

## **Program Outcome Assessment**

### **M.S., Sociology**

**Goals and Objectives:** The major goal of the M.S. degree in Sociology is to provide students with a solid base in sociological theory, methods and statistics and introduce them to specific areas of specialization within the discipline as preparation for admittance into the PhD degree program in Sociology. Students who successfully complete the M.S. in Sociology are encouraged to pursue the PhD degree at OSU or some other PhD degree program.

#### **Student Outcomes:**

1. An in-depth knowledge of sociological theory including the different theoretical perspectives, major theorists and theories, historical development of theory and the process of theory development.
2. A detailed knowledge of sociological methods including qualitative and quantitative methodology, research design, techniques of data collection and analysis.
3. A basic knowledge of statistics at an intermediate level.
4. Well-developed verbal and written skills.

#### **Methods of Assessment:**

1. Each M.S. student will take preliminary examinations in sociological theory, methods and statistics to determine mastery of the material. This will take place after the first year in which the student is enrolled. If the student does not successfully pass these prelims they are required to retake any not passed during their second year in the program.
2. Each student will complete a thesis, formally present their findings in an open forum and defend the thesis before their thesis committee. This defense will take place during their last semester of enrollment in the program.
3. Acceptance of the student in a PhD program in sociology after completion of the M.S. will be further proof of the success of the program.
4. Completion of the M.S. degree in two to three years will further help in determining the success of the program. The majority of students will be expected to complete the M.S. degree in a period of two years.

**Population:** These assessment methods will be applied to all individuals enrolled in the M.S. in Sociology degree.

**Methods for Information Feedback:** All information will be collected in the department and shared annually with the departmental faculty.

**Time Line:** This process is presently in place.