Sociology Honors: Portfolio Format

Graduation with Honors in Sociology is awarded to majors who excel in required coursework and perform additional scholarly or community activities (e.g. sociological research or community development) that are evaluated as being excellent via a Portfolio review process within the Department of Sociology.

Honors will be awarded at the time of graduation to Sociology majors who have met the following requirements:

1. Graduating with an overall WFU grade point average of 3.3 or higher.
2. Graduating with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in Sociology coursework.
3. Completing the successful review, by the Department of Sociology, of a Portfolio of material that represents exceptional achievements in Sociology-related activities beyond normal coursework.

Details of the Portfolio

A. Portfolios will constitute an application for Graduation with Honors. While the GPA requirements for Graduation with Honors in Sociology are fixed and determined by the University, the portfolio represents a set of completed and in-progress activities that will be evaluated by faculty in the Department of Sociology.

i. The Portfolio should include the following materials:
   a. The cover page document.
   b. A narrative of no more than 1500 words describing the activities and achievements being presented in the application for Honors, how it was achieved, the ways in which the work is excellent, and the manner in which it is specifically Sociological.
   c. Supporting materials such as research papers or presentations, documentation regarding community activities, or any other evidence of excellence regarding the activities constituting the Portfolio.

ii. Examples of activities and products suitable for inclusion in a Portfolio
   a. Sociological Research: an original research paper that contributes to sociological knowledge towards advancement of the discipline or the broader public’s appreciation and understanding of Sociology; this may stem from a student’s solo work with a professor within a for-credit independent study, working in a co-author-level capacity on a professor’s research, or other comparable sorts of exceptional engagement with original sociology inquiry. This sort of original work should be of a caliber that could lead to public conference presentations by students or publication in peer-reviewed academic journals or high-quality popular locations with author or co-author status for the student. Supporting materials could include written research, collected data, and any other notable documentation of the research work.
   b. Community Development: constructing and implementing new social/community programs that address significant social concerns off- or on-campus at Wake Forest University; this may stem from a student’s work within a for-credit independent study or internship in Sociology (including international activities such as those tied to the Richter Program on campus), working in a co-director capacity on a Sociology professor’s community development or social-action/justice organization, or other comparable sorts of community engagement
activities that produce social change. This sort of original activity should be of the caliber whereby students could be publicly recognized as leaders of change. Supporting materials could include a plan of work, mission and vision statements, organizational charts, documentation of linkage to sociological principles/theories, discussion of activities in the press, and indicators of success of the operations.

c. Other Activities: there are many possible arenas in which Sociology could be brought to bear on exceptional activities pursued by students; activities that do not appear to fit into either prior criterion, yet may still be thought of as sociologically excellent, should be discussed by students with their Sociology major advisor.

iii. Criteria of Evaluation: Portfolios will be evaluated by faculty in the Department of the Sociology relative to their engagement with and advancement of sociological concepts and theories, their impact on society at large, and the actual or planned dissemination of the efforts. The narrative document should serve as a frame for the presentation of the excellence of the Portfolio to the reviewers.

B. If a student is planning to graduate in May and wants to apply for Graduation with Honors in Sociology, their portfolio is due to the Chair of the Department on or before the first Wednesday of March prior to graduation. If a student is planning to graduate in December and wants to apply for Graduation with Honors in Sociology, the portfolio is due to the Chair of the Department on or before the first Wednesday of October prior to graduation.

C. All Sociology majors with appropriate GPAs at the time of the due date are eligible to submit Portfolios as part of their application for Graduation with Honors in Sociology.

D. Results of evaluation of the Portfolio will be available within six weeks of submission.

E. Final note: The department encourages discussion of Portfolio-oriented activities with faculty early and often.