



Department of Sociology

Sociology Masters of Arts Program
Student Learning Outcomes
Thesis/Practicum Evaluation Sheet

The Sociology Masters of Arts conducts an annual evaluation of student learning outcomes to determine the extent to which current curricula contributes to the development of key graduate student competencies. Please use the scoring rubrics provided to evaluate the Thesis or Research Practicum of students for whom you have served as a member of his or her advisory committee. The information collected will help guide any efforts to strengthen or modify program curricula or procedures with the goal of better meeting the program's educational mission.

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Faculty's Name: _____

Element	Rating	Comments
Statement of the Problem		
Review of the Literature		
Methodology		
Data Analysis and Findings		
Interpretations, Conclusions, and Implications		
Quality of Writing		
Oral Presentation		
Practical Recommendations (Applied Social Research concentration only)		



Sociology
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES 1-4
SCORING RUBRIC

Sociology Thesis/Research Practicum

Elements	Unacceptable (U)	Acceptable (A)	Excels/Target (Publishable) (T)
Statement of the Problem (SLO1)	No evidence was provided to support the significance of the study. A description of the approach for investigating the problem is not provided or it is incomplete.	The study is relevant to the field. There is adequate evidence provided to support the significance of the problem. The approach for investigating the problem is appropriate.	The study has a strong theoretical or practical basis and the findings either can be generalized to other populations or offer important insights into the issue or problem being studied. Abundant and compelling evidence was provided to support the significance of the study. The proposed work has the potential to make a significant contribution.
Review of Literature (SLO1)	The material reviewed is not relevant to the goals/focus of the study. The material reviewed is out of date, omits seminal work, or is insufficient. The quality of the material reviewed is marginal or not appropriate for scientific research.	The introduction is well organized, integrates findings from several sources. The review is thoughtful and provides clarification of the area of study and supports the chosen methodology. Articles are relevant, timely, and seminal, coming primarily from primary sources.	Extensive review that includes summaries, synthesis, and critiques of rigorous evidence-based sources. The review provides strong support for the aims of the project and the research design and methodology selected.
Methodology (SLO2)	Significant aspects of the design and methodology are inappropriate for the problem under study. The discussion of reliability and validity of measurement is omitted, insufficient, or inaccurate.	The design and methodology are appropriate. The discussion of reliability and validity of measurement is correct and sufficient, with problems having been identified.	Study design and methodology are appropriate and represent the quality necessary for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The reliability and validity of measurement are clearly described.
Data Analysis and Findings (SLO2)	The analyses are not appropriate or accurately described. Major errors in data analyses or reporting of findings were made. Inappropriate interpretation of the results.	The analyses are reported and accurately described. Few errors in data analyses and reporting of findings. Maintains distinctions between data and interpretations.	Reports data analyses with a level of clarity and accuracy necessary for publication in a refereed journal or other publication outlet.
Interpretations, Conclusions, and Implications (SLO1)	Draws unrelated, inaccurate, or overstated conclusions. Stated limitations of the study are inaccurate or insufficient. Implications for future research and practice are either omitted, insufficient, or unrelated to the findings or to the limitations of the study.	Draws accurate conclusions from the data. Stated limitations of the study are appropriate. Implications for future research and practice are thoughtful and appropriately related to the findings and/or the limitations in the study.	Conclusions are accurate, appropriately linked to the problem and methodology. Implications for practice and future research are compelling in their potential applications. Conclusions add to the knowledge base and are insightful in their implications for further study.

Elements	Unacceptable (U)	Acceptable (A)	Excels/Target (Publishable) (T)
Quality of Writing (SLO3)	Did not adhere to SAS guidelines or other style requirements. Numerous errors in spelling, typing, grammar, and format. The writing is poorly organized and lacks clarity. Writing is not of the expected professional quality.	Very few or minor errors in ASA style or other style requirements. Minimal errors in spelling, typing, grammar, and format. Some organizational and clarity errors but they do not detract from the ability to accurately convey ideas.	No errors in ASA style or other style requirements. No errors in spelling, typing, grammar, and format. Well organized and clear; accurately convey ideas. The writing is of professional quality.
Oral Component (SLO3)	<i>Content:</i> The presentation had significant errors or omissions. Responses to questions were inappropriate or demonstrated lack of understanding of the literature and study findings. <i>Delivery:</i> The presentation did not follow a logical sequence. The presentation was not well paced. The presenter did not demonstrate confidence and/or ability to engage the audience.	<i>Content:</i> The presentation had few errors or omissions. Responses to questions were appropriate or demonstrated a good understanding of the literature and study findings. <i>Delivery:</i> The presentation followed a logical sequence. The presentation was well paced. The presenter demonstrated confidence and/or ability to engage the audience.	<i>Content:</i> The presentation was accurate and comprehensive. Responses to questions were appropriate or demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the literature and study findings. <i>Delivery:</i> The presentation followed a logical sequence. The presentation was well paced. The presentation was of professional quality and served as a model for other students.
Practical Recommendations (SLO4) – for Applied Social Research Concentration only	The study fails to provide meaningful practical recommendations. Recommendations are either vague, impractical, or uncertain in terms of their likely impact on the problem. The study provides no clear guidance for future efforts to solve the problem.	The study provides clear and meaningful practical recommendations, though there may be some questions regarding the basis of these recommendations, their feasibility, and/or their likely impact on the problem they are intended to solve.	The study provides clear practical recommendations that are sociologically informed and evidence-based. The recommendations are feasible. There are reasons to expect the recommendations, if followed, will either considerably ameliorate the problem or reorient future efforts to a new approach or direction.