

Assessment: Assessment Plan

Degree Program - AS - Sociology (BA)

CIP Code: 45.1101.00

Disciplinary Accrediting Body: Not Applicable

Degree Program Coordinator: Patricia Maloney

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Program Purpose Statement: The sociology program includes most of the major substantive areas of the discipline, ranging from interpersonal relations in families and elsewhere to the growth of cities and complex organizations to international relations. The department also offers a criminology concentration for sociology majors who wish to specialize in this area. Areas of faculty expertise include criminology and delinquency, marriage and the family, minority relations, gender, gerontology, cultural sociology, social psychology, international development, international migration, terrorism, medical sociology, sociology of religion, sociology of food, social research methods, and social theory. A major or minor in sociology is beneficial to students planning careers in a variety of areas, including business, law and law enforcement, banking, international development, medicine, human and employee relations, and social work. Courses in sociology fulfill Core Curriculum requirements in the social and behavioral sciences in Arts and Sciences and the university.

Assessment Coordinator: Cristina Bradatan

Modality: Fully Online (86-99% Online), Face-to-Face, Electronic-to-Group, Off Campus Face-to-Face

Student Learning Outcome: Outcome: Research Design and Methods

Understand and demonstrate ability to implement social research methods.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/29/2016

End Date: 12/31/2021

Additional Assessment Component: Communication Literacy

Assessment Methods

Course Level Assessment - Students are asked to design a research proposal from start to finish. The completion will be done across four assignments that culminate in a total proposal. They will need to demonstrate competence in research design and data collection in order to successfully complete the project. (Active)

Criterion: SOC 3392-Introduction to Social Research Methods is taught each semester and is required for sociology majors. Across the academic year, the students from both courses will average 80% or higher on the research design.

Schedule: Each semester

Course Level Assessment - Students are expected to grasp the concepts and operation of the scientific method in social science research. This information will be presented over the course of the semester. Students' understanding of the material will be gauged via three or four exams per semester. (Active)

Criterion: SOC 3392-Introduction to Social Research Methods is taught each semester and is required for sociology majors. Across the academic year, the students from both courses will average 80% or higher on the exams dealing with the scientific method.

Schedule: Each semester

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Student Learning Outcome: Outcome: Understanding Contemporary Social Life

Students will have an understanding of how contemporary sociological perspectives can be used to increase our knowledge of human behavior in various social and institutional settings.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/29/2016

End Date: 05/31/2021

Assessment Methods

Course Level Assessment - Students will demonstrate the application of contemporary social theory to a social problem or issue today in a final theoretical portfolio. This will 1) measure their ability to not only master the material, but also demonstrate their ability to identify social constructs, concepts, and apply them to modern and post-modern society, and 2) demonstrate a theoretical specialization by the student. (Active)

Criterion: 80% will of students will score 80 points or higher on the final portfolio document.

Schedule: SOC 394-Contemporary Sociological Theories is required for sociology majors. It is offered at least once per academic year. Most years, it is offered twice, depending on student need.

Course Level Assessment - Students will apply two chosen contemporary theories to media and popular culture in a written analysis. Concepts of the chosen theories will be employed to interpret and analyze a film's plot and interactions of characters.

(Active)

Criterion: 80% will of students will score 80 points or higher on the written analysis.

Schedule: SOC 3394-Contemporary Sociological Theories is required for sociology majors. It is offered at least once per academic year. Most years, it is offered twice, depending on student need.

Student Learning Outcome: Outcome: Understanding and applying Classical Sociological Theory

Students will demonstrate the application of classical social theory to a social problem or issue today. This will measure their ability to not only master the material, but also show that it can still be applicable in modern life.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/29/2016

End Date: 05/31/2019

Assessment Methods

Course Level Assessment - Students will write a theoretical portfolio of 3000 or greater words that analyzes (note: not just summarizes) a reading or set of theoretically related readings (e.g., Marx's writings on class and the Communist Manifesto). This will constitute Section A of the final paper. (Active)

Criterion: 80% of students will score a B or better on the rubric, Section A.

Schedule: SOC 3393-Development of Sociological Theory is a required course for sociology majors and is offered one semester per academic year.

Course Level Assessment - Students will choose and explain an appropriate, contemporary social situation that fits their chosen

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sociological theory. This will measure their ability to not only master the theoretical material, but also show that it can still be applicable in modern life. This will constitute Section B of the final paper. (Active)

Criterion: 80% of students will score a B or better on the rubric, Section B.

Schedule: SOC 3393-Development of Sociological Theory is a required course for sociology majors and is offered one semester per academic year.

Student Learning Outcome: Outcome: Understanding and applying statistical methods in the social sciences

- A) understand and critique the use of social statistics in research
- B) apply computational resources for the calculation and presentation of statistical data
- C) calculate and apply descriptive and inferential statistics

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/31/2018

End Date: 05/31/2021

Assessment Methods

Essays - Short paper assignment in which students are asked to critique and understand the use of social statistics in media. (Active)

Criterion: 80% of students will score 80% or higher on rubric headings for data analysis and data interpretation

Course Level Assessment - Homeworks on frequency tables, variation, correlation, and regression (Active)

Criterion: Of those who hand in these four homeworks, 70% of students will average a 70 or above on the homework rubric.

Exam - Midterm Exam, Final Exam (questions within) (Active)

Criterion: Class average on questions that deal with descriptive and inferential statistics will be over 75%