

# School of Arts & Sciences Program Learning Outcomes

## From: AY12 Assessment Plan

### Department: Social Sciences

### Program: Social Science

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#### Degree: B.A. Social Science

#### Specific learning goals:

1. Graduates will acquire a broad awareness of how knowledge of social structures and processes can both contribute to their individual growth and to their understanding of the world they inhabit.
  - a. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of how their academic course of study has shaped their identity and career goals — meets critical thinking, written communication and computer literacy competencies, and reflects a professional behavior/disposition category of understanding.
  - b. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of the importance of cultural diversity in the social world — meets critical thinking, written communication and computer literacy competencies, and reflects knowledge and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
2. Graduates will understand and be able to articulate the major conceptual, methodological and theoretical approaches taken by the social sciences disciplines in the study of human origins, development, thought, behavior, and institutions.
  - a. Graduates will understand and be able to articulate key concepts that bridge the various social science disciplines (e.g., self, culture, society, gender, race, sexuality, class, power) — meets critical thinking, written communication and computer literacy competencies, and reflects a knowledge category of understanding.
  - b. Graduates will understand and be able to articulate the key differences between the social science disciplines and be able to write clearly and effectively within those disciplines — meets critical thinking, written communication and computer literacy competencies, and reflects knowledge and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
3. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to design and complete original research projects in their chosen disciplines.
  - a. Graduates will be able to identify important research questions within the social sciences — meets critical thinking competency, and reflects knowledge and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
  - b. Graduates will be able identify and locate relevant resources for their social science disciplines — meets information literacy competency, and reflects a skill category of understanding.
  - c. Graduates will be able to analyze and critique peer-reviewed, published social science scholarship — meets information literacy, computer literacy and critical thinking requirements, and reflects a knowledge category of understanding.
  - d. Graduates will understand the various kinds of quantitative and qualitative data that are relevant to a particular research project — meets critical thinking and quantitative skills competencies, and reflects knowledge and skills categories of understanding.
  - e. Graduates will utilize research and citation styles appropriate to their emphasis disciplines — meets information literacy and professional behavior competencies, and reflects knowledge, skills and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
4. Graduates will demonstrate an appreciation for the value of professional conduct.
  - a. Graduates will organize formal presentations of original research — meets oral communication and professional behavior competencies, and reflects knowledge and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.

- b. Graduates will develop skills in leading small group discussion — meets oral communication and professional behavior competencies, and reflects skill and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
  - c. Graduates will compile, submit, and present formal portfolios of their work for faculty review — meets oral/written communication and professional behavior competencies, and reflects knowledge, skills and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
  - d. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to use appropriate technology to enhance their academic work — meets computer, information literacy and professional behavior competencies, and reflects a skill category of understanding.
  - e. Graduates will demonstrate an appreciation for time management and preparedness — meets professional behavior competency, and reflects skills and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
5. Graduates will understand the importance of experiential learning and self-reflection in the social sciences.
- a. Graduates will have the opportunity to complete internships, field research, and public service projects — meets professional behavior competency, and reflects knowledge and professional behavior/disposition categories of understanding.
  - b. Graduates who complete experiential learning projects will demonstrate an ability to reflect in writing upon the academic value of those experiences meets critical thinking, communication and computer literacy requirements, and reflects a knowledge category of understanding.