

Dear Sociology Major,

The Department of Sociology welcomes you as a new major. The Department Chair, the faculty, and department office staff (Amador Hall 452) are committed to making your decision to major in sociology a positive one.

Assessment

One aspect of being a sociology major is that you will be expected to participate as a student in the Department's Assessment Plan. This Plan is mandated by the University and its purpose is to have you provide feedback to the Department and to the Faculty about your academic performance and your perception of what you have learned and experienced as a sociology major.

The major purpose of assessment is to use the information you provide to improve the department and to reflect on the curriculum which is offered. The feedback which you will provide gives the faculty "snapshots" of your learning and growth. You will be asked to reflect on your experiences as a sociology major and as a student at CSUS.

Every five years the department must undergo a program review. Your perceptions of your experience in the department will become part of this review process. The aggregate data we accumulate from reading your responses to the assessment surveys and your work in the required core courses gives useful information--sometimes sobering and sometimes encouraging--about the Sociology Department's curriculum and program.

Departmental Program Learning Goals

We have identified several program goals in the sociology curriculum. These goals represent what the faculty believe you should be learning, studying, and reflecting upon as a sociology major. You may want to note these and to refer to them as your progress through the major.

PROGRAM GOAL 1: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.

PROGRAM GOAL 2: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on the role of theory in sociology.

PROGRAM GOAL 3: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on the role of evidence and quantitative and qualitative research methods in sociology.

PROGRAM GOAL 4: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to have basic computer skills necessary to find, communicate, create, and apply sociological knowledge and information.

PROGRAM GOAL 5: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on basic concepts in sociology and their fundamental theoretical interrelations.

PROGRAM GOAL 6: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on how social structures operate.

PROGRAM GOAL 7: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on reciprocal relationships between individuals and society.

PROGRAM GOAL 8: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on the internal diversity of American society.

PROGRAM GOAL 9 The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to study, review, and reflect on the place of American society in the global world and community.

PROGRAM GOAL 10: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to think critically.

PROGRAM GOAL 11: The sociology major at CSU Sacramento will be expected to have the writing skills necessary to communicate effectively with persons whom they encounter in their work, civil obligation, and personal life.

Your Specific Obligations to Assessment before Receiving Your BA in Sociology

Your responsibilities as a sociology major in the assessment process are as follows. You will be asked to complete each of the following before you receive your BA in Sociology.

First, complete the **Entering Sociology Major Survey**.

Second, complete a **Graduating Senior Survey**.

Third, some of your work may be selected by your instructors for inclusion in a departmental, **collective portfolio of student work** in sociology. Your name will be removed from the selected work. You will be asked to give your permission before your work is included in the portfolio. The portfolio will be used by the Sociology Department to collectively evaluate students and the program. It will not be used to assess your individual performance. The instructor of the courses will assess your individual performance on the selected work.

After You Receive Your BA in Sociology

Every five years or so you will receive an **Alumni Survey** from CSUS which will also help in gathering information about what happens over time to the graduates of the Sociology Department Program. The Department and the University will greatly appreciate your cooperation in returning the Alumni Survey.