

Title	Conduct an independent qualitative sociological enquiry		
Level	3	Credits	6

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to conduct an independent qualitative sociological enquiry.
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Classification	Social Science Studies > Sociology
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Available grade	Achieved, Merit, and Excellence
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Criteria for Merit	<p>For merit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the findings are in detail • the conclusion(s) are supported by evidence from the enquiry data and use sociological ideas and concepts.
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Criteria for Excellence	<p>For excellence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the findings are in depth • the conclusion(s) are comprehensive and supported by evidence from the enquiry data, and use sociological ideas and concepts.
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Guidance Information

- 1 Sociology is the rigorous and methodical study of society. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organisations, and societies, and how people interact in these contexts.
- 2 This unit standard can be awarded with an *Achieved*, *Merit*, or *Excellence* grade. For the *Achieved* grade to be awarded, the outcome must be achieved as specified below in the outcome statement. For *Merit* or *Excellence* grades to be awarded, the candidate must meet the *Merit* or *Excellence* criteria specified above.
- 3 A qualitative enquiry includes the entire process from identifying the research question to the final reporting and conclusion. A qualitative enquiry is one in which essentially non-statistical data are collected. Qualitative methods could include but are not limited to: non-participant observation, participant observation, and unstructured interviews.
- 4 This unit standard is one of a series of three standards concerned with conducting qualitative sociological research. The three standards are differentiated principally by the level of student/researcher independence in the enquiry process:

- For Level 1, Unit 9005, *Conduct a directed qualitative sociological enquiry*, the teacher/supervisor determines the area of enquiry and the research question and methods, and closely supervises the student/researcher.
- For Level 2, Unit 9006, *Conduct a guided qualitative sociological enquiry*, the teacher/supervisor approves the area of enquiry and the research question and methods, and provides guidance to the student/researcher.
- For Level 3, Unit 9007, *Conduct an independent qualitative sociological enquiry*, the research is self-directed/managed with limited guidance from the teacher/supervisor.

There is a companion series of unit standards for quantitative enquiries.

- 5 Sociological research must include a consideration of relevant ethical issues. Ethical issues must include but are not limited to: obtaining the consent of those being studied, the confidentiality of the data collected, social and cultural sensitivity, respect for property rights. To protect the privacy of the people being studied and the confidentiality of the data they provide, actual names and locations must not be revealed by the researcher without permission.
- 6 Assessment support material related to this unit standard can be found at <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/assessment-of-standards/assessment-support-material/>.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Conduct an independent qualitative sociological enquiry.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Planning defines and develops a research question and a methodology.
- 1.2 Data collection and analysis are appropriate to the qualitative enquiry.
- 1.3 Findings are reported and appropriate conclusions are justified.
- 1.4 Conclusion(s) use sociological concepts.
- 1.5 Strengths and limitations of the research are evaluated.

Range validity of the data, conclusions.

Planned review date	31 December 2021
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	6 December 1996	31 December 2015
Revision	2	7 July 1999	31 December 2015
Review	3	22 August 2014	N/A
Rollover and Revision	4	27 September 2018	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0226

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services nqs@nzqa.govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.