

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

MAJOR to CAREER MAP

How to Use This Map

Use the structure of the map to help you assess where you are and where you would like to go as you prepare for your professional career. The map offers suggestions; you don't have to do it all!

While you will learn a lot from your studies, take time to focus on other things that will help you be more competitive in your job search or graduate school applications. Get relevant experience outside the classroom, build your network, perform service and expand your contributions through leadership, and build the career management skills needed to find a job and move forward in your career.

Plan for Career Success

It is never too early to think about and plan for your future! Take the time to think about the skills you need to develop and experiences you need to have to prepare for your professional career, or move to the next level. Explaining your strengths and experiences with compelling examples will be an important step as you apply for jobs and further education. Use this map as a guide, and see the **Career & Professional Development website** for additional resources.

Build Skills and Experiences Employers Look For

Employers seek a variety of skills, knowledge and experience when hiring for professional roles. While specific needs vary by industry and employer, recent surveys* indicate the top skills they seek are as follows:

- 1 **Strong oral and written communication skills**
- 2 **Ability to work in teams and collaborate**
- 3 **Ethical judgment and decision-making**
- 4 **Critical thinking and analytical skills**

Employers also look for job-specific knowledge, relevant technology skills, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real world settings. These are learned through internships, volunteer leadership roles and relevant jobs related to your career interests.

* Hart Research Associates, 2015. Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success. Retrieved from Association of American Colleges & Universities Website: <https://aacu.org/leap/public-opinion-research/2015-survey-results>; National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), 2016. Career Readiness Defined. Retrieved from NACE website: www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/

Get the Help you Need

Mercy College provides you with a large number of support services from the time you enter the college through graduation. We offer a personalized learning experience that includes the College's Personalized Achievement Contract (PACT) program. PACT is a nationally recognized mentoring program that serves as a model for student success. Your PACT mentor is your point person who helps you navigate college life.

Mercy College promotes student learning and holistic development by offering programs and services that support students' academic development, inspire personal growth, and foster interpersonal connections and collaboration to prepare students for success in our diverse community and beyond. Check out the **Division of Student Affairs website** for available resources.

The Career and Professional Development team at Mercy College offers tools, training, and exposure to opportunities that empower our students to take ownership of their career success. Attend our events, career fairs and programs to learn and practice career skills, or see a counselor to get tips on finding internships or jobs, to practice interviewing, or to hone your professional resume. Our **website** also contains videos, resume formats and other useful tips to help our students prepare for their professional careers.

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BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

A PROGRAM OF OPPORTUNITIES

The Behavioral Science degree program is a unique combination of courses in Sociology and Psychology. The "backbone" of the major is a series of courses that ensure students learn about the classic theories and research, the research methods most often utilized by behavioral scientists, and the electronic tools and skills needed to be successful. From this foundation, students select an additional set of courses in consultation with their academic advisors. This element of choice allows students to focus on those topics and courses that are of most interest. Additionally, the program offers many opportunities for career

development through credit-earning internships at a variety of New York area worksites.

Potential career paths for students who are studying Behavioral Science at Mercy include human services,

government, the legal and criminal justice fields, business, education, and health care. This major is the choice of many students who have taken some coursework at other colleges, and wish to complete their degree programs at Mercy.

Degree OPTIONS

**Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science**

Specializations:

- *Community Health*
- *Gerontology*
- *Health Services Management*

WHY STUDY BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE?

This degree program is distinct from other types of degrees because of its flexibility. Students get to truly 'chart their own path' when they major in Behavioral Science, a feature that invites creativity in creating a program that is almost fully self-designed. Outstanding and experienced full-time faculty teach our courses in Sociology and Psychology. In addition, Behavioral Science students benefit from many adjunct faculty who bring 'real world' experience to the classroom. The opportunity to interact with Professors who are working in fields related to Behavioral Science means that students have access to career guidance from Professors with extensive experience, and are exposed to a wide range of careers.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

MAJOR to CAREER MAP

DEGREE OPTIONS
Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science

Specializations:
Community Health, Gerontology,
Health Services Management



FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD

	1st PHASE	2nd PHASE	3rd PHASE	4th PHASE/FINAL YEAR
TAKE THE COURSES YOU NEED	<p>PSYN 101, SOCL 101, CISC 120</p> <p>Meet with your PACT Mentor to discuss your major interests.</p> <p>Use the Academic Program Sequence map to create your academic plan.</p>	<p>BHSC 244 & BHSC 226</p> <p>Explore elective courses in Psychology or Sociology related to your interests.</p> <p>Participate in class discussions and presentations to build valuable workplace skills.</p> <p>Strive for the best grades you can get. Academic performance matters when you apply to jobs and/or graduate school.</p>	<p>BHSC 348</p> <p>Continue to enroll in Psychology or Sociology courses related to your career interests.</p> <p>Continue strong academic performance to connect what you are learning to your career plan.</p> <p>Meet with your PACT Mentor to ensure you are on track to graduate.</p>	<p>BHSC 426</p> <p>Check in with your PACT Mentor to ensure all course requirements are met.</p> <p>Stay committed and finish strong! You are almost there!</p> <p>Apply to graduate! Degree conferral application deadlines are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.</p>
GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND MAKE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS	<p>If not already working, get a job to gain experience. It is best if the job is in your field of interest but all work experience has value.</p> <p>If applicable, apply for Federal Work Study jobs in Career Maverick to start building relevant work skills right on campus.</p>	<p>Start learning about internships in your career interests and how to secure one. See a career counselor to learn more.</p> <p>Try to get work experience in a field of interest. See Career Maverick for opportunities.</p> <p>Consider studying abroad to gain international experience.</p>	<p>Complete an internship for credit in your field (BHSC 399). Apply for an internship grant if unpaid.</p> <p>Perform research to deepen your understanding of a relevant topic.</p> <p>Create your LinkedIn account and ask a career counselor to review it.</p>	<p>Complete a second internship if possible. Perform and present your research at a conference.</p> <p>Update your LinkedIn account and join relevant groups.</p> <p>Attend Mercy College career fairs and events to learn about opportunities, and connect with employers looking for talent.</p>
CONNECT WITH OUR MERCY COMMUNITY	<p>Join Career Communities to explore & start learning about industries of interest.</p> <p>Attend Career & Professional Development events to start learning early.</p> <p>Join a club on campus such as the Behavioral Sciences Club or the Psychology Club. Join Student Government! Employers love to see campus involvement.</p>	<p>Take on more responsibility within your clubs or organizations.</p> <p>Attend workshops and events to learn and network with staff and other students. They will become part of the network you are building.</p> <p>Volunteer to help with planning of events and outreach for your career community.</p>	<p>Join an Honor Society such as Pi Gamma Mu and get involved.</p> <p>Make yourself known to your Professors (who you are, your skills and interests, etc.) Later on, they may be willing to serve as a professional reference for you.</p>	<p>Join the Mercy Alumni LinkedIn Group to connect with alumni in your major and career interest groups.</p> <p>Attend senior events held by Student Life and Career & Professional Development to celebrate your upcoming graduation and career next steps.</p> <p>Touch base with your Professors and key staff to ask for reference letters, if needed. Thank them!</p>
GAIN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE	<p>Volunteer for events such as fundraising for causes, or assist with a community event for a youth group, a political group, or a religious organization. You will build skills, connections and make a difference.</p> <p>Apply to become a Mav Team member, as a Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader or Peer Mentor. Contact studentlife@mercy.edu</p>	<p>Make a commitment to an organization that helps others. A few examples are the American Red Cross, the United Way, or local community or religious organizations.</p> <p>Apply to become a Mav Team member!</p>	<p>Apply what you have learned in a leadership role in an organization.</p> <p>Help organize events, fundraising efforts, volunteers, budgets and other resources.</p>	<p>Increase your contribution through a leadership role in an organization. You will build skills you will use in leadership roles in your career, and meet people who will help you as your career develops.</p> <p>People you meet early in your career often want to help students, and may play an important role in your professional career.</p>
GET READY FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE AFTER GRADUATION	<p>See your PACT Mentor to discuss your major to career interests. Check out Focus 2, the free Mercy College career exploration tool.</p> <p>Make an appointment with a career counselor to establish or update your career plan (CPD@mercy.edu).</p> <p>Build a professional resume and cover letter and upload them to Career Maverick.</p>	<p>Continue to update your resume. Create your elevator pitch, a 30-second speech that summarizes who you are, what you do and why you would be a perfect candidate. Learn how to interview successfully.</p> <p>Review the many career resources available on the Mercy website.</p>	<p>Get help thinking about graduate school from a faculty member. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare for required tests (GRE, LSAT, GMAT).</p> <p>Investigate requirements for full time jobs in your career areas of interest. Be proactive; this depends on you!</p> <p>Practice mock interviews using our Mock Interview Tool in Career Maverick, or meet with a career counselor.</p>	<p>Apply to jobs or higher education programs or make other plans. Do not wait until after graduation!</p> <p>Practice interviewing! Learn to convey your own skills and experiences in relation to what employers are looking for.</p>

CAREER EXAMPLES

Where could I go after graduation?*

Human Services & Education
Community Mental Health Services
Family & Marriage Counseling*
Mental Health Counseling*
Substance Abuse Counseling*
Education*
Psychology/Psychiatry*
Social Justice
Social Work*

Public Service, Law & Government
Community Education/
Crime Prevention
Political Offices & Campaigns
Public Policy & NGOs
Government Offices & Agencies

Media, Marketing & Communications
Communications & Broadcasting
Corporate Communications
Marketing
Public Relations

Accounting, Finance & Business
Business Management/
Non-profit Management
Entrepreneurship
Human Resources/
People Operations/Talent

Health & Wellness
Administration & Support Services
Community Health Services
Corporate Wellness
Health Promotion/Education
Patient Advocacy
Public Health

Clinical Healthcare
Clinical Psychology*
Communication Disorders*
Nursing*
Physician Assistant*

Science, Technology and Math (STEM)
Psychology Research
Science Research
Statistics*
Data Science*

*Some careers may require further education/training/certifications