



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science  
Department of Social, Behavioral, Natural, and Mathematical  
Sciences**

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN**  
**Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria**

Summer 2007

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science**

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## **Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Social Science major is designed for students interested in interdisciplinary coursework in such fields as anthropology, behavioral science, psychology, criminal justice, gerontology, government and politics, and sociology. Students are required to take a variety of introductory courses to establish breadth across several disciplines. Core courses from within any social science discipline establish depth. Coursework is designed to develop students with the ability to critically analyze social situations within a larger historical and global context. The social science degree prepares graduates for careers in business administration, elder care, government, health services, law enforcement, human resources, and community service.

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**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science is as follows:

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

**CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

**REQUIRED COURSES**

COMM 393/393X	Advanced Expository and Research Writing	3 credit hours
	Statistics Course	3 credit hours
	ANTH and/or SOCY courses or GERO or GVPT or PSYC (in a single area)	9 credit hours
	Additional courses from supplemental major	6 credit hours

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**PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)**

	Foundation Course	3 credit hours
BEHS 210	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science	3 credit hours
SOCY 100	Introduction to Sociology	3 credit hours

**MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES**

46 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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**DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science.

<b>SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science</b>		
<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)</b>
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Communication (COMM)</li> <li>• Technology Fluency (TECH)</li> <li>• Information Literacy (INFO)</li> <li>• Quantitative Literacy (QUAN)</li> <li>• Critical Thinking (THIN)</li> <li>• Scientific Literacy (SCIE)</li> </ul> <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <a href="#"><u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u></a>
National Social Science Association (NSSA)	The NSSA consists of social scientists in two and four year colleges who represent the following disciplines: history, geography, education, economics, psychology, anthropology, sociology, ethnic studies, women's studies, interdisciplinary studies, political science, and other related studies.	<a href="http://www.nssa.us"><u>www.nssa.us</u></a>

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science**

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science.

<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science</b>
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
	Employ effective written communication skills in describing and comparing the approach of different social and behavioral science disciplines.*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
	Use standard computer applications and internet technology to present social science findings.*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
	Use library databases and other online sources to locate current articles on topics in social and behavioral sciences.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
	Apply principles of inferential statistics to study current social problems.*
THIN	Utilize interdisciplinary knowledge to analyze the complexities of society.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+
	Identify research methods commonly used in the fields of social and behavioral sciences.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

\* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

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**ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Employ effective written communication skills in describing and comparing the approach of different social and behavioral science disciplines.*	Describe and compare the approach of different social and behavioral science disciplines. (BEHS 210)	Research Paper

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<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use standard computer applications and internet technology to present social science findings.*	Produce quality electronic documents using software applications and present sociological findings by applying knowledge of software programs. (SOCY 100)	Research Paper
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use library databases and other online sources to locate current articles on topics in social and behavioral sciences.*	Locate and evaluate information about current sociological issues gathered from a library. (SOCY 100)	Research Paper
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Apply principles of inferential statistics to study current social problems.*	Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Identify and perform inferential statistical procedures. (PSYC 200/STAT 225)	Project (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Utilize interdisciplinary knowledge to analyze the complexities of society.*	Analyze the concept of interdisciplinary study in the social and behavioral sciences as a means to understand the complex nature of society. (BEHS 210)	Conference

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<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b> <b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Social Science</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Identify research methods commonly used in the fields of social and behavioral sciences.*	Identify research methods used in the social and behavioral sciences. (BEHS 210)	Other: Homework Assignment

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