Graduates should be able to:

• critically evaluate social and political arguments in light of empirical data.

• formulate effective and convincing written and oral arguments that integrate sociological evidence.

• demonstrate an understanding of the difference between an individual-level and collective-level explanation of behavior.

• demonstrate an understanding of the major sociological methods, including interviewing, ethnography, conversation analysis, content analysis, survey design and statistical analysis, the types of questions they can be used to answer, and their limitations.

• demonstrate familiarity with several of the major classical contemporary sociological theoretical perspectives and how they can be used to analyze contemporary or historical events or phenomena.

• understand some of the ways in which individuals’ biographies are shaped by institutions, patterns of social inequality or cultural practice.