

Sociology Graduate Profile

The specific objectives of the Sociology programme are grouped in six interrelated categories:

1- Competence in critical social enquiry. Graduates will be able to:

1. Formulate and investigate sociologically informed questions around particular social issues or problems
2. Bring together theory and substantive evidence to effectively analyse sociological questions
3. Marshal theoretical and substantive material that allows them to effectively analyse, reflect and respond to common sense views on sociological questions

2- Competence in social analysis. Graduates will be able to:

1. Make connections between ideas, theories, experiences and research findings
2. Construct logical and persuasive arguments that are buttressed by valid supporting evidence
3. Develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of social situations
4. Consider questions of power relations, class, gender and race inequalities, collective/group experiences and social institutions
5. Assess the merits of competing theories and explanations

3- Competence in Sociological Research Skills. Graduates will be able to

1. Demonstrate the capacity to produce knowledge in empirically informed ways
2. Gather appropriate information relevant to particular sociological problems
3. Interpret and critically evaluate different kinds of material evidence--oral, literary and visual
4. Gather sociological data in a preliminary way (participant observation, documentary research, interviews and surveys)
5. Demonstrate an awareness of a variety of analytical techniques (qualitative and quantitative) for working with primary data
6. Manage and carry out small research projects and competently communicate their findings to different audiences

4- Substantive sociological knowledge. Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate substantive knowledge in sub-disciplinary fields of sociology taught in elective courses
2. Discuss key analytical frameworks such as social structures, social institutions, and social relations
3. Debate the work of some key sociological theorists
4. Identify the broad historical and cultural trajectories of a selection of sociological perspectives

5- Understand the politics of knowledge: Students will be able to:

1. Evaluate sociologically the process of knowledge production, including their own knowledge assumptions and production
2. Critically analyse the credibility of research findings and pieces of information, based on their knowledge about its production and sources
3. Explain how wider discourses and social relations shape ideas and knowledge within particular social and historical contexts
4. Identify and critically analyse assumptions in knowledge claims about social processes, structure and relationships
5. Assess the ethical implications of sociological enquiry
6. Discuss culturally-specific forms of local knowledge, including Mātauranga Māori and Pasifika knowledges

6- Have effective communication skills (written/ oral): Graduates will be able to:

1. Undertake and present scholarly work in a variety of written and oral forms, including essays, reports or journals
2. Carry out group work to enhance their capacities to research collaboratively
3. Demonstrate a high standard of written English
4. Develop excellent oral communication skills
5. Apply appropriate referencing conventions