



Independent Contractor Job Openings for Sociological Researchers

Docent Research Group is a Christian non-profit that provides custom research and consulting for Christian organizations. The bulk of our clients are Baptist, Presbyterian, and non-denominational Evangelical churches in the United States, and they tend to be much larger than average churches in terms of weekly attendance.

We have recently expanded our offerings of social science research for our clients, and we now have multiple positions open for researchers to help on various projects.

Docent is looking for Master's students in sociology and exceptionally talented advanced undergraduates in sociology. We are also glad to receive applications from people who aren't sociology students as long as they are experienced in social scientific research. The status of this job would be as an independent contractor (IRS Form 1099).

Applicants who are selected for this job can expect to work about 5 to 30 hours per month, although the hours can vary considerably. You would work remotely, and it is up to you which projects you take. Essentially, new hires would enter a small pool of sociological researchers who can claim projects as they become available. Docent doesn't care *when* or *where* you work—as long as you are responsive to emails and meet predetermined deadlines.

Pay starts at \$20 per hour.

You will be an attractive applicant if you have:

- Strong analytic and writing skills.
- The ability to follow specific instructions even if you read/hear them only one time in an email or phone call.
- Good communication skills over email and phone.
- At least an introductory knowledge of quantitative or qualitative sociological research methods (or both).
- The ability to meet deadlines.
- Access to peer-reviewed journals through your university's or college's electronic library archives.
- Familiarity with the kind of programs, ministries, and experiences a person is likely to encounter in large Evangelical churches in the United States. (No formal theological education is required.)
- An unrelenting eye for details.

- A desire to help theologically conservative Protestant churches and other organizations grow and thrive.

Examples of the kind of quantitative work a Docent researcher might do:

- Using U.S. Census data, put together an in-depth demographic report on a particular county in Louisiana for an Evangelical church that is planning on starting a new multisite venue in that county.
- Read data tables from published research reports, discern the most relevant information in them, and create charts and graphs using Excel that appropriately represent those data visually.
- Locate and compile current, reliable, nationally-representative statistics on American adults' views and practices related to marriage, divorce, and childbearing, as well as how those statistics have changed over recent decades.

Examples of the kind of qualitative work a Docent researcher might do:

- Schedule, conduct, and analyze phone interviews with pastors at ten different large Evangelical churches about how they handle church mergers. Then compile your findings into a written report of common practices.
- Write a 12-page literature review summarizing peer-reviewed research on leadership, strategy, and resources in social movements, and then theorize how this literature might apply to contemporary Christian movements.
- Explain in plain language how insights from leading social theorists and researchers (such as Rogers Brubaker, Peter Berger, Pierre Bourdieu, Randall Collins, or Mark Chaves) can help Evangelical pastors better understand their immediate social contexts.

To apply:

Email a short letter of interest (no more than one single-spaced page; use .docx or .pdf) as an attachment to our Director of Social Research, Dr. Brad Vermurlen. His email address is brad@docentgroup.com.

In your letter, please introduce yourself, explain your familiarity with social science research, state your current degree program and institution, and specify if you have a preference for quantitative or qualitative projects. These job openings will remain open until they are filled, and work would begin very shortly after being hired.