

# What Can You Do with a Bachelor's Degree in

- UD Sociology Club
- October 26 2011
- Victor W. Perez, PhD

# Why Sociology?

Thursday, October 27, 2011

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-Research indicate majors choose sociology because of the interesting concepts, changing society, enjoyed the first course, understand their personal lives, understand social forces on individuals.

-Families, hostile mobs, natural disasters, crime control, corporate culture and downsizing, globalization, social welfare and health, homelessness, etc.

-"Common wisdom" is that you can "just teach" with it or "go to graduate school." Data shows that sociology BAs do not just teach OR go to graduate school more so than getting a job.

-What we need to do today is think about the relevance of the reasons why you majored in sociology outside of college.

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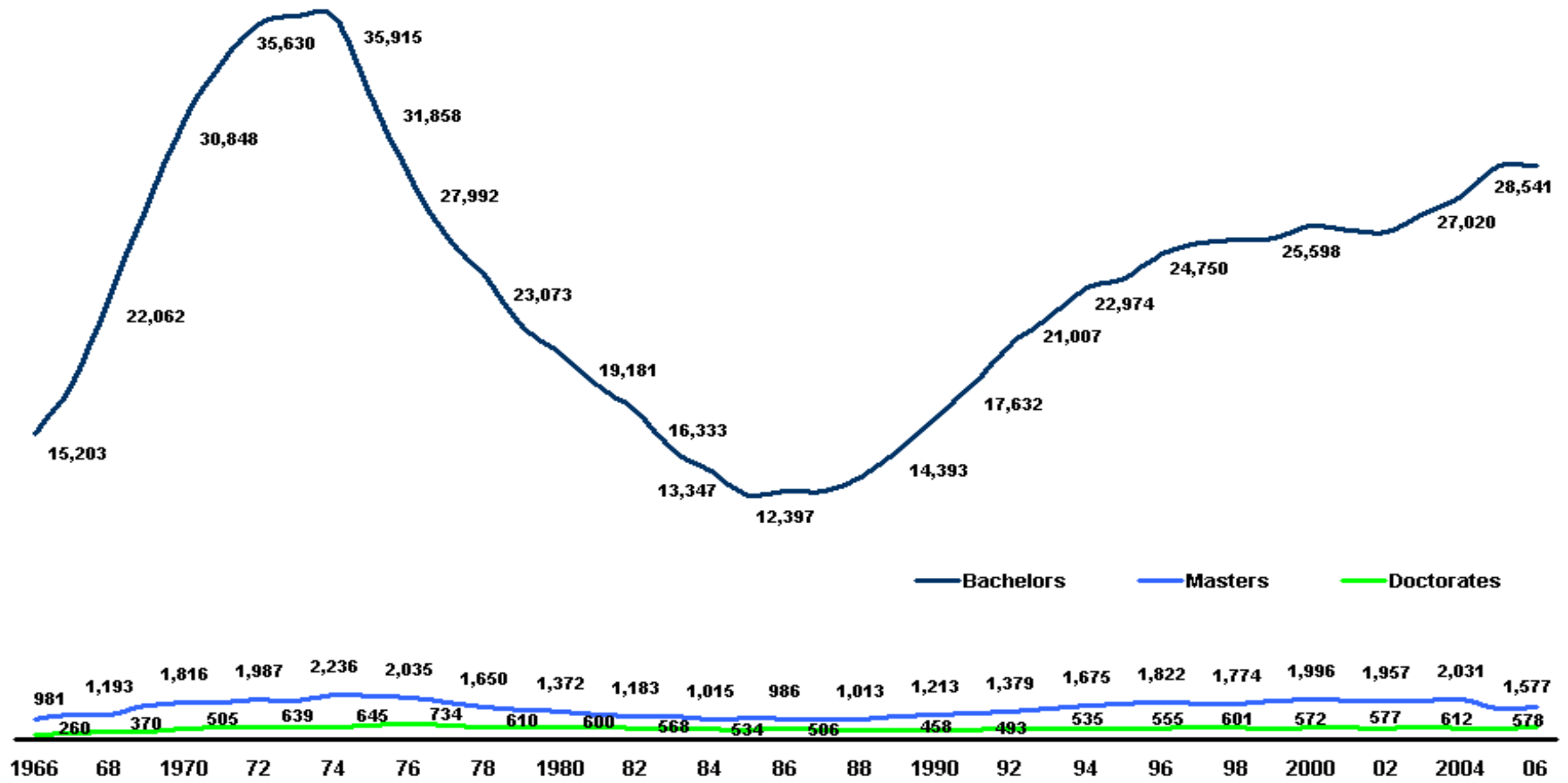
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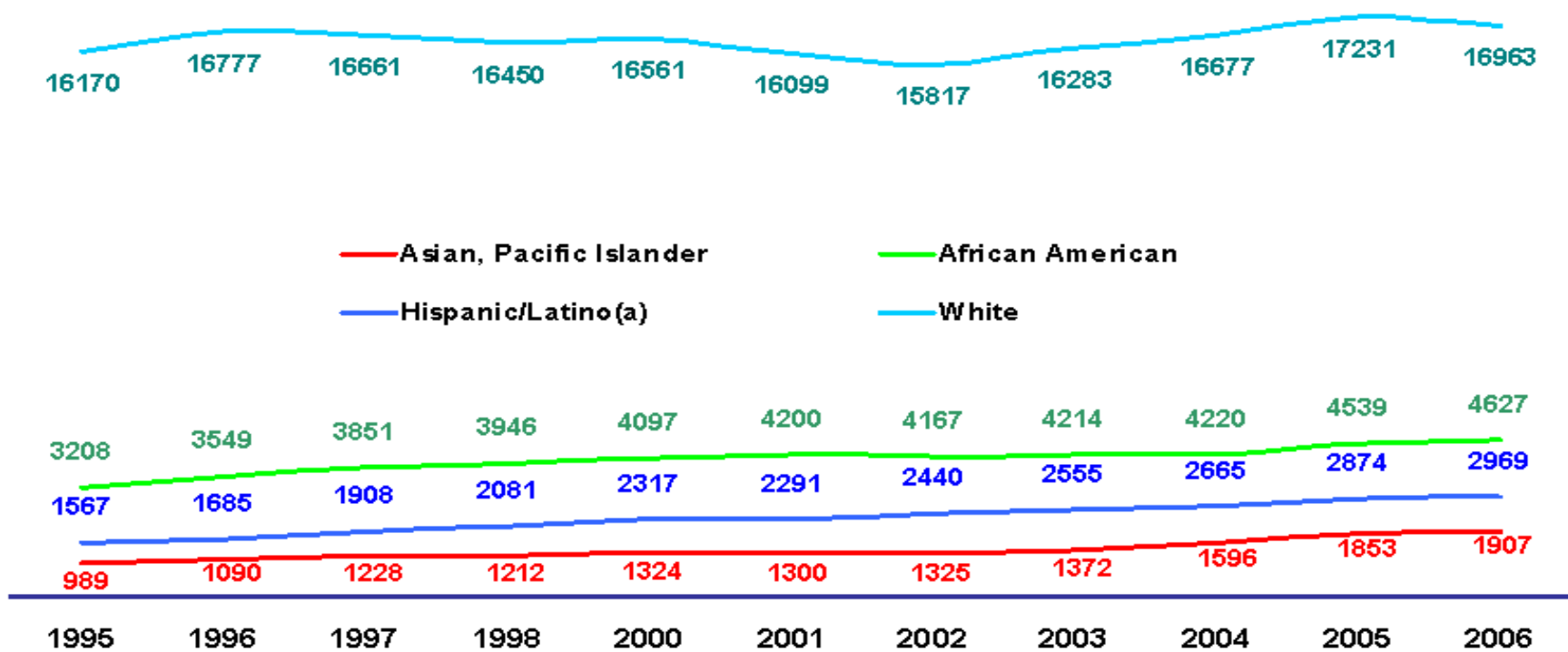
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## Sociology Degrees Awarded by Level, 1966 - 2006 (number of degrees)

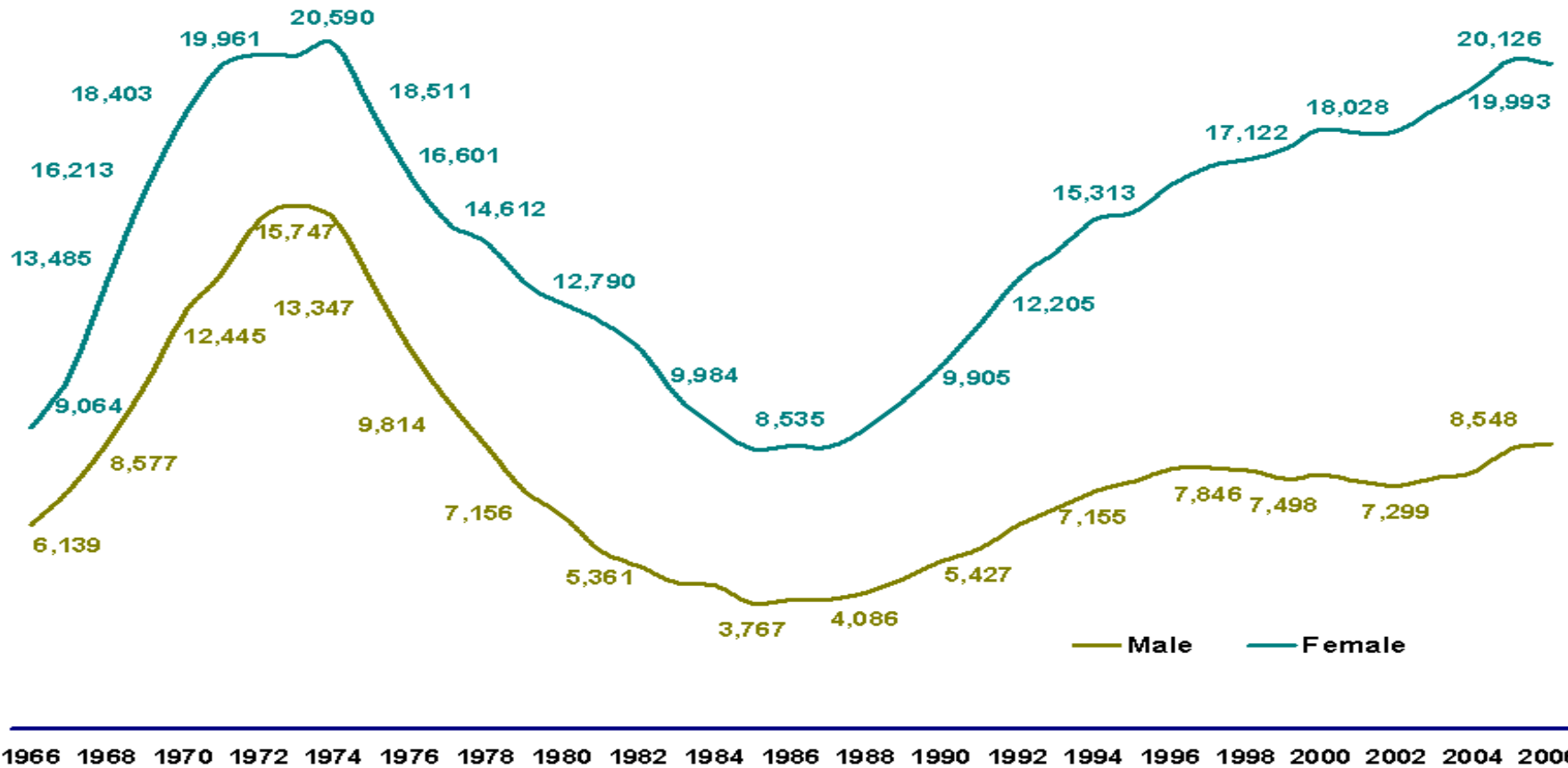


## Bachelors Degrees in Sociology by Race/Ethnicity, 1995 - 2006 (Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded)



Source: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resource Statistics, *Survey of Earned Doctorates/Doctorate Records File* (Arlington, VA: NSF, 2008). Retrieved from <http://webcaspar.nsf.gov> (March 31, 2008).

## Baccalaureate Degrees in Sociology by Gender, 1966 - 2006 (Number of Degrees)



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Completions, 1966 - 2006* (Washington, DC: NCES, 2008). Retrieved from <http://webcaspar.nsf.gov> (March 31, 2008).

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-77.1% of bachelor's degrees go to women.



# Sociological Training

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-Employers look for these sorts of things in interviews.

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  - Organizational theory
  - Work and occupations
  - Racial and ethnic diversity
  - Research methods and statistics
  - Criminal justice, criminology, and law and society

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- Stress all your work and related experiences
  - Analytical and critical thinking skills
    - Evidence based reason
  - Oral and written communication skills
    - Professional writing and public speaking
  - Computer literacy
    - Finding and reviewing sources of information
    - Research design, data collection, and analysis

# Types of Work

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- For example: Methodological expertise and understanding of ethnicity and gender in performing research on the consumption patterns of men and women and how best to advertise to them to increase sales
- For example: Specializing in urban and community research consultation for a multinational corporation developing new businesses in expanding areas
- Sociological imagination prepares you for diverse business environments in a global world for business and sales.
- Social forces such as age, race, gender, education, and social class in business environments.
- Courses include research methods and statistics, industrial sociology, sociology of work, sociology of occupations and professions.
- Research and strategic planning in corporations and human resources, marketing, public relations.
- The sensitivity to cultural diversity when working with people from a variety of backgrounds.

# Types of Work

- Bachelor's degree in sociology prepares you for what types of work?
  - Business/corporate:
    - Multiethnic and multinational business environments
      - Capacity to understand cultural diversity and relationships to work and economics
    - How do social forces influence business organizations?
      - Can you adapt to organizational environment?
  - Applied settings (research and development)
    - Research methods background
      - Methodological and analytical training
      - Designs, data analysis, and statistics
      - **ANYTHING** that needs to be quantified and summarize

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- **Shape your curriculum, internship/training, and career path accordingly!**



# Resume

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-With the massive decline in vacancies, there are more applicants and fewer positions. Employers have their pick, so they can find the exact person who is the best fit who meets their special needs. You want to attune your resume to that specific need with a specific skill set.

-Majors who communicated job skills were more likely to actually use them on the job, indicating emphasizing them on the resume and during job interviews contributed to hire for that position.

# Resume

- Highlight sociological skills with specific tools and skill sets derived from sociological training and practice
  - Very specific skills on your resume
  - Internships and service learning experiences
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- **Buzz words**
  - Communicate sociological skills and concepts---statistics, data warehousing, PASW, statistical analysis, etc.
  - “Can design survey instrument, perform sampling, collect and enter data, analyze and interpret descriptive and inferential statistical information with PASW.”
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- **Breadth is important, but explicitly specify sociological skills on the resume!**

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# Resources

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- American Sociological Association
  - [www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)
  - Material utilized in this presentation was derived from various ASA resources. Seek them out and use them!