

## **Student Learning Outcomes for the Doctoral Program in Sociology**

1. Know basic theories in the discipline of sociology and theories relevant to particular subfields. Be able to apply relevant theoretical concepts to frame a research problem and to interpret the theoretical implications of a research project.
2. Know basic quantitative and qualitative methods of conducting research in sociology and the ethical standards required to protect human subjects of research. Be able to write a formal research proposal according to the conventions of the discipline, apply relevant quantitative or qualitative methods (including statistics) to a particular research problem, analyze the results, and report research findings appropriately using the conventions of these methods.
- 3 . Acquire a professional level of knowledge in selected subfields of sociology in order to be equipped to teach a course on the subject or to develop a research proposal that will advance the field in this particular area.
4. Be able to carry out a research project that will contribute new knowledge to the field, using appropriate methods to conduct the research and analyze the results. This includes the ability to write up a well-organized and persuasive account of the research project for a professional audience, using the conventions of the discipline to present the research problem in context, articulate the reasons for the methods chosen and how they were implemented, present relevant data and analyze it appropriately, and articulate the significance and implications of the research for the advancement of the field.
5. Be able to present research findings both orally in a professional presentation and through writing academic journal articles, following the conventions of the discipline

## **Curriculum Map of the Student Learning Outcomes**

Students achieve these learning outcomes through a combination of formal coursework and the completion of a series of writing requirements under the guidance and supervision of a faculty committee. While courses provide the basic tools, the skills are developed and evaluated through the student's independent performance of research, writing, and oral presentations under the guidance of the faculty committee, which judges when each task has been completed satisfactorily. This process also provides professional socialization in the practices and expectations of the field.

#1. This is achieved through Soc. 611 and 612 for basic theories, plus relevant portions of other substantive seminars for the theories of those subfields. Mastery is evaluated by the instructor for seminars. It is assessed first by the student's guidance committee and then by the departmental Qualifying Review committee through evaluation of the two papers submitted for the Qualifying Review prior to admission to candidacy, and subsequently by the student's doctoral committee in the dissertation prospectus and the doctoral dissertation.

#2. This is achieved through Soc. 605, 606 and other specialized methods and statistics courses (607, 608, 609, 705) as well as in substantive seminars that require student research papers. Mastery is evaluated by

the instructor for seminars. It is assessed first by the student's guidance committee and then by the departmental Qualifying Review committee through the two papers submitted for the Qualifying Review prior to admission to candidacy, and subsequently by the student's doctoral committee in the dissertation prospectus and the doctoral dissertation.

#3. This is achieved through for substantive seminars on various topics and subfields of sociology, through the student's guided preparation of reading lists for the comprehensive exams and independent reading. Mastery is evaluated by the instructor for individual seminars, and then by the student's doctoral committee through performance on the written and oral comprehensive exams.

#4. This is achieved through seminars in which students carry out individual research projects, through independent reading courses to develop larger individual research projects, and through the process of developing a dissertation prospectus and researching and writing a dissertation under close supervision by the doctoral committee. Mastery is evaluated by the instructor for individual seminars, by the student's guidance committee and the departmental Qualifying Review committee for the two Qualifying Review papers, and by the student's doctoral committee through approval of the dissertation prospectus and the doctoral dissertation and oral defense.

#5. This is achieved through seminars in which students write up and report orally on their individual research projects, through students' presentation of their own research at departmental forums, through submission and acceptance of their research papers for presentation at conferences and professional conventions at the local, regional, national, and international levels, and through submission of articles for professional journal publication after they have been presented at conferences and revised. Faculty members provide guidance and critiques as students prepare for these presentations and submissions. Although students regularly submit papers for presentation at professional meetings, the research paper requirement of the program ensures that every student submits an original research paper for professional journal publication and reviews the external reviews with faculty guidance. Mastery is evaluated by the instructor for individual seminars and through success in having research papers accepted for presentation, through audience comments at presentations, through reviewers' comments on articles submitted for publication, and ultimately by successful publication.