

What Can I Do With a Minor or Certificate in Labour Studies?

LABOUR STUDIES

Labour Studies is an interdisciplinary subject exploring the world of work and workers from both a historical and contemporary perspective. Labour Studies casts a wide net investigating all aspects of work involving paid and unpaid labour, the study of unions (including collective bargaining and grievance processing), the labour movement, working class communities, workplace equity, and labour's relationship to the economy and the state. As a program, labor studies enables participants to serve more effectively as members and leaders in their organizations. Participants can also gain a sense of the past and present contexts of work and unionism.

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED WITH YOUR DEGREE?

While the academic knowledge you acquire through your BA may be directly applicable to some careers, the general skills you gain with an Arts degree are the most valuable to employers. These skills are not limited to course work, and may be gained through paid and/or volunteer work both on and off campus. The knowledge and skills gained through work experience, volunteering and extra-curricular activities are relevant to future work.

Communication Skills

The ability to communicate ideas clearly and efficiently in a variety of mediums (written, oral, visually, and electronically).

Ability to effectively communicate issues related to labour with sensitivity as well as to question the validity of established theoretical frameworks and stereotypes.

Information Management

The ability to locate, gather, and organize information using appropriate technology and information systems.

Problem Solving

The ability to use critical thinking skills to evaluate and solve problems demonstrating the ability to be creative and innovative in identifying solutions.

Teamwork Skills

Able to work effectively within a group.

Demonstrates the ability to lead or support the group while monitoring the success of a project and identifying ways to improve it.

Personal Management Skills

The ability to plan, design, and carry out a project or task from start to finish, with well defined objectives and outcomes.

The ability to work effectively and independently under deadlines.

WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Career Services is your one-stop shop for more information. Through our workshops, one on one career and work search advising, and groups, you'll have access to information, resources and career and peer educators to help you no matter what stage of planning you are in, from exploring your interests to practicing for an interview, we can help.

For the self-directed, our on-line and print self-help resources covering topics from career exploration to researching careers to conducting a targeted work search are easily accessible. Check us out!

Visit the CSI—our blog with articles, job postings, employers and events on campus, and tips from the Career Services staff!

SFU CAREER SERVICES

Simon Fraser University
Burnaby Campus, MBC 0300

Come to the Maggie Benston Centre and go down to the lowest level. You will find us there Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm. Check out our blog for the latest articles, tips and news!

Phone: 778-782-3106
E-mail: career_services@sfu.ca
Website: www.sfu.ca/career.html
Blog: www.sfu.ca/career/csi.html

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH LABOUR STUDIES?

What are some of your Career Options?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of career options. Some of them may require further education than a minor or certificate in Labor Studies.

DIRECT Career Options: A minor or certificate in Labor Studies will serve as a credential for getting any of the following career choices as the skills required are similar to the skills acquired throughout your Labor Studies program.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

Plans employee social activities, organizes new employee orientation sessions, assists in publishing employee newsletters. Reports to Employee Relations Specialist or Manager. Works for employers in all fields.

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELOR

Helps individuals make career decisions and develop job-seeking skills. Counselors may help clients locate and apply for jobs. Settings include job-training centers, social agencies, and correctional institutions.

JOB COORDINATOR

In public programs, job coordinators help their clients move from "welfare-to-work." May serve as a liaison between their office and public and private employers, implement new programs, and assist their clients in all facets of the employment process.

LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCHER

Assists labor relations specialists with detailed research required for contract negotiations. Prepares advisory reports on union-management agreements. Works for unions, unionized employers, and government arbitrators.

LABOR UNION ORGANIZER

Helps organize workers in their efforts to gain collective bargaining advantages. Organizers usually help develop an organizational committee, identify leaders on the work site, and then train those individuals.

LOBBY ORGANIZER

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives. Employers include special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

LESS DIRECT Career Options:

Knowledge of Labour Studies may be less pertinent to these positions and the minor or certificate alone in Labour Studies may not serve as a credential for employment.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVE

Researches, analyzes, and monitors staffing policies in order to achieve affirmative action goals. Conducts outreach activities in order to identify and attract qualified minority applicants for company openings.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Assists in all aspects of human resources management, including record keeping, interviewing and hiring, resolving wage and salary issues, and administering career development, job training, and employee benefit programs. Works for employers of all kinds.

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYST

Provides information and suggests policy initiatives to policy makers in specific area(s) of expertise. Presents findings to interested organizations and the media, analyzes previous policies to determine their effectiveness, and recommends changes based on these findings.

STUDENT UNION COORDINATOR

Operates facilities and furnishes services for students through a college union or student center. Includes bookstore management, conference and special class coordination, food services and recreational services.

INDIRECT Career Options: On the surface, the following career options may not appear to have much to do with the study of Labor Studies. Yet the primary skills required in these careers are significantly related with some of the skills a program in Labour Studies requires.

CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT COUNSELOR

Assists individuals in setting and implementing career and job-search goals, teaches decision-making and job-search skills, networks among employers for interviewing opportunities and internships, and develops related library resources. Employers include private firms and universities and colleges.

ELIGIBILITY WORKER

Screens prospective beneficiaries of a government program to determine their eligibility for the program's services. Works for federal, state and local government agencies.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In an activist organization, program coordinators may supervise long-term public education and organize public events or demonstrations. Other responsibilities include administrative, research-oriented, organizational, and public-relations duties. Ability in public speaking is a valuable skill.