Do you really love studying people and social problems? Then make social research your career! With an MPP or an MS or PhD in one of the social sciences, you can work for a think-tank or policy institute, which is an organization in which people some issue (like cities, or crime, or China, or Hispanics, or something else), write about what is happening about it, make proposals to solve problems, and hold conference to talk about that issue.

Some famous think-tanks or policy institutes include the Urban Institute, the Gallup Organization, the Heritage Foundation, the Center for American Progress, the Cato Institute, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Brookings Institution, the Center for Immigration Studies, the Constitution Project, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Hastings Center, the Hoover Institution, the Hudson Institute, the Heartland Institute, the International Center for Research on Women, the Manhattan Institute, the Pew Research Center, RAND Corporation, Third Way, and the World Resources Institute. And there are many more!

**Take these sociology classes:**
- Research methods and statistics: Stats 121, Soc 300, 301, 307, 404, 405
- Sociological theory: Soc 310, 311
- Make sure that you take classes that develop your critical reading and writing skills. Theory classes and capstone classes are particularly good for this.

**In addition to taking the relevant sociology classes, you should do the following:**
- Be a research assistant with professors: as a volunteer, for credit, for pay, as an Honors thesis, as an International Field Study, etc. This is extremely important. Get involved doing as much research and writing as you can!
- Consider getting a minor in a particular area of concern to you – related to problems you want to study and to solve (e.g., African Studies, Arabic, Asian Studies, Chinese, French, German, Health Education, Information Technology, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies, Military Science, Native American Studies, Nutrition, Portuguese, Russian, Scandinavian Studies, Spanish, Statistics, Urban and Environmental Planning, Women’s Studies).
- Get an MPP (Masters of Public Policy) or an MS or PhD in Sociology.
Contact
If you want to talk about how sociology can prepare you for a career in social research, see:

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

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