



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

All students majoring in Sociology must successfully complete one of three courses in Sociological Analysis: SYA 4510 (Quantitative Methods), SYA 4310 (Qualitative and/or Comparative Historical Methods), or SYA 4300 (Survey of Methods). They must also complete either Sociological Theory (SYA 4010) or Contemporary Social Theory (4120). In each of these courses, students complete a research project or write an analytical paper on an issue central to contemporary sociology.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills): Students will demonstrate knowledge of the procedures involved in sociological research (such as idea generation, literature review, data collection, and reporting) by applying data collection strategies and/or analytic methodologies to sociological research projects.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Technical Skills): Students will demonstrate technical skills related to sociological analysis such as use of statistical packages, historical/comparative methods of analysis, content analysis, interviewing skills, or equivalents.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct library, field, or data archive-based research on a Sociological topic that demonstrates critical analysis that appropriately uses and interprets the results of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.

Students will be assessed on their research, technical, and analytical skills as demonstrated in their written work (papers, essays) in either SYA 4510 (Quantitative Methods), SYA 4310 (Qualitative and/or Comparative Historical Methods), or SYA 4300 (Survey of Methods).

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Students will demonstrate competence in these dimensions of critical thinking: (1) ability to identify and analyze a significant sociological issue; (2) ability to think creatively, i.e., apply a sociological perspective as a way of understanding personal experience and/or social phenomena; (3) ability to compare and contrast competing theoretical perspectives; (4) ability to draw upon relevant evidence to assess the merits of competing theoretical perspectives.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication): Students will produce writing that is grammatically correct, well-organized, and consistent with the publication guidelines of the American Sociological Association.

Assessment will be based on written work submitted in the methods courses (Sociological Analysis: SYA 4510 (Quantitative Methods), SYA 4310 (Qualitative and/or Comparative Historical Methods), or SYA 4300 (Survey of Methods) and the theory courses (Sociological Theory (SYA 4010), Contemporary Social Theory (4120)).