

Cumulative Competencies for the Sociology Major¹

PLU Department of Sociology and Social Work

Year One Sociology 101	Year Two Sociology 232, STAT 233, 240, 296	Year Three Sociology 326, 330, 336, 387, 391	Year Four Sociology 413, 440, 495*, 496, 499
<p><i>By the end of their first year, majors will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - know and use sociological concepts; - know three major sociological perspectives (functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interaction); - know research methods; - see sociology in practice (journal articles, newspaper articles, research projects, Sociology Research Experience requirement); - have experience in writing sociologically; - participate in oral discussions and/or presentations; - be able to think critically; - develop an appreciation for the impact of race, class and gender and other hierarchies upon social life; and, - become acquainted with the American Sociological Association (ASA) style conventions for writing and research. 	<p><i>During their second year, majors will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop an integrated research paper, addressing a specific social problem. Paper should include a literature review; - be able to demonstrate a synthesis of sociological terms, concepts and theoretical perspectives; - explore intersection of race, class and gender upon specific areas of social life; - see sociology in practice, through community service, field work or academic literature; and, - use ASA style conventions in writing and research. 	<p><i>During their third year, majors will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop their ability to collect and analyze data on sociological topics; - develop a more sophisticated ability to do a literature review and connect it to their own research; - develop oral presentations; - continue to apply theory and develop a more sophisticated understanding of the role of the fundamental sociological variables of gender, race and class; - develop an expanded vision of how societal structures operate and shape lives; and, - use ASA style conventions in writing and research. 	<p><i>During their fourth year, majors will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trace the development and evolution of key sociological perspectives and concepts; - complete a literature review; - understand and critique sociological theories; - utilize and apply theory to explain social realities; - strengthen critical thinking, oral presentation, and written communication skills; - understand the many ways social research can have implications for themes of social justice and equality; - demonstrate integration of analytical, methodological, and conceptual skills in addressing a sociological question; - demonstrate in-depth familiarity within a particular content area in sociology; - demonstrate capacity to complete work independently; and - master the use of ASA style conventions in writing and research.

(March 2009)

Students in all courses will be exposed to the definitions of and rationale for academic integrity in Sociology. They will be expected to conform to all aspects of PLU's academic integrity policy. For more information about this policy, see pages 2 – 7 of the Student Code of Conduct.

*The SOCI 495 internship course is substantively different than other offerings and may not meet all learning objectives.

¹ Adapted from: Kain, Edward. 1999. "Building the Sociological Imagination Through A Cumulative Curriculum: Professional Socialization in Sociology." *Teaching Sociology* 27: 1-16.