

# M.A. SOCIOLOGY

## Mission Statement

The M.A. Program is designed to provide a comprehensive approach to sociology and its fundamental concepts and methods. The program emphasizes the relationship between sociological questions and research design and practice. Because our M.A. students have diverse undergraduate backgrounds and work in a variety of areas - spanning the private, non-profit, and public sectors, our program seeks to provide them with a strong foundation in sociology that can be applied in their own fields of work or to move into new ones. The program is geared both to students who wish to continue in their current professions or to move into academia by pursuing a PhD in sociology at other institutions.

## Assessment

*Students will be assessed in ongoing ways through the:*

### *Direct Measures*

- 1. Comprehensive exams:** all students are required to pass the two-part pass / fail comprehensive exam — sociological methods and theory — before proceeding with the courses that lead to the capstone or thesis projects. Students who are unable to pass the exam twice will be terminated from the program. Faculty graders will provide feedback to students about their exams.

Students are expected to take these comprehensives either at the end of the spring semester or beginning of fall semester. As such, the MA assessment committee will review all the comprehensive exams taken that year in the fall semester to ensure that the program objectives are being met.

- 2. Capstone paper:** In the second year of the program, students begin working on their capstone paper with a faculty mentor and also take a capstone seminar focused on completing the capstone paper.

3. The MA assessment committee will review the capstone projects completed during the academic year at the end of the spring semester to ensure that all the program objectives are being met.

Thesis: In the second year, students who aim to pursue a doctoral degree may request to write a thesis instead of a capstone paper. This request will be considered by the M.A. Committee. If granted, students will work one-on-one with a faculty mentor through the second year of the program.

The MA assessment committee will review all thesis projects completed during the academic year at the end of the spring semester to ensure that all the program objectives are being met.

### ***Indirect Measures***

The program will also conduct an exit interview of graduating students to obtain additional feedback about the program and whether these objectives are being met. The interview will focus on student experience in the program and at City College; overall satisfaction with the program, faculty mentorship, and City College in general; post-graduation plans; and solicit suggestions about how the program might better meet their needs.

## **Learning Outcomes**

***The MA Program has four objectives. Each course is designed to meet one or more of them.***

1. **Substantive knowledge:** Demonstrate competence with the foundational concepts of sociology and the relevant subfields.
2. **Methodological expertise:** Demonstrate competence with the main methods of sociological research, how they relate to specific topics, and the ethics of research with human subjects.
3. **Analytical skills:** Demonstrate an ability to reason sociologically, organize a sociological argument and evaluate evidence in oral and written forms.
4. **Communication:** Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively about various sociological issues in written and/or oral form, using clear language and sufficient evidence to support conclusions in an organized manner.

# Learning Outcome Grid

*(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 4 as listed above)*

Courses	Learning Outcomes									
	1	2	3	4						
Analyzing Evidence 1	X	X	X	X						
Analyzing Evidence 2	X		X	X						
Sociological Thinking	X		X	X						
Development of Sociological Theory	X		X	X						
Qualitative Methods	X	X		X						
Capstone Seminar	X			X						
Independent Thesis Study	X	X		X						
Criminology	X			X						
Latinos of New York	X			X						
Marriage and Family	X	X		X						
Peoples of the City of New York	X	X		X						
Quantitative Analysis	X	X		X						
Race, Class and Power	X			X						
Race, Schools and Policy	X			X						
Sociology of Social Welfare	X			X						
The Metro Community	X			X						