

PhD Degree-Level Expectations, Learning Objectives, Requirements and Assessments

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Degree-Level Expectation</i> “This degree extends the skills associated with the Master’s degree and is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following:”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Program Learning Objective</i> “By the end of this program, students will be able to:”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appropriate Degree Requirement & Assessment</i></p>
<p>1. <i>Depth and breadth of knowledge</i></p>	<p><i>A thorough understanding of a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of their academic discipline or area of professional practice including, where appropriate, relevant knowledge outside the field and / or discipline.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulate how sociology questions common-sense understandings of social issues, institutions, and relations • identify sociological research questions at the forefront of at least two fields • summarize central debates in sociological theory and methods • summarize relevant interdisciplinary debates about theory and methods • critique qualitative and quantitative research methods, and mixed-methods approaches • identify key forces shaping social structures, inequalities, processes, and relations, and their change over time • demonstrate in-depth knowledge of recent developments in at least two fields in sociology • critically assess, engage in, and contribute to the forefront of key debates in at least two fields in sociology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Program Workshops (attendance) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in two fields, defending an exam / syllabus & lecture / paper • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense

<p>2. <i>Research & scholarship</i></p>	<p>a) <i>The ability to conceptualize, design, and implement research for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the research design or methodology in light of unforeseen problems;</i></p> <p>b) <i>The ability to make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields, sometimes requiring new methods; and</i></p> <p>c) <i>The ability to produce original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and to merit publication</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer an advanced critique of the research strategies and logics employed in specific texts • articulate a research question that advances knowledge and understanding at the forefront of the discipline • conduct advanced library research to locate literatures relevant to a research question • synthesize and critique literatures relevant to a research question • identify gaps in literatures relevant to a research question • conceptualize and design a program of research to address a research question • conduct empirical research projects, involving appropriate data collection and analysis strategies • adjust research methods to address unanticipated circumstances • reflexively consider research ethics issues and abide by ethics protocols • advance scholarship by contributing original research that merits publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in two fields, defending an exam / syllabus & lecture / paper • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense
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<p>3. <i>Level of application of knowledge</i></p>	<p><i>The capacity to:</i></p> <p><i>a) Undertake pure and / or applied research at an advanced level; and</i></p> <p><i>b) Contribute to the development of academic or professional skills, techniques, tools, practices, ideas, theories, approaches, and / or materials</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to advanced research and development of paradigms, concepts, approaches, and methods • contribute to the analysis of sociological dimensions of societal issues, locally and globally • assess competing evidence and draw evidence-informed conclusions • critically evaluate research by others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in two fields, defending an exam / syllabus & lecture / paper • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense
<p>4. <i>Professional capacity/ autonomy</i></p>	<p><i>a) The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex situations;</i></p> <p><i>b) The intellectual independence to be academically and professionally engaged and current;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance academic and non-academic activities • map out comprehensive field plans that will complement dissertation plans • manage time within graduate courses to complete readings and assignments • present references and bibliographic information in a standardized format • select a supervisory committees for comprehensive fields and for a dissertation <p style="text-align: right;"><i>...cont'd</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Program Workshops (attendance) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive

	<p><i>c) The ethical behaviour consistent with academic integrity and the use of appropriate guidelines and procedures for responsible conduct of research; and</i></p> <p><i>d) The ability to evaluate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate professionally with peers, faculty, and particularly the supervisory committee • plan a substantial project, within the Program's expected timelines • carry out a substantial project, autonomously proposing initiatives to a supervisory committee • express implications of comprehensive fields and dissertation research • abide by principles of academic honesty • abide by Tri-Council ethics policies • explain at an advanced level how reflexivity enters into research ethics 	<p>requirements in two fields, defending an exam / syllabus & lecture / paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense
5. Level of communication skills	<p><i>The ability to communicate complex and / or ambiguous ideas, issues and conclusions clearly.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulate an argument in relation to its expected audience's interests and level of knowledge • carry out a range of writing projects, including a Proposal and a Dissertation, involving analysis of ambiguities and formulation of complex ideas • use spelling, syntax, and grammar correctly • answer questions effectively, including by negotiating with a questioner • participate in an advanced oral discussion / debate with peers in a classroom setting <p style="text-align: right;"><i>...cont'd</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in two fields • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiate an advanced classroom discussion /debate on a specified topic • summarize and critically assess a one-to three-hour discussion • receive, give, and respond to feedback constructively, including resolving conflicting feedback • defend a sustained, in-depth analysis of two fields of sociology in meetings with supervisory committees • defend an original, substantial research project in an interdisciplinary context 	
6. <i>Awareness of limits of knowledge</i>	<i>An appreciation of the limitations of one's own work and discipline, of the complexity of knowledge, and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify how an ambiguity, contradiction, or gap in knowledge could inform a research question • explore sociological perspectives vis-à-vis those of other social sciences on the basis of their fundamental questions, epistemologies, paradigms, and / or concepts • develop and practice reflexivity regarding research ethics, e.g., in relation to social location, knowledge production, and engagement with diverse communities • identify future interests based on knowledge and its limitations, including those relevant research in Sociology and closely-related disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in Theory and Methods (coursework assignments & participation) • Comprehensive requirements in two fields • Dissertation proposal • Dissertation • Defense