

Cumulative Competencies for the Sociology Major¹
PLU Department of Sociology and Social Work
 (updated June 2012)

Level One Sociology 101	Level Two Sociology 232, STAT 233, 240, 296	Level Three Sociology 326, 330, 336, 387, 391	Level Four Sociology 413, 440, 495*, 496, 499
<p><i>In 100-level courses, students will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the sociological perspective • know and use sociological concepts • know three major sociological perspectives (functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interaction) • know research methods basics • see sociology in practice (journal articles, newspaper articles, research projects) • begin learning to write 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 • become acquainted with the American Sociological Association (ASA) style conventions for writing and research 	<p><i>In 200-level courses, students will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an integrated research paper, including a literature review, that addresses a specific social problem • 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 • use ASA style conventions in writing and research • Begin to develop their ability to collect and analyze data on sociological topics 	<p><i>In 300-level courses, students will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to develop their ability to collect and analyze data on sociological topics • develop a conceptual argument that draws on a review of the literature • 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 • use ASA style conventions in writing and research 	<p><i>In 400-level courses, students will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trace the development and evolution of key sociological perspectives and concepts • understand and critique sociological theories • use 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 • master the use of ASA style conventions in writing and research

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.