



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major: Sociology

Degree: B.A./B.S.

Date Revised: 2017-2018

Student Learning Outcomes and proposed Methods for collecting data (from assessment plan)

Student Learning Outcomes	
1	Graduates of the program will demonstrate the ability to design a research study to analyze the structures and processes underlying a sociological issue, situation, or problem; and be able to explain why choices were made. To this end, students will be able to develop conceptual models, construct and test hypotheses, understand statistical data analysis, conduct ethnographic investigations, and interpret findings.
2	Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses of a variety of theoretical orientations; to apply appropriate theories to explain observed social phenomena; and place the development of each major social theory within its historical context. These theoretical orientations will include classical and contemporary social theories as well as the dominant conceptual frameworks within the student's programmatic emphasis.
3	Students will be able to write a research paper, demonstrating the ability to think critically and reason logically. To this end, students will be trained to develop a research question, review and critique relevant scholarly literature, provide appropriate citations and biographic references, and present empirical findings and conclusions in clear and persuasive prose.
4	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts in sociology, such that they can define and give examples of culture; social change; stratification and social inequality; social structure; social organization and institutions; and diverse social locations such as age, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation.
5	Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary for graduate education, as well as successful careers in community agencies, government, not-for-profit research and social service organizations and private employment. Graduates will have a solid foundation in social theory and research methodology as well as in key current trends in content areas such as criminology, health and aging, social organization and institutions, and social psychology.

Methods of Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course-Embedded Assessments (1-4) • Annual Student Paper Competition (1-4) • Evaluation of Internships (5) • Alumni Surveys (5)