

**CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO WORK WITH PEOPLE:
A COMPARISON OF PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, AND SOCIAL WORK**

PROGRAM	Degree	Terminal Degree (1)	Typical Jobs	Comments
PSYCHOLOGY	B.A.	Ph.D.	With a bachelor's degree, entry-level work in human service organizations (probation, mental health or counseling services), business, or industry. With a master's degree, counseling, including private practice, and case management. With the Ph.D., research and evaluation, university teaching, testing and assessment, therapy, supervision, and administration.	The Ph.D. is considered the terminal academic degree, and allows for licensure as a psychologist. Unlike other disciplines, clinically trained psychologists are usually fully prepared to conduct independent psychometric assessments. The Master's degree often allows for licensure as a LPC in Pennsylvania. The program emphasizes both psychological research and the application of research findings in service, treatment, or educational settings.
SOCIOLOGY	B.A.	Ph.D.	With a bachelor's degree, entry level work in organizations involved with human services, criminal justice, advocacy, research, and/or education. With the M.A. and Ph.D., research and evaluation, planning, and university teaching.	The Ph.D. is considered the terminal academic degree. Sociology prepares students with a foundation in the social science skills of research and analysis, applying these skills to fields like criminal justice, race relations, the family, and aging.
SOCIAL WORK	B.A.S.W./B.S.W.	M.S.W., practice; Ph.D., academic	With a bachelor's degree, entry level work in human service organizations (social service agency, hospital, counseling center) with individuals, families, groups, or communities. With a master's degree, case management, counseling or therapy, advocacy, community organization practice, planning, research, and management. With a Ph.D., administration, university research and teaching (some schools have the DSW, which trains in counseling or therapy).	The M.S.W. is considered the terminal practice degree and the Ph.D. the terminal academic degree (for university or college research and teaching). Social work prepares students to do bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment and diagnosis with individuals, families, and groups, but not psychometric evaluation. The B.A.S.W. program at Pitt prepares students for generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities (as well as for pursuing graduate education). Students begin to specialize when they enter practice or in a master's program.

(1) Terminal degree is the degree that enables the practitioner to attain licensing and/or credentials in a given discipline, or to fully meet the requirements of the discipline.

Information for psychology and social work adapted from Christiane Brems, Ph.D. *Basic skills in psychotherapy and counseling*, 2001, Brooks/Cole, pp. 6-8. Chart compiled by Seton Hill University.