

Sociology Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Statement of the Program's Mission

The Sociology program at Santa Clara University is rooted in the tradition of cultivating a sociological imagination that emphasizes critical analyses of the relationships between individual actions and social structures. The major provides our students with rigorous theoretical and methodological training. Our program emphasizes the need to apply sociological analyses to understand our everyday lives in ways that embody the Jesuit commitment to building a community of scholars who are concerned with ethical and social justice issues in a diverse society.

Enumeration of Programmatic Goals

I. Goals and Objectives for Student Learning

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate growth in sociological imagination (that comes from gaining greater understanding of social forces and processes that shape our social environments and influence individual thinking and behavior).

Objective 1 (Exposure to Basic Concepts): Students will demonstrate enhanced knowledge of basic sociological concepts (acquired early in the program as conceptual building blocks for later work).

Objective 2 (Critical Thinking): Students will critically analyze the relationship between individual actions and social structures in the context of a project involving a sustained (four weeks or more) investigation of a defined issue.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate growth in theoretical and methodological sophistication in our theory/methods “inquiry sequence.”

Objective 3 (Growth in Theory Knowledge): Students will demonstrate growth in knowledge of multiple theoretical perspectives.

Objective 4 (Qualitative Methods): Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct situationally appropriate collection and analysis of at least one form of qualitative evidence.

Objective 5 (Quantitative Methods): Students will demonstrate the ability to access quantitative data and use appropriate statistical techniques when testing bivariate and multivariate relationships.

Objective 6 (Professional Writing): Students will complete a professional style

sociological research paper involving data analysis.

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate that they understand how sociological analysis can be applied to issues in our diverse world.

Objective 7 (Research Ethics): Students will reflect on ethical issues associated with social science investigation in a diverse society.

Objective 8 (Applied Sociology): Students will demonstrate awareness of some ways sociological concepts and tools are used to address challenges commonly faced in families, organizations, and communities.

II. Goal and Objectives for Curriculum and Pedagogy

Goal 4: The Sociology program will implement the developmental sequence within the major, broadly consistent with American Sociological Association recommendations.

Objective 9 (Foundation Course First): Students will take Principles of Sociology *before* beginning theory methods courses.

Objective 10 (Capstone after Theory/Methods): Sociology 118, 119, and 120 will be followed by a designated capstone (Sociology 121 or Sociology 170).

III. Goal and Objectives for Scholarship

Goal 5: Promote scholarship and a sense of being members of a community of scholars for students, faculty, and staff within the program.

Objective 11 (Student Scholarship): Encourage and attempt to support faculty efforts to include students in a community of scholars (particularly as measured by mentored introduction of students to professional associations).

Objective 12 (Faculty Scholarship): Foster intellectual inquiry and professional involvement of sociology faculty (particularly as measured by published scholarship).

IV. Goal and Objectives for Service

Goal 6: Promote service engagement of faculty and students as sociologists committed to applying sociological frameworks, knowledge, and skills, in addressing social problems or organizational challenges on campus, in surrounding localities, and in religious congregations, service organizations, businesses, and professional associations.

Objective 13 (Community Research): Encourage significant student and faculty involvement in university, organization, and community *research projects* aimed

at contributing to better understanding of needs and policy/program effectiveness.

Objective 14 (Community Service): Encourage faculty and student service involvement in leadership roles in the management and/or operation of campus committees, public service organizations, religious congregations, and professional associations.

(June 10, 2008 update of a February 5, 2007 department document)