

Program Outcome Assessment

PhD, Sociology

Goals and Objectives: The major goal of the PhD degree in sociology is to provide students with in-depth knowledge in sociological theory, sociological methods, statistics and two areas of specialization. Students will have developed excellent writing, verbal, and teaching and research skills. The vast majority of those students, upon completions of the PhD, will teach and continue research at the college/university level.

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 detailed knowledge of statistics and the ability to use statistical methods tests and analyze results of statistical tests.
4. An in-depth knowledge in two sub-areas of sociology selected from the following, environmental sociology, social inequality, complex organizations, deviance and crime, and social psychology.
5. Well developed writing, verbal, teaching and research skills

Methods of Assessment:

1. Each student will take preliminary examinations in sociological theory, methods and statistics if they did not take them at OSU to determine mastery of 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 take comprehensive examinations in their selected areas of specialization. These comprehensives will be taken upon completion of their course work relating to the selected areas.
3. The majority of PhD students will have the opportunity to be Teaching Assistants during their time in the program and will be evaluated on a continuous basis as to their teaching skills.
4. Each student will complete a dissertation, formally present their findings in an open forum and defend the dissertation before their PhD committee. This defense will take place during their last semester of enrollment in the program.
5. Quantity and quality of professional presentations and publications will be evaluated at the completion of each student's degree

6. Completion of the PhD degree in four years will further help in determining the success of the program. No one will be expected to take more than six years to complete the degree
7. Job placement in a college/university or research position will be further proof of the success of the program.
8. Graduates are informally and continually monitored through contacts at professional meetings, publications in referred journals and ongoing correspondence with members of the faculty.

Population: These assessment methods will be applied to all individuals enrolled in the PhD in sociology program.

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.