

Expected Outcomes of Undergraduate Programme in Sociology

**Sociology Department
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2026**

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

Knowledge Domain

1. understand the distinct role of sociology in analyzing social order and institutional dynamics, such that the student will be expected to:
 - (a) differentiate the sociology perspective from other social science disciplines and demonstrate its unique value in analyzing social issues;
 - (b) critically evaluate how sociological inquiry contributes to the understanding of social reality; and
 - (c) apply the sociological imagination, principles, and concepts to everyday life, community development, and diverse professional contexts.
2. apply core concepts derived from sociological theories to analyze social phenomena, such that the student will be expected to:
 - (a) define concepts and theories in sociological knowledge;
 - (b) compare diverse theoretical orientations;
 - (c) show how theories reflect the social context of the times in which they were developed; and
 - (d) apply theories in key domains of social reality (e.g., social stratification, institutions, and social change).
3. pursue an area of concentration whenever appropriate to develop structural awareness and integrated analytical skills, preparing themselves for strategic management, organizational leadership, and data-driven research roles across the public, private, and social sectors.
4. analyze and interpret the developments of and variations across Chinese societies within the national, regional, and global contexts.

Skills Domain

5. master core qualitative and quantitative methods in sociology, such that the student can:
 - (a) describe the general role of scientific inquiry in building sociological knowledge;
 - (b) compare the diverse methodological approaches for gathering and interpreting data;
 - (c) design a research study in an area of choice and justify decision-making in the process; 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) evaluate and synthesize complex information;
 - (b) identify underlying assumptions in particular theoretical orientations or arguments;
 - (c) differentiate the core logics of diverse methodological approaches to an issue;
 - (d) show how patterns of thought and knowledge are shaped by structural factors;

- (e) present opposing viewpoints and alternative hypotheses on various issues; and
 - (f) manage diverse perspectives within collaborative settings.
7. develop transferable skills beyond disciplinary requirements, particularly in the areas of:
- (a) written and oral communication across diverse audiences and formats;
 - (b) statistical, data processing, and visualization techniques for analyzing qualitative and quantitative information;
 - (c) digital proficiency, including information retrieval and AI-assisted tools;
 - (d) self-directed learning, project management, and collaborative teamwork;
 - (e) academic and industry engagement through capstone projects and experiential learning.

Values Domain

8. reflect on their own value position and appreciate:
- (a) the value of the sociological perspective as a useful and meaningful lens on social reality and individual biography;
 - (b) the importance of academic and research integrity, including ethics, honesty, and transparency; and
 - (c) the role of sociological analysis in guiding reflection on personal values and life choices.

(Approved by the Department Board at its Fourth Meeting of 2025/26 on June 26, 2026.)