

Expected Outcomes of Undergraduate Programme in Sociology

**Sociology Department
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2013**

By successfully completing our major programme, the sociology student should be able to:

Knowledge Domain

1. understand the role of sociology in contributing to our understanding of social order and its changes, such that the student will be expected to:
 - (a) describe how sociology differs from and is similar to other social sciences and to give examples of these differences;
 - (b) describe how sociology contributes to the understanding of social reality; and
 - (c) apply the sociological imagination, sociological principles, and concepts to her/his own life.
2. apply basic concepts derived from sociological theories in the understanding of social phenomenon, such that the student will be expected to:
 - (a) define theory and concepts and describe their roles in building sociological knowledge;
 - (b) compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations;
 - (c) show how theories and concepts reflect the historical context of the times and cultures in which they were developed; and
 - (d) describe and apply some basic theories or theoretical orientations in at least one area of social reality (e.g. stratification, organization and social development).
3. pursue an area of concentration (China studies, social research, and sociology and liberal studies) whenever appropriate and prepare for his/her career development in Chinese management, applied social research and teaching.
4. interpret the developments of Chinese communities and their place in the global and regional context, such that the student can: (a) describe and appreciate the significance of social and regional variations; and (b) know how to locate current events in a broader social and historical context.

Skills Domain

5. master basic qualitative and quantitative methods in sociology, such that the student can:
 - (a) describe the general role of scientific methods in building sociological knowledge;
 - (b) compare and contrast the basic methodological approaches for gathering and interpreting data;
 - (c) design a research study in an area of choice and explain why various decisions were made; and
 - (d) critically assess a published research report and explain how the study could have been improved.
6. think critically, such that the student can:
 - (a) move easily from recall analysis and application to synthesis and evaluation;
 - (b) identify underlying assumptions in particular theoretical orientations or arguments;

- (c) identify underlying assumptions in particular methodological approaches to an issue;
 - (d) show how patterns of thought and knowledge are directly influenced by political economic social structures;
 - (e) present opposing viewpoints and alternative hypotheses on various issues; and
 - (f) engage in teamwork where many or different viewpoints are presented.
7. develop transferable skills beyond disciplinary requirements, particularly in the areas of:
- (a) written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts and modes;
 - (b) statistical and other techniques in processing and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data;
 - (c) information retrieval skills in relation to primary, secondary and electronic sources of information;
 - (d) presentation, communication and information technology skills;
 - (e) skills of time planning and management; and
 - (f) group work skills.

Values Domain

8. reflect on his or her own value position and appreciate:
- (a) the utility of the sociological perspective as a useful and meaningful perspective on social reality and individual biography;
 - (b) the importance of ethics, honesty, and transparency in research and academic settings; and
 - (c) the importance of sociological analyses for reflection of value positions and life choices.

(Approved by the Department Board at its Third Meeting of 2012/13 on July 5, 2013.)

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