



## Sociology at CSUB

California State University, Bakersfield offers a Bachelor of Arts (B. A.) degree and a fully online Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) through Extended Education, as well as a minor in Sociology.

Undergraduate Sociology majors may choose the general Sociology pathway (with or without a minor), or may choose from one of two concentrations: Human Services or Racial and Ethnic Dynamics. All Sociology students are required to take the same set of “core” classes. The B.A. program in Sociology is offered on both the Bakersfield and Antelope Valley campuses.

To find out more about this exciting and rewarding field, contact us at (661) 654-2368 or visit our website: [www.csub.edu/sociology](http://www.csub.edu/sociology)

### Department of Sociology

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SOCIOLOGY



# Understand the diverse world around you

With a degree in Sociology from CSU Bakersfield

# What is Sociology?

Have you ever wondered why human beings do the things we do? Or thought about how society shapes the decisions we make every day? Sociology seeks to answer these kinds of questions through the scientific study of human behavior in social groups. The discipline examines social institutions and focuses on how people coordinate their activities to achieve both individual and collective goals.

Sociology is different from the other social and behavioral sciences in two important ways. First, it places primary importance on the social group within the larger society. Second, it seeks to explain the broad range of human behavior as it is influenced by the social context.

Thus, sociology studies the major issues of our times and seeks to understand their complexity and predict their future. It investigates how patterns of social activity originate, what sustains them, why they take one form rather than another, and how they change.

*"The Sociology faculty at CSUB are very friendly, easy to approach, and supportive. They show a lot of interest in their students' work and are happy to exchange ideas and engage in intellectual discussions. My studies at CSUB have given me fantastic opportunities both in academia and in the workplace. Most importantly, I had a challenging but truly enjoyable experience that I am very grateful for."*

**Isabella Kasselstrand**  
Associate Professor, Sociology,  
University of Aberdeen

## Why Sociology at CSUB?

There are lots of great reasons to study Sociology at CSU Bakersfield, including:

- Interesting, engaging, and meaningful classes
- Extremely diverse student population
- Solid intellectual thought as well as practical career-based skills
- Diverse, dedicated and student-centered faculty who take a personal interest in their students' success
- Small classes
- Scheduling flexibility with on-line courses
- Opportunities for students to do collaborative research with faculty
- High graduation rate
- Outstanding advising and career preparation services
- Wide range of internship opportunities in Kern County
- An active and spirited Sociology Club that hosts many social activities and special events
- Distinguished guest speakers sponsored by the Jon Kada Fund endowment
- Scholarships and awards, including the Gonzalo Santos Public Intellectual scholarship and the Outstanding Senior Award.



## Career Opportunities

Although few occupations include "Sociologist" in their title, the sociological perspective is excellent preparation for a variety of careers.

Sociology majors who choose to work in human services find rewarding careers working with children, adults, the elderly, and people who are experiencing problems related to poverty, substance abuse, or the justice system.

Sociology majors are also well-prepared to work in the business world in sales, marketing, customer relations, human resources, or management. A sociological background is very useful for working in today's multi-ethnic and multinational business environment.

Teaching and conducting research remain the dominant activity among sociology majors who have earned a Master's or Ph.D. degree. Sociologists may conduct research in multinational corporations, factories, banks, retail stores, government agencies, hospitals, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other varied settings. Their findings may be used to guide changes in organizational practices and social policy.

