

## ASSESSMENT PLAN

**Public Affairs: Applied Sociology**  
(Instructional Degree Program)

**M.A.**  
(Degree Level)

### **Program Mission:**

The Master of Arts in Public Affairs is an interdisciplinary program in the Social Sciences that provides academic training for careers in public and private organizations, both nationally and internationally. The multidisciplinary core curriculum includes courses in political theory, social theory and historical thought, human culture and the political economy. These courses foster a comprehensive understanding of the social and cultural environment of public and private organizational policy design, theory and implementation. The program prepares students for professional positions in managerial and leadership roles in government agencies, consulting firms, human services, public-interest organizations and businesses significantly affected by public policies, as well as train for entry level doctoral studies.

### **Student Learning Outcome 1:**

That students exhibit an understanding and appreciation of a multidisciplinary approach in relation to the work they eventually do and the social environments in which they live.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

Assessed through the successful completion of the Interdisciplinary Core requirements earning a B or above:

- Anthropology 651—Seminar: Concepts of Human Culture (3)
- Political Science 563—Political Economy (3)

### **Student Learning Outcome 2:**

That students exhibit reading and writing skills that will benefit them as teachers in secondary schools and community colleges and also benefit them in Ph. D. programs.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

Assessment through the successful presentation of the thesis or professional papers. The data will be qualitative and come from the members of the student's thesis/professional papers committee. Successful performance will be based on presentation at a national conference where students may demonstrated understanding of sociological theoretical principles and concepts in her/his thesis/papers.

The sociology program has been motivating students to present their research at various conferences. This is not a requirement but one that is highly valued and supported. A club formed out of a graduate course to foster presentation opportunities, The Association for Sociology. All graduate students are highly encouraged to join and present. This criterion also includes successfully defending for the committee and other attendees theses and proposals.

- Soc 699—Thesis (6 credits) or completion of two professional papers and six additional hours of coursework.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

That students exhibit critical thinking and research skills and demonstrate an understanding of and ability to use qualitative and quantitative sociological research methods of data collection and analysis. They should demonstrate the ability to interpret social scientific research as well as the ability to conduct sociological research through the appropriate application of data collection methods and data analysis techniques.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:**

Assessment based on the successful completion of course earning a B or above in the on midterm and final exams.

- Soc 630- Research Methods in Sociology
- Soc 530 or Psych 601 - Statistical Analysis

**Student Learning Outcome 4:**

That students demonstrate an understanding of sociology and its contribution to understanding society and human behavior through their familiarity with the theoretical and substantive literature. The students should demonstrate:

- the ability to compare and contrast theoretical perspectives within sociology and understand their application to society

•a theoretical understanding of the impact of race/ethnicity, social class, and gender on the life experiences, changes, and opportunities of people in society.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:**

Assessment based on the successful completion of course earning a B or above on midterm and final exams.

- Sociology 539—Classical Sociological Theories (3)
- Soc 512—Social Stratification—Assessment based on midterm and final exams.
- Soc 593—Race and Ethnic Relations—Assessment based on midterm and final exams.

**Utilization of Results:**

**Changes to Program Based on Results:**

**Retention Strategies:**