Q: We frequently talk about skills that we expect students in our majors to acquire: critical thinking, communication, research and analysis, organization, and empathy. In addition to these more general skills, are there specific skills that your program offers to prospective students?

A: The BA in Sociology, whether it be the Academic or Applied track, sensitizes and trains students for applied or service orientations. Our program gives students an understanding of social problems, which uniquely orients them to caring, insightful methods of engagement with those in the public who face social inequity. This makes our graduates easily eligible for work in either government or private programs that deal with the repair of social inequality.

Q: How does your program give students an advantage in today’s job market?

A: Sociology has, through the years, been recognized as the liberal arts major that is most frequently hired in entry-level positions by a large variety of corporations. Because of this success rate, we are now expanding applied sociology programs that directly focus on job market needs. Additionally, the fact that most of our graduates do not wish to leave the area means that we have many successful alumni in the area who are willing to come back to Rowan for special events we hold, such as our spring picnic, and to network and share job market experience with our current students.

Q: What jobs / careers are students in your major best positioned to pursue?

A: Most frequently, we see our graduates in positions in corporations such as the Job Corps, AmeriCorps, and Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS, Division of Youth and Family Services). Additionally, we see many of our graduates in entry-level positions in a wide variety of businesses, hospitals, universities, and corporations.

The Bottom Line

Here at Rowan University, we have put together a state-of-the-art program complete with a curriculum based on topic courses that speak to the social worlds and sensibilities of our times. We also provide hands-on experience in human services courses, which are geared to a practical skills-based curriculum for the health and social service job market. In addition to our current programs, our department is also planning exciting things for the future. The Sociology and Anthropology Department is currently developing two new interdisciplinary majors in Human Services and in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Both of these majors will give students specific training for jobs in our area now, as well as new ones opening up in the future.