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.