In your judgment, which sociology course at IU most needs improvement and why?

Course name:

Why?

Now we have a few questions about your future plans.

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

- Go to graduate or professional school
- Obtain a new job
- Continue to work at your current job
- Marry
- Have a child
- Go into the military
- Travel extensively
- Other, please specify:

11. What type of employer would you prefer to work for when you complete your education?

- Educational
- Government
- Private, non-profit
- Private, for profit
- Undecided

12. What type of job would you prefer?

We would also like to ask some background questions (such as age, sex, etc.), in order to compare your responses to those of students in other social groups.

13. In what year were you born? _____

14. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

15. 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, please specify

16. Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No

16a. If yes, how many hours per week, on average, do you work? Please enter a numeric response. (example: 15) _____

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

- Mostly full-time
- Mostly part-time
- Combination

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

- No, I started here as a freshman
- Yes, I transferred from a community or other two-year college
- Yes, I transferred from another four-year college or university
- Yes, I transferred from both a two-year and a four-year school

19. What is your GPA in sociology? Your overall GPA? Please enter a numeric response (ex. 3.1).

Sociology GPA _____

Overall GPA _____

Finally, we'd like to follow up with you next year and beyond in order to learn about your post-graduate experiences. The information from this longitudinal survey will help Indiana University faculty to improve the college experiences of current and future majors and to make these experiences more relevant to the world of work. Your contact information will NOT be made public or shared with anyone outside the IU Department of Sociology. We will remove this page from your survey before the answers are recorded.

Your name:

Long-term e-mail address:

Alternate e-mail address:

Address for 2011 (if available)

Street address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Phone number (with area code):

Please provide the contact information for someone who would know how to reach you in the coming years.

Your contact's name:

Your contact's e-mail address:

Your contact's street address:

Your contact's city:

Your contact's state:

Your contact's ZIP Code:

Your contact's telephone number (with area code):

THANK YOU for participating in this survey. Your responses will become part of an ongoing assessment of the Sociology major at IU and will inform future developments in the program. Please return your survey to Jim Gibson at the Sociology department office (Ballantine Hall 744) or via e-mail (jadgibso@indiana.edu by April 30th to be entered into the drawing for the Starbucks gift cards.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Professor Fabio Rojas at frojas@indiana.edu.