

Plan for Writing Across the Discipline

Department of Sociology

Students are required by the college to take five courses in their major that have a substantial writing requirement. All courses must come from the approved list that follows for each area outlined (Introductory, Writing to Learn, and Advanced). Students **must** take one course from each area. The remaining two courses may come from either Writing to Learn or Advanced.

1. INTRODUCTORY: To meet the introductory writing requirement, majors will be required to take one of the following courses, which incorporate relatively short writing assignments such as essays, journal writing, article reviews, and book reviews. Emphasis is placed on students' ability to understand and use appropriately the basic concepts and vocabulary of sociology. At least 25% of the student's evaluation in each course will be based on written exams, papers, or other writing assignments. Students will be required to use the American Sociological Association (ASA) writing style for all papers under the "Writing to Learn" and "Advanced" categories.

- SOC 210 (Foundations of Sociological Theory)
- SOC 260 (Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender)
- SOC 280 (Social Problems)

2. WRITING TO LEARN: The following courses help students comprehend the sociological literature and summarize in their own words what they have read in ways that are clear, complete, and accurate. In addition, students will write essays that are issue-based, in which they argue a position or a claim about that issue in a logical and thorough way, providing evidence to support their position or claim. At least 30% of the student's evaluation in each course will be based on written exams, papers, or other writing assignments.

- SOC 310 (Contemporary Sociological Theory)
- SOC 320 (Survey Methodology)
- SOC 330 (Qualitative Methods)
- SOC 353 (Sociology of Tourism)
- SOC 365 (Urban Sociology)
- SOC 366 (Popular Culture)
- SOC 370 (Deviance)
- SOC 372 (Juvenile Delinquency)
- SOC 373 (Gangs in American Society)
- SOC 381 (Sociology of Gender Roles)
- SOC 383 (Sociology of Aging)

3. ADVANCED: The following courses will incorporate a major research process that will develop students' own sociological positions in a given subject matter. Emphasis is placed on students' ability to evaluate various theoretical and methodological perspectives in sociology, on their ability to synthesize these ideas and information, and on their ability to present their own ideas and arguments in ways that are clear, complete, accurate, and supported by evidence. Students will engage in multiple drafts/revisions of their research based on extensive and timely written feedback by the instructor, and will make at least one oral presentation of their research. That is, these courses emphasize not only advanced writing skills but also oral presentation skills. At least 50% of the student's evaluation in each course will be based on written exams, papers, oral presentations, or other writing assignments.

- SOC 401 (Special Topics)
- SOC 442 (Races and Minorities)
- SOC 460 (Dynamics of Prejudice and Discrimination)
- SOC 463 (Social Movements)
- SOC 490 (Senior Seminar)

*NOTE: Double majors will be permitted to complete their writing requirement via the department of their first major. Transfer students will need to have their previous transcript(s) evaluated by the advisement coordinator. In consultation with the students' advisor, a determination will be made as to what specific courses taken at other institutions have met the Sociology writing plan.