Learning Outcomes

Master of Arts (M.A.)

1. KNOW: Graduates will be able to demonstrate conceptual understanding of theoretical concepts, proficiency in quantitative analysis for continuous and discrete outcomes and predictors, and understanding of sociological approaches to a major substantive area at the level required to contribute to the discipline of sociology.

2. KNOW: Graduates will be able to demonstrate conceptual understanding of the ethical practice of research and research protections.

3. CRITICAL THINKING: Graduates will be able to critically conceptualize and define the sociological aspects of a problem as part of sociological research.

4. CRITICAL THINKING: Graduates will be able to critically analyze both strengths and weaknesses of competing sociological arguments at the level required to contribute to the discipline of sociology.

5. RESEARCH: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to design and execute a research strategy appropriate to answering a significant question having real-world applications in the field of sociology.

6. COMMUNICATE: Graduates will be able to effectively communicate a sociological argument, research design, analytic strategy, findings, and conclusions in formal presentations and in written works to scholars in the field as well as students at different levels.

7. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: Graduates will demonstrate a commitment to active citizenship in the discipline, including engagement in service to the profession and society at large.

8. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: Graduates will demonstrate a strict adherence to the ethical practice of research and professional honesty.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

1. KNOW: Students will demonstrate an understanding of major sociological theories, concepts, research designs, and analysis strategies appropriate to their MAJOR and MINOR areas of specialization.

2. APPLY/CREATE: Students will demonstrate an ability to evaluate and critique empirical research and theoretical approaches in their MAJOR area of specialization; identify questions and testable hypotheses that will make a contribution to the literature in their MAJOR area of specialization; and formulate their own arguments based on integrating the literature in their MAJOR area of specialization.

3. COMMUNICATION: Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate (in oral and written form) effectively to scholarly and student audiences; argue persuasively their positions; and contribute to the discipline through clearly written, well-organized manuscripts, proposals, and formal presentations.

4. RESEARCH SKILLS: Students will demonstrate an ability to devise a research design, conduct an analysis, and interpret results appropriate to the argument being made and the hypotheses being tested.

5. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: Students will demonstrate an awareness of professional norms and rules of civility in their personal interactions and communication; awareness of and compliance with the ethical practice of research; and awareness of and compliance with expectations of good citizenship in the organizations with which they are associated.