

A background image of a campus scene with several palm trees in the foreground and a building in the background, all under a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Upon graduation sociology majors will be familiar with the basic theories, methodological approaches, and substantive research areas that comprise the core of contemporary sociological work.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Students will demonstrate knowledge of sociological theories, methods, and major substantive foci. They will demonstrate the ability to apply sociological procedures including conducting literature reviews, developing research questions, operationalizing concepts, collecting and analyzing data to identify and explain social patterns.

CRITICAL THINKING

Students will demonstrate the ability to: One, examine social questions from multiple perspectives; two, examine their own preconceptions/biases about social issues; and three, apply logic and data analysis to developing and answering sociological questions. These skills include the ability to deconstruct the social ideologies that shape popular thought about major social issues, such as the roles of racism and sexism in shaping contemporary global society. In sum, students will exhibit the ability to think sociologically, i.e., to think about social issues as constituted by and through complex sets of social relations, including power relations, rather than as stemming from the traits of individuals, and to think about their own position in those relations.

COMMUNICATION

Students will demonstrate the ability to express their knowledge and skills through writings and presentations that are clear, grammatically correct, well-structured (articulate a thesis, support it with evidence, discuss the implications) and comport with the publication guidelines of the American Sociological Association.



Student Learning Objectives for Sociology MA Program

All students in the Sociology MA program must successfully complete Social Theory and Research Methods and Design. Students on the generalist track must complete 36 credits. Students on the specialist track must complete a minimum of six credits of Master's Thesis (SYA 6971).

Learning Objective #1 (Communication, critical thinking)

Students should be able to clearly state the thesis or major argument/question of thesis or argument-driven writing. The statement should be clear to the reader and should guide the writing.

Learning Objective #2 (Content knowledge)

Students will be able to use specialized sociological terms accurately and appropriately.

Learning Objective #3 (Critical thinking)

Students will be able to succinctly summarize the essence of an argument made by an author (or authors) whose work they are referencing. Further, students will be able to synthesize the arguments and findings of multiple works.

Learning Objective #4 (Content knowledge)

Students will clearly engage with methodological issues. In a literature review paper, this will take the form of assessing the methods used by authors they cite. In a paper where the student collects data, methods are clearly described.