SOCIology prepares me FOR A CAREER in public administration

The public sector in the United States is large and diverse, which means that there are quite a few career opportunities in it.

You can be an administrator dealing with community development, crime, health and human services, immigration, poverty, rural issues, science, transportation, urban issues, or hundreds of other areas. Since sociology teaches you about people, diversity, social problems, and social research, it is a good foundation for a career in which you work in a public organization to help people.

After receiving your bachelor’s degree, get a Masters of Public Administration (MPA). The difference between an MBA and an MPA is that with an MBA your goal is to make a profit, whereas with an MPA your goal is to serve a population. An MPA program also teaches you about grants and fundraising.

Take these sociology classes:
- Research methods and statistics: Stats 121, Soc 300, 301, 307, 404, 405
- Culture and social diversity: Soc 322, 323, 330, 365, 367
- Micro theories and macro theories: Soc 310, 311, 350
- Electives in areas of interest to you. (All of our electives are potentially relevant to a career in public administration.)

Also take the following classes:
- Accounting 200
- Econ 110

In addition, you also should consider the following:
- Do internships in organizations, especially those that deal with the topics you want to deal with for your career. This is very helpful!
- Be a research assistant with professors. This gives you important experience, and it also helps you get good letters of recommendation.
- Get a minor in Economics, Management, or Nonprofit Management.
- When you take the GRE or GMAT, make sure you do especially well on the quantitative section.
- When you write your personal statement in your application for admission to an MPA program, make sure you make it clear that you are a good fit for each program you apply to: Show that you know what each specific program offers, and show that this program fits your career goals.
- Make sure you have strong letters of recommendation, from professors who know you and who can write detailed letters about your strengths and experience.
- Then go to graduate school for an MPA.
CONTACT

If you want to talk about how sociology can prepare you for a career in public policy, see

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