M.A. in Sociology
Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Read research and theoretical articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, with critical understanding of both quantitative and qualitative work.
- Prepare and write a literature review of current research and theory in an area of sociology (as a stand-alone piece of writing or as a section within a research paper or thesis).
- Use theories in formulating research questions and designing a research project.
- Identify theoretical concepts in sociology, trace their historical development, and discuss how they are used, operationalized, and interpreted in current research.
- Write a proposal for a research project, identifying research questions and selecting a design and method appropriate for answering the research questions.
- Understand the ethical issues associated with human subjects/participant protection and the sequence of procedures needed for IRB approval of research projects.
- For those students interested in a career in post-secondary education, whether at a community college or a four year college or university: Plan and write the syllabus for an introductory sociology (or social problems) course for students in the first two years of college.
- Revise and edit a paper draft in collaboration with faculty advisors in order to produce a readable and professional final version of a writing project.
- Prepare materials for an external professional activity, such as a presentation, discussant-role, or round-table participation at a conference (examples: Ethnography Conference, regional sociology association meetings, Illinois Sociological Society, ASA, or SSSP.
- Develop fluency in written work, meeting professional standards of formatting and style, and demonstrating competence by completion of the writing project.
- Plan and carry out quantitative analysis involving OLS and logistic regression for students interested in quantitative analysis and research; and (for all) read scholarly, policy, and professional materials that make use of regression analysis.
- Plan a qualitative project using a variety of qualitative methods, such as ethnography and content/discourse analysis.

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