

A2. Knowledge Outcomes Rubric – Social and Behavioral Sciences

Definition

Social and Behavioral Sciences focus attention on the study of individual and social behavior as well as the functioning society.

Framing Language

Social Science disciplines cover many fields and the rubric is intended to be general enough to apply to a range of approaches and assignments to achieve the ***Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Learning Outcome: Understand theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences.***

The foundation of the rubric is Bloom's Taxonomy (<https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/>). Bloom's Taxonomy, proposed by Benjamin Bloom in 1956 and revised in 2001, is a classification of the different outcomes and skills that educators set for their students (learning outcomes). There are six levels (remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating and creating) that are hierarchical, meaning learning at higher levels depends on knowledge and skills at lower levels. However, it may not be practical to always start with lower order skills and step through the entire taxonomy for each course concept. For example, 100 and 200 level courses may target lower order Bloom's skills because students are building foundational knowledge. 300 and 400 level courses, where students have a solid foundation in terminology and processes, may target higher-order learning objectives. For more information see <https://tips.uark.edu/using-blooms-taxonomy/>

How to use this rubric:

Students may meet the Social & Behavioral Sciences Student Learning Outcome either through a collection of unique student work over the course term, or a series of exercises and assignments as part of a longer or more complex project. A collection of work could contain a wide variety of different types of work and might include: research papers, article analyses, persuasive essays, policy papers, lab reports, presentations, or exams.

URI Knowledge Outcomes Rubric – Social and Behavioral Sciences Disciplines

- For “full” designation, courses must address any 5 elements.
- For “partial” designation, courses address any 3 of the elements.

Elements	Competent	Approaches Competency	Beginning Competency
<p>1. Recalls factual information</p> <p>For example, vocabulary, definitions, facts, terms, concepts, people, etc.</p>	<p>Identifies all of the relevant factual information</p>	<p>Identifies some of the relevant factual information</p>	<p>Identifies minimal to no relevant factual information</p>
<p>2. Understands factual information</p> <p>For example, compares, describes, explains, discusses, classifies information, etc.</p>	<p>Demonstrates thorough understanding of the factual information</p>	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of the factual information</p>	<p>Demonstrates minimal to no understanding of the factual information</p>
<p>3. Applies concepts to address a task</p> <p>For example, solves problems, presents or performs, uses abstract ideas, etc.</p>	<p>Applies relevant concepts with accuracy and thoroughness to completely address the task/assignment.</p>	<p>Applies some but not all relevant concepts to address the task/assignment OR there are some errors in applying concepts when addressing the task/assignment.</p>	<p>Applies few if any relevant concepts to address the task/assignment OR concepts are incorrectly/inaccurately applied.</p>

<p>4. Analyzes and interprets information</p> <p>For example, data may be organized and interpreted with statistics, or artistic work may be interpreted through historical knowledge, etc.</p>	<p>Provides a thorough analysis and interpretation of the information.</p>	<p>Provides some analysis and/or some interpretation of the information.</p>	<p>Provides minimal to no analysis or interpretation of the information.</p>
<p>5. Evaluates claims using criteria and standards</p> <p>For example, evaluates a hypothesis, argues a point of view, persuades an audience, critiques strengths/weaknesses, evaluates different artistic forms or techniques, etc.</p>	<p>Evaluates claims to support a position using clearly defined criteria and standards.</p>	<p>Evaluates claims to support a position using ill-defined criteria and standards.</p>	<p>Evaluates claims to support a position without clear criteria and standards, or no evaluation is evident.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrates innovative and creative thinking creates a product.</p> <p>For example, develops/designs an original plan, report, product, performance, etc.</p>	<p>Demonstrates innovation, creative thinking and/or creative risk-taking in producing something original when addressing the task/assignment.</p>	<p>Demonstrates some innovation, creative thinking and/or creative risk-taking when addressing the task/assignment.</p>	<p>Demonstrates minimal to no innovation, creative thinking and/or creative risk-taking when addressing the task/assignment.</p>