

Program Mission:

We provide our students with the basic academic skills and the understanding necessary to ensure that they reach their full potential as well-rounded citizens and valuable employees in criminal justice, human services, and sociological professions. We also provide our students with sufficient academic preparation to qualify for, and be successful in, graduate programs throughout the nation.

Objective Number 1

PrgObjective: Sociological Discipline Knowledge Application

Students will be able to identify and apply sociological concepts and theories to everyday life, human behavior, and societies.

Measurable Outcomes:

- (a) Identify the following core disciplinary concepts: the sociological perspective, social structure, socialization, social stratification, and social change
 - a. Sociological perspective: understanding sociology as a distinct discipline; identifying major theoretical frameworks and assumptions about human life and behavior
 - b. Social structure: distinguishing important social institutions that make up social life; understanding how structural forces affect human action and social life at the micro, meso, and macro levels; “In addition, students should be able to differentiate the processes through which social roles and statuses, relationships, social groups, formal organizations, and social networks influence human thought and action. Students should recognize how hierarchy, power, and authority operate across these structural contexts. Finally, students should be able to provide examples of these concepts related to social structure in multiple historical and cultural settings” (Ferguson and Carbonaro 2016:156)
 - c. Socialization: understanding the process of socialization and how the self is connected to and formed by society; agents of socialization, the role of culture in shaping human understanding and actions; social norms and social control; conformity and deviance; the tensions between agency and structure
 - d. Stratification: the patterns and effects of social inequality; structure of inequalities of power, income, status, wealth, and other dimensions; the distinctions between economic and social mobility; ascribed traits, achieved traits and how meritocratic traits are related to each other; understanding the effects of intersections on social inequality on individuals; understanding the macro and micro effects of stratification
 - e. Social change: identify the social processes the drive social change; identify how demographics and other types of social change affect individuals and social structure; demonstrate how social structures reproduce themselves across generations; identify how social change occurs in cultural, social, political, and economic terms
- (b) Apply and analyze core concepts in relation to social conditions affecting structures and individuals

Measurement Point 1: foundational courses (SOC 100, 150) within the discipline

Assessment: Pre-test and Post-test examination (pre-test to occur prior to week three of the semester; post-test to occur within the final two weeks of class)

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 1

Measurement Point 2: SOC 281 Socio-Cultural Theory

Assessment: Theory Application Paper

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 2

Measurement Point 3: Disciplinary Exit Exam

Assessment: Essay questions on the exit exam

Measurement Point 4: Capstone (if taken)

Assessment: Portfolio

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Measurement Point 5: Internship (if taken)

Assessment: Experience artifact

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Objective Number 2

PrgObjective: Social Stratification

Students will be able to identify, analyze, and explain the factors contributing to and the consequences of social stratification and social inequality across dimensions/statuses and institutions.

Measurable Outcomes:

- (a) Describe and differentiate social class structure
- (b) Describe and differentiate other major dimensions of social inequality related specifically to identity (race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age)
- (c) Analyze how hierarchies of difference and power are created, maintained and perpetuated within the U.S.
- (d) Analyze how hierarchies of difference and power are created, maintained and perpetuated in global contexts

Measurement Point 1: foundational courses (SOC 100, 150) within the discipline

Assessment: Pre-test and Post-test examination (pre-test to occur prior to week three of the semester; post-test to occur within the final two weeks of class)

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 1

Measurement Point 2: Analytical paper dealing with structural inequality related to the specific course topic submitted from core program electives: Human Sexuality (SOC 261), Race & Ethnic Relations (SOC 350), Social Stratification (SOC 423), Sociology of Gender Roles (SOC 483)

Measurement Point 2: Analytical paper dealing with social and cultural connections between inequality and power related to the course topics of non-stratification specific core elective

courses: Popular Culture and Society (SOC 260); Self and Society (SOC 330), and Sport and Society (SOC 383)

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 2

Measurement Point 3: Disciplinary Exit Exam

Assessment: Essay questions on the exit exam

Measurement Point 4: Capstone

Assessment: Capstone policy or research paper

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Objective 3

PrgObjective: Collect and Analyze Data

Students will be able to identify the characteristics of high-quality data and methods in sociological research and be able to effectively explain the results of sociological research to others.

Measurable Outcomes:

- a) Explain, illustrate, and/or distinguish between multiple methodological approaches.
- b) Apply quantitative and qualitative information and procedures to contexts outside the classroom.
- c) Explain and demonstrate research ethics as applied to human subjects.
- d) Demonstrate skills to appropriately interpret quantitative and computational data for the public.
- e) Evaluate and critique research presentation, methodology, and data.

Measurement Point 1: foundational courses (SOC 100, 150) within the discipline

Assessment: Pre-test and Post-test examination (pre-test to occur prior to week three of the semester; post-test to occur within the final week of class)

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 1

Measurement Point 2: core required courses of Statistical Reasoning for Social Science (SOC 209) and Methods of Social Research (SOC 410)

Assessment: SOC 209: artifact that demonstrates student's ability to interpret statistics for a lay/public audience

Assessment: SOC 410: completion of research or grant proposal; artifact that demonstrates student completion of research

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 2

Measurement Point 3: Disciplinary Exit Exam

Assessment: Essay questions on the exit exam

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Measurement Point 4: Capstone

Assessment: Capstone research or policy paper

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Objective Number 4

PrgObjective: Verbal and Written Communication Skills

Objective Description: Students will be able to communicate effectively in a wide variety of contexts.

Measurable outcomes:

- (a) Demonstrate the ability to communicate verbally and through writing sociological knowledge to audiences in the following contexts: the public, business, political, and scientific realms
- (b) Apply and use effectively the disciplinary conventions for writing and citation

Measurement Point 1: foundational (SOC 100/150) courses within the discipline

Assessment: Pre-test and Post-test examination (pre-test to occur prior to week three of the semester; post-test to occur within the final week of class)

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 1

Measurement Point 2: Randomly Selected/Rotated Elective

Assessment: artifact of oral communication

Expected Benchmark Level: Milestone 2

Measurement Point 3: Disciplinary Exit Exam

Assessment: Essay questions on the exit exam

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Measurement Point 4: Capstone

Assessment: Capstone portfolio; Capstone research or policy paper presentation

Expected Benchmark Level: Capstone

Rubrics: AACU VALUE rubrics for oral communication and written communication

Objective Number 5

PrgObjective: Basic knowledge of Program Specialization Areas

Objective Description: Students can apply the basic concepts of their areas of specialization (e.g., Criminal Justice, Human Services).

Measurement Point 1: Local specialization objective exit exams

Expected Benchmark Level: Students must achieve a 70 percent or higher