

## Social Sciences

### Academic Learning Compact

Social Sciences Area of Concentration Students wishing to combine study in several social science disciplines may consider a “Social Sciences” Divisional Area of Concentration. Course requirements for this concentration include: one introductory and two or more advanced courses and/or tutorials in at least three social science disciplines. This would mean a minimum of nine courses or tutorials in the social sciences. Additionally, students should normally take at least one course focused on research methods in a social science discipline. A social sciences concentration also involves a senior thesis that uses social scientific research methods.

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the various methodologies employed by social scientists. The program of study will be worked out by student and sponsor. The Area of Concentration form must be signed by at least two social science faculty from different disciplines who are in agreement on the student's plan of study. The senior thesis must be sponsored by a faculty member in the Division of Social Sciences. In addition to the thesis sponsor, the baccalaureate committee must also include two other members of the divisional faculty. These faculty should represent at least two, and preferably three Social Science disciplines, normally the three disciplines in which the student has completed the required coursework for the divisional AOC.

<b>Expected Outcomes for Social Sciences Area of Concentration</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Critical Thinking</b>
1. The student understands how questions about individuals, social groups, societies, and institutions are framed and addressed through observational research, experimentation and data analysis.	X	X	X
2. The student demonstrates at least intermediate-level mastery of three of the six social science disciplines (anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, or sociology).	X	X	X
3. The student demonstrates the ability to apply social science research methods in a thesis or senior project.	X	X	X

#### Measures to track student progress:

Beginning and continuing students in courses are evaluated on the basis of homework assignments, exams, term papers, class presentations, and participation in class discussions. Evaluative comments are summarized at the end of each semester in a narrative course evaluation.

Two Social Science faculty members review all aspects of a student's previous work and the student's proposed plan of additional work in the fifth term before a student is allowed to declare

a Social Sciences area of concentration.

Three Social Science faculty members review and approve student's progress toward meeting the requirements for a Social Sciences area of concentration when the student submits a Thesis Prospectus in the sixth term.

**Specific measures to demonstrate each graduate's competencies:**

All students with a concentration in Social Sciences develop and implement a research thesis or project under the direct supervision of a member of the Social Sciences faculty, and defend that research project or thesis in a public oral baccalaureate exam. The form and content of the senior projects or thesis is defined in close collaboration with the academic sponsor and with the approval of the baccalaureate committee.

Theses and projects are judged according to the comprehensiveness of the research, the strength and originality of the interpretation, and the clarity and elegance of the writing style.

Performance on the oral exam is judged by how well the student responds to questions, demonstrates knowledge of the field, and defends the arguments and interpretations of evidence put forward in the thesis.

Students must satisfy the senior thesis requirement and pass the baccalaureate exam prior to graduation.