

Appendix I: Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for the Sociology Graduate Program

Here is the list of the detailed program learning outcomes (PLOs) for the sociology graduate program:

1. Sociology graduate students are expected to demonstrate advanced sociological knowledge including theories, methods, perspectives and other content: they will (**PLO 1: Advanced sociological knowledge** adopted from the *Degree Qualification Profile*).

- 1.1: Elucidate major research methods, sociological theories and approaches to inquiry and/or school of practices;
- 1.2: Articulate their sources; and
- 1.3: Illustrate both their applications and their relationship to allied fields.

2: They will demonstrate a deep understanding of sociological contributions: they will (**PLO 2: Sociological contributions and applications** adopted from the *Degree Qualification Profile*):

- 2.1: Assess the contribution of major sociologists;
- 2.2: Describe major methodologies and/or practices in sociology; and
- 2.3: Implement at least two of them through projects, papers or performances

3: Our graduate students are able to demonstrate a deep understanding of challenges in sociology: they will (**PLO 3: Challenges in sociology** adopted from the *Degree Qualification Profile*):

- 3.1: Articulate a full range of challenges involved in practicing sociology;
- 3.2: Elucidate the learning edges of the field; and
- 3.3: Delineate the current limits of sociological theory, knowledge and/or practice by independently initiating, assembling, arranging and reformulating ideas, concepts, design and/or techniques in carrying out a project directed at a sociological challenge which lies outside conventional boundaries.

4. Our graduate students are able to communicate effectively in writing about any topics from a sociological perspective; they will (**PLO 4: Written communication** adopted from the VALUE):

- 4.1: Identify the purpose of their writing and use the purpose to develop a composition.
- 4.2: Organize materials and arguments to explain or persuade effectively.
- 4.3: Use credible, relevant and updated evidence and sources
- 4.4: Integrate research findings into their work, including proper citation and formatting.
- 4.5: Display technical proficiency in writing (grammar, spelling, etc.).
- 4.6: Write clearly and revise when needed

5. Sociology graduate students are able to demonstrate effective oral communication skills: they will (**PLO 5: Oral communication** adopted from the VALUE rubric):

- 5.1: Use a clear and consistent organizational pattern to present content cohesively (**Organization**);
- 5.2: Choose memorable and appropriate language to enhance the effectiveness of the presentation (**Language**);
- 5.3: Select different types of delivery techniques to make the presentation compelling and the speaker appear polished and confident (**Delivery**);
- 5.4: Use different types of materials to significantly support the presentation and establish the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic (**Supporting materials**);
- 5.5: Deliver a compelling central message (**Central message**);

6: Sociology graduate students will demonstrate a habit of systematically exploring issues, ideas, artifacts and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion": they will (**PLO 6: Critical thinking** adopted from the VALUE rubric):

- 6.1: Clearly state the issue/problem which needs to be considered critically, comprehensively describe the issue/problem, and deliver all relevant information so it is necessary for a full understanding of the issue/problem (**Explanation of issues**).
- 6.2: Thoroughly interpret and evaluate the information taken from source(s) to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis (**Evidence**)
- 6.3: Thoroughly analyze their own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position (**Influence of context and assumptions**).
- 6.4: **Students' specific position (perspective, thesis, or hypothesis)** takes into account the complexities (all sides) of an issue. Limits of position and others' points of view are acknowledged and synthesized within position (**Student's position**);
- 6.5: Conclusions, consequences and implications are logical and reflect student's **informed evaluation** and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order (**Conclusions and related outcomes**).

7. Sociology graduate students will demonstrate "a set of cognitive, affective and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts": they will (**PLO 7: Intercultural Knowledge and Competency** from the VALUE rubric):

- 7.1: Articulate insights into their own cultural rules and biases; demonstrate awareness how their experiences have shaped these rules and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self- description.
- 7.2: Demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, beliefs or practices.
- 7.3: Interpret intercultural experience from their own perspectives and more than one worldview while demonstrating an ability to act in a supportive manner which recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.
- 7.4: Articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication and be able to skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on those differences.
- 7.5: Ask complex questions about other cultures; seek out and articulate answers to these questions which reflect multiple cultural perspectives.
- 7.6: Initiate and develop interactions with different cultures and suspends judgment in valuing he r/his interactions with culturally different others.

8. Sociology graduate students are expected to apply sociological knowledge and skills to systematically explore issues or works in many fields through the collection and analysis of evidence which results in informed conclusions, judgments, or recommendations: they will (**PLO 8: Inquiry and analysis** from the VALUE rubric):

- 8.1: Identify a creative, focused, and manageable topic which addresses potentially significant yet previously less-explored aspects of an issue.
- 8.2: Synthesize in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches.
- 8.3: Skillfully develop all elements of a methodology or theoretical framework and synthesize appropriate methodology or theoretical frameworks from across disciplines or from relevant sub-disciplines.
- 8.4: Organize and synthesize evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences or similarities.
- 8.5: State a conclusion that is a logical extrapolation from the inquiry findings.
- 8.6: Insightfully discuss limitations and implications of the study.