

CUNY Pathways Sociology Major Committee

I. Introduction to Sociology

Upon completion of an introductory class, students will be expected to be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with classical and/or contemporary social theory;
- demonstrate an understanding about how social structure affects individual life chances;
- identify and apply major paradigms of sociological analysis;
- describe the principles of social research methodologies;
- identify significant sub-discipline areas of study including, but not limited to the topics covered by social institutions and social inequality;
- apply “the sociological imagination” to contemporary social phenomena and social problems;
- explain the processes of socialization and adult re-socialization; and
- discuss the concepts of normative and deviant behaviors.

Students are also expected to develop writing skills and critical thinking skills appropriate for study at the college level.

II. Social Institutions

Upon completion of a social institutions class, students should be able to:

- describe the role(s) of the pertinent institution in socialization;
- demonstrate an ability to examine and critique ideological assumptions underlying social institutions and systems of representation, including but not limited to assumptions regarding gender, race, class, nationality, disability, age, religion, and sexual orientation;
- explain the relationships between the focal institution and other social institutions; and
- discuss the process of institutionalization.

III. Social Inequality

Upon completion of Social Inequality courses, students should be prepared to:

- relate enduring patterns of inequality to historical, normative, and political dimensions of social life;
- discuss patterns of inequality in terms of social justice and democracy;
- provide theoretically sound, empirically based explanations for patterns of inequality;
- identify individual and social costs of enduring inequality; and
- explain the social construction of inequality.