Sociology

Objectives
Given to us by the Department: (taken from SACs)
Sociology majors at UNCG will be expected to:

1. define and apply basic sociological concepts used in micro and macro sociological theory.

2. explain the difference between personal opinion and theoretical insight based on research and between structural and individualistic explanations of human action.

3. know how to formulate research hypotheses, collect, and do basic analysis of data.

4. evaluate the appropriateness of various theories and research methods for answering different types of empirical questions.

5. explain the differences among and the uses of different types of sociological research methods.

6. be able to recognize and respond appropriately to the ethical issues involved in studying human subjects and organizations.

In addition, the undergraduate students in Sociology with a Criminology Concentration will be expected to:

compare, contrast, evaluate, and synthesize the sociological and criminological concepts used in micro- and macro-criminological theory and research.

demonstrate an understanding of the functioning of the criminal and civil law systems in the United States and how sociological factors affect these systems.

construct and communicate to others in writing and orally explanations for criminal and deviant behavior.

Mission
not given by department, but taken from SACs
The Department of Sociology supports the missions of the College of Arts and Sciences and the University in three areas: education, research and service. The Department fosters a community of sociologists, mentors students of sociology at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and provides general education for students throughout the University. Sociological knowledge helps students to understand how social structures and processes shape social life and how sociological analysis and empirical research are used as tools of understanding. The Department also encourages the research and professional development of faculty, contributes knowledge to the community of scholars and to the
larger society, and provides service to the discipline, College, University, and extramural communities.

The Sociology Department is committed to the following goals:

1. to create and sustain a community that fosters mastery of sociological knowledge, intellectual discussion, and active citizenship

2. to provide students from across the University with an introduction to the fundamentals of sociology

3. to contribute to the appreciation of diverse cultures and their place in community, society and the global system

4. to prepare Sociology students to achieve our disciplinary learning goals in general sociology and criminology

5. to maintain a regionally recognized graduate program

6. to support interdisciplinary efforts across the University

7. to provide opportunities to enhance the professional development of Sociology faculty through research, teaching and service

The student learning goals for undergraduates listed above are consistent with the department's Mission and Goals statement as follows: Student learning goals #1 and #2 are consistent with the goals #1 and #4 of the department Mission statement and with the mission statement's language that, "Sociological knowledge helps students to understand how social structures and processes shape social life." Student learning goals #3,#4, and #5 are consistent with the goals #1 and #4 of the department Mission statement and with the mission statement's language that, "Sociological knowledge helps students to understand . . . how sociological analysis and empirical research are used as tools of understanding." Student learning goal #6 is consistent with goal #4 of the mission statement.

The student learning goals for sociology students who graduate with a concentration in criminology are consistent with the department's mission in the same manner as that outlined for all sociology majors (see previous statement under #7 for the Sociology BA). In addition, the three learning goals specific to those students graduating with a criminology concentration also help students to "understand how social structures and processes shape social life and how sociological analysis and empirical research are used as tools of understanding," in particular with regard to criminal and deviant behavior. The three learning goals specific to criminology students also help to "create and sustain a community that fosters mastery of sociological [and criminological] knowledge, intellectual discussion, and active citizenship" and helps to "prepare Sociology students to achieve our disciplinary learning goals in general sociology and criminology."