

SOSC 480S Social Science Comprehensive Results

Social Science Comprehensive is your capstone experience for the Social Science and Social Science Education programs. This project demonstrates your ability to conduct independent research, write a scholarly paper, and present your findings to faculty and peers. Follow the steps below to complete all required components of the comprehensive.

Step 1: Select Your Topic

- Choose a topic that involves **at least two social science disciplines** (Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology).
- Finalize your topic in consultation with your advisor.
- Consider your future career goals when selecting your topic.

Step 2: Develop Your Research Question(s)

- Draft one or more research questions that will guide your project.
- Bring your ideas to your scheduled meeting with your advisor for feedback.

Step 3: Build Your Preliminary Bibliography

- Identify a list of sources you may use for background research.
- You must ultimately use at least six scholarly sources, including three reputable web-based sources.

Step 4: Plan Your Research Approach

- Determine how you will collect information (literature review, data collection, analysis, etc.).
- Discuss your research plan with your advisor.

Step 5: Create Your Paper Outline

- Draft an outline that organizes your major sections and arguments.
- Write a working thesis statement.
- Bring your outline to your advisor for review.

Step 6: Begin Writing Your Paper

- Write your rough draft using MLA style for formatting, citations, and documentation.
- Your paper must be 20 pages, not including the title page or works cited.
- All writing must be your own. Plagiarism will result in an Unsatisfactory (U).

Step 7: Participate in Writing Accountability Activities

- Meet with at least one other capstone student to write, review, and give feedback.
- Use this time to strengthen your draft and refine your ideas.

Step 8: Visit the Writing Center

- You are required to schedule an appointment with the Writing Center.
- Bring your draft and be prepared to revise based on their feedback.

Step 9: Submit Your Rough Draft

- Email your rough draft to your advisor by the assigned deadline.
- Allow one week for faculty feedback.

Step 10: Revise and Prepare Your Final Paper

- Make all required edits from your advisor and the Writing Center.
- Submit your final paper at least one week before your presentation.

Step 11: Create Your PowerPoint Presentation

Your presentation must:

- Be approximately 20 minutes long
- Clearly summarize your research
- Include visuals, images, or data that support your argument
- Be professional, organized, and easy to follow

Step 12: Present and Defend Your Research

- Present your research to the Capstone Committee, fellow students, and invited guests.
- Be prepared to answer questions from faculty about your research process, findings, and conclusions.

Step 13: Complete Any Required Revisions

- If the committee requests changes, revise your paper accordingly.
- Submit your final revised version by the end of Finals Week.

Grading

- Your paper is graded Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U).
- Your presentation is evaluated by the Capstone Committee.
- Both components must be completed successfully to pass the course.