

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - SOCIOLOGY

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience.

UVic students in the [Sociology](#) program develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Department of Sociology to develop this document.

KNOWLEDGE BASE IN SOCIOLOGY

Demonstrates familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and historical trends in sociology

- + Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of selected content areas of sociology, including, but not exclusively, health and aging, social justice and social change, and individuals and groups
- + Understands the relationship between social environments and individual experience
- + Uses the concepts, language and major theories of sociology to address important issues locally and globally

RESEARCH AND METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

Understands a variety of social research methods and is able to evaluate and disseminate empirical research findings. Common sociological methods include observations, interviews, content analysis, ethnography, conversational analysis, institutional analysis, survey research, and statistical analysis.

- + Understands conceptualization, measurement and sampling as research tools
- + Independently designs and conducts research using qualitative and quantitative methodologies
- + Understands multivariate relationships and computer-assisted analysis of data
- + Applies statistical methodologies to gain descriptive and inferential data
- + Understands the different approaches in social justice researches such as action and participatory research, discourse analytic research and critical media studies

THEORY IN SOCIOLOGY

Understands sociological theory in the context of studying social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.

- + Understands how theory helps guide one's understanding of specific topical issues such as the impact of inequalities on the health status of population groups, the consequences of surveillance and policing on human conduct and the causes and effects of social movements
- + Understands the contribution of ideology in cultural and political movements such as Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism

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SUBSTANTIVE AREAS IN SOCIOLOGY

Gains an understanding of the diversity and contributions of sociological inquiry. As social scientists, sociologists use theoretical and scientific methods of research to investigate the social world by collecting, evaluating, and disseminating empirical research findings.

- + Understands that sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts
- + Understands that the subject matter of sociology ranges from intimate family interactions to riots on city streets; from organized crime to religious traditions; from divisions of race, gender, and class to the shared beliefs of a common culture
- + Understands that the results of sociological research taking place at and beyond the University of Victoria contribute to public policy debates, the formation of laws and the shaping of better ways of living