

# Sociology



A DEGREE TO PREPARE TODAY'S  
PROFESSIONALS FOR MEANINGFUL WORK

# Welcome to College!



- ◆ Why are you in college?
- ◆ What do you hope to get out of it?

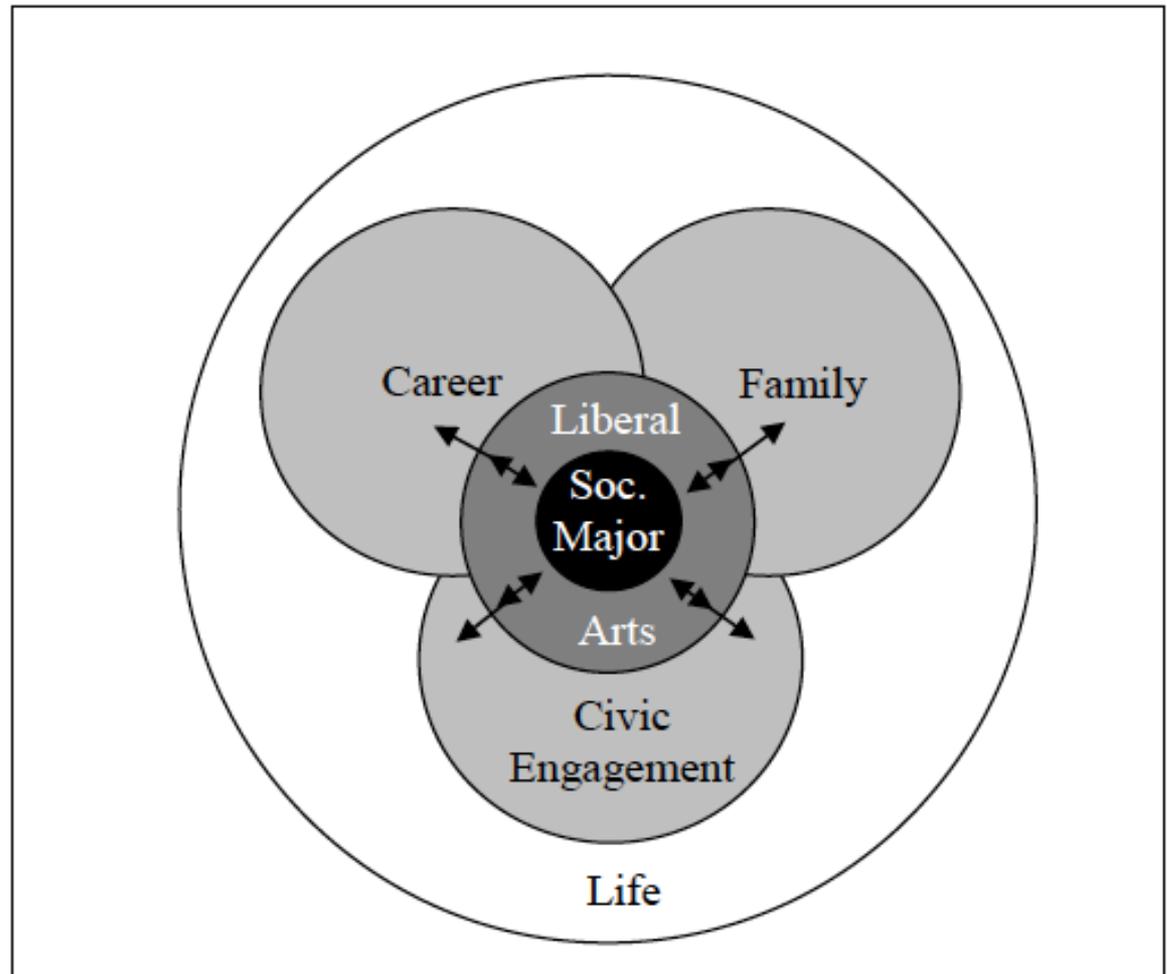


- ◆ What kind of meaningful work do you want to do after school?



# WHY CHOOSE A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE?

## Box 1: The Intersections of the Major, the Liberal Arts, and Life

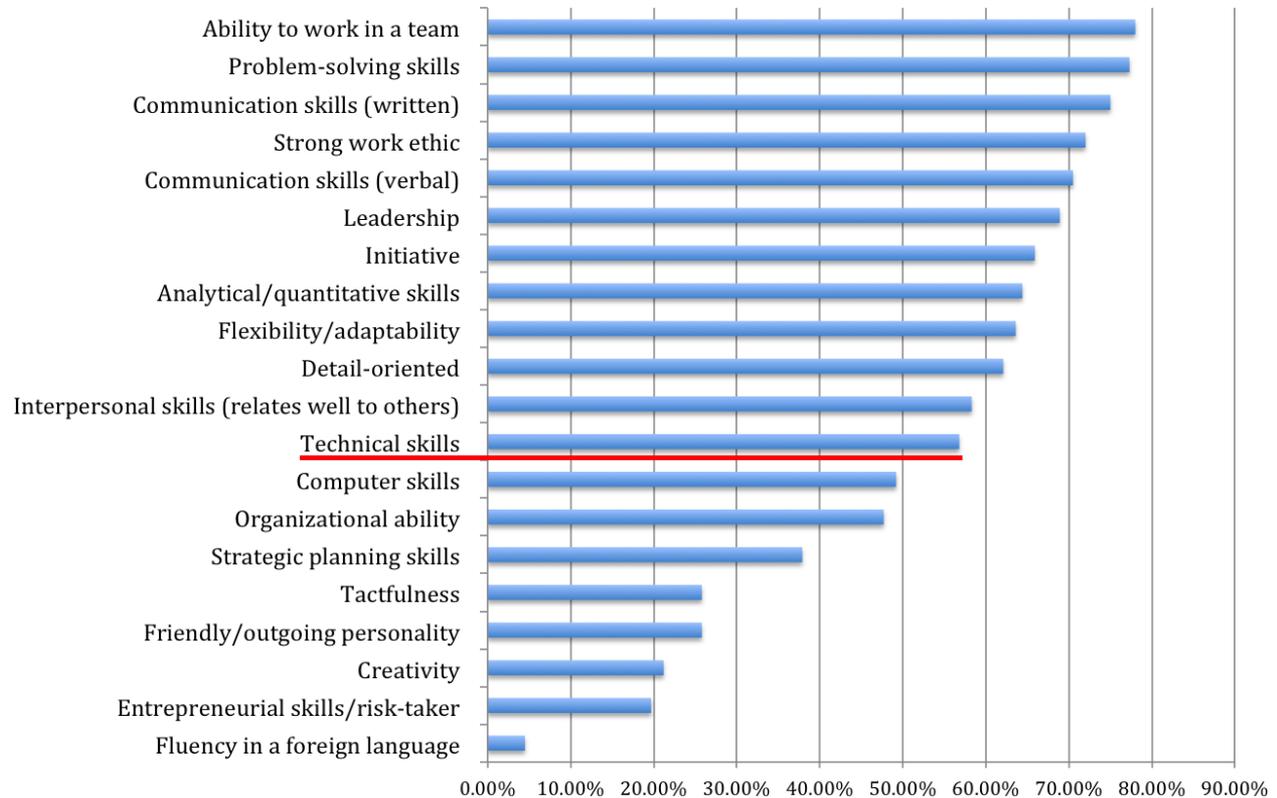


Note - Diagram Not Drawn to Scale!

# WHAT EMPLOYERS SEEK... is not what you think they want

National Association of Colleges and Employers, *Job Outlook 2016*.

## Attributes Employers Seek on a Resume



## And remember...



- **Just 1 in 5 employers look for specific majors.**
- **93% of employers agree, demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than major.**



## And did you know?



- ✓ **Employers don't see a distinction between liberal arts education and employment preparation.**
- ✓ **Therefore, gaining the skills of liberal education is employment preparation . . . as long as students know how to apply those skills.**

# How does Sociology prepare students for meaningful work?

Coursework centered on content and skills  
alumni use on the job!

- Research Methods
  - SOC 310
  - SOC 311
- Social Theory
  - SOC 301
  - SOC 302
- Required Internship
  - SOC 498
- Senior Seminar
  - SOC 498

Concept/Skill	Strongly Agree
Diversity	55.2
Social institutions and impact on individuals	49.9
Groups and teams	49.6
Social problems	47.5
Alternative or critical perspectives	41.1
Sociological imagination	33.8
Sociological concepts and theories	26.2
Data analysis	22.3
Research design	13.6



Setting  
Sociology  
majors apart:

*The  
Sociological  
Imagination.*

**“a quality of mind” that empowers students to “use information and to develop reason in order to achieve lucid summations of what is going on in the world and of what may be happening within themselves”**

(C. Wright Mills, 1959;5)



## The Wisdom of Sociology:

*See the invisible  
connections  
between people*



- \* **Suicide:** Even when most isolated, we are connected
- \* **Rates steady but different for different people – age, race, rural**
- \* **People face similar problems**
- \* **Sociology helps us help each other**



# The Power of Culture

*Why do people do what they do?*



**Why do we all ride an elevator the same way?**

**What happens when we don't?**

**How are behaviors controlled?**

# Understand Inequality

What causes some people to live better and longer?



How do social connections and culture create inequalities by class, race, gender and sexuality?  
How can these be addressed?



# Sociology and meaningful work...



By integrating knowing with doing, sociology majors develop socially responsible, practical and intellectual problem-solving skills employers seek:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Analytical reasoning
- Teamwork

✦ E.g. Sociology Students in San Jose raised the local minimum wage \$2 an hour!

- Students are equipped to pursue meaningful work within a wide range of careers
  - E.g. Careers in social justice occupations
- Students are prepared to participate in public affairs
  - Navigating the Sociology Major by Stephen Sweet and James Rothenberg (2007)

# Sociology majors work in the following top categories:



## Occupations employing the most 25-34 year old sociology degree holders, 2014

	Percent of Sociology Degrees, 2014	Median annual wage, 2014
Social workers	7.9%	\$37,500
Elementary and middle school...	4.7%	\$44,000
Managers, all other	4.0%	\$45,000
Counselors	3.4%	\$35,000
Human resources workers	3.2%	\$50,000
Postsecondary teachers	2.7%	\$20,000
Lawyers	2.6%	\$56,000
Secretaries and administrative...	2.5%	\$32,000
First-line supervisors of retail...	2.5%	\$40,000
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	2.4%	\$65,000



# What will you do with your sociology degree?



Please stop by the department  
or email our administrative assistant  
to schedule an appointment with an advisor.