SOCIODEGY PREPARES ME FOR A CAREER IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

School psychologists work with young children and with students in elementary and secondary schools.

They work with the school, teachers, and parents to create a learning environment that is healthy and safe for students. They address learning and behavioral problems, and they figure out ways to help students with disabilities and gifted and talented students.

School Psychology is a field where you are helping students in a variety of ways. There is not an undergraduate degree in this; you get an undergraduate degree in something else and then study School Psychology at the graduate level. Sociology can prepare you for this.

This guide is based on BYU’s School Psychology EdS program. Other programs may have different prerequisites, so check their websites for more information.

You need a bachelors degree in a field like education, psychology, family sciences, sociology, or social work. Sociology counts!

You should take classes in the following:

- Education: Soc 326
- Psychology: Soc 350
- Research design and analysis: Soc 300, 301, 307, 404, 405
- Deviance: Soc 380, 383, 481
- Child and adolescent development: Soc 318, 360, 460
- Theory: Soc 310, 311
- Other classes that teach you about culture, diversity, inequality, and institutions: Soc 322, 323, 325, 328, 329, 330, 345, 365, 367, 370, 420 421, 422, 424, 426, 429, 450

In addition to taking the relevant classes, you also should consider the following:

- Get a job or a volunteer position in which you work with children or youth: youth counselor, assistant at a youth residential treatment center, etc.
- Be a research assistant with a professor (volunteer, for credit, for pay, as an Honors thesis, as an International Field Study, etc). This is important. Get all of the research experience you can.
- If possible, shadow a local school psychologist. If this is not possible, interview a school psychologist, join the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), and/or read the NASP’s website (http://www.nasponline.org/).
CONTACT

If you have questions about BYU’s program in School Psychology, contact

- Ellie Young: 801-422-1593; ellie_young@byu.edu

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

- Renata Forste: 2008C JFSB;
  801-422-3146; renata_forste@byu.edu