

Learning Goals for the Sociology Undergraduate Program

The Sociology faculty has developed and adopted these goals and objectives to guide teaching and learning. In participation with our students, we are committed to accomplishing these goals and objectives. Therefore, Sociology students should study, review and reflect upon:

1. The discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality, such that the student will be able to:
 - a) describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other disciplines; and
 - b) apply the sociological imagination, and sociological principles and concepts to his/her own life

2. The role of theory in sociology, such that the student will be able to:
 - a) define theory and describe its role in building sociological knowledge;
 - b) compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations;
 - c) show how theories reflect the historical and cultural contexts in which they were developed; and
 - d) describe and apply some basic theories or theoretical orientations to social life.

3. The use of qualitative and quantitative methods in sociology, such that the student will be able to:
 - a) identify basic methodological approaches and describe the general role of methods in building sociological knowledge;
 - b) compare and contrast basic methodological approaches for gathering data;
 - c) design a sociological research study;
 - d) have experience in data gathering, analysis, and interpretation; and
 - e) critically assess a research report.

4. Basic concepts in sociology, such that the student will be able to define, give examples, and demonstrate the relevance of the following; culture; social change; socialization; social interaction; stratification; social structure; socio-economic structure; institutions; and differentiation by race/ethnicity, gender, age, class, and status.

5. How culture and social structure operate in the United States and global contexts, such that the student will be able to:
 - a) show how institutions affect each other and individuals;
 - b) demonstrate how social change affects social structures and individuals;
 - c) demonstrate how culture and social structure vary across time and place, and how such variations affect social life; and
 - d) Identify the interrelationship between social policy and social structure.

6. Reciprocal relationships between individuals and society, such that the student will be:
 - a) explain how societal and structural factors influence individual behavior and the development of the self; and

- b) demonstrate how social interaction and the self influence society and social structure.
7. The macro/micro continuum, such that the student will be able to:
- a) compare and contrast theories and research at various points along this continuum; and
 - b) identify research questions and analytical issues relevant to each location along this continuum.
8. The process of professional socialization, such that students will be able to:
- a) identify, analyze, and apply the ethics of the discipline (including the ASA Code of Ethics);
 - b) practice various modes of sociological discourse;
 - c) explore the uses of undergraduate and graduate degrees in sociology; and
 - d) analyze the labor market, world of work, and methods (resume/curriculum vitae writing, networking, etc.) for obtaining employment.