Assessment: Assessment Plan

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost
Office *of* Planning & Assessment™

Degree Program - AS - Sociology (MA)

CIP Code: 45.1101.00

Disciplinary Accrediting Body: not applicable

Next Accrediting Agency Review: 14-15

Degree Program Coordinator: Martha Smithey

Degree Program Coordinator Email: m.smithey@ttu.edu

Degree Program Coordinator Mail Stop: 1012

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, social psychology, international development, medical sociology, sociology of religion, 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, international development, medicine, 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: Face-to-Face

Student Learning Outcome: Presentation at professional conferences

By the end of their graduate program, students will be able to participate in appropriate professional activities such as academic conferences.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Assessment Methods

Performance - Before they graduate, each student will be have to make at least one presentation at an academic conference or within a class setting. (Active)
Criterion: Presentation at regional, national or international conference   **Schedule:** 93% of graduate students and 100% of second-year students in the Sociology MA program presented at a conference during AY 2018-19.

Professional Development Activities - Prepare conference papers (Active)
Criterion: Before they graduate, students should have prepared at least one full conference paper/presentation.

Student Learning Outcome: Improving students' research skills

Students will learn to conduct social research, from literature review, basic research design to gathering and analyzing data and relating the results to the appropriate literature in the discipline.

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 09/01/2015

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Assessment Methods

Essays - Most of the courses in the program will ask students to do a literature review essay. (Active)
Criterion: All graduating students should have written at least one literature review during their time in the program. **Schedule:** SOC 5308, SOC 5303 and are courses in sociological theory and are required for completion of the MA degree. Sociological research methods is taught once a year. One of these courses is taught every semester and requires a term paper with a literature review or research design.

Discipline-Specific Certification/Licensure - Before leaving the program, all students should be able to use one of social sciences software (SPSS, Stata, SAS). (Active)
Criterion: At least one of the core research methods courses will teach students one of these software. The graduate advisor will check the syllabi to make sure this is the case. **Schedule:** SOC 5334 was taught in Fall 2017. Students were required to demonstrate moderate proficiency in Stata 14.0 in their assignments and exams.

Student Learning Outcome: Program quality

Students will acquire advanced understanding of the major sociological theories and research methods and be able to apply them in analyzing social behavior and in guiding social research.

Outcome Status: Active
Outcome Type: Student Learning
Start Date: 09/01/2015

Assessment Methods

Student Projects - At least two of the core classes will require students to do final projects. These projects will be evaluated by the instructors. (Active)
Criterion: 90% of our students should get a pass on these final projects. **Schedule:** End of the semester evaluation.

Exam - At least one of the core courses in the program will employ a final exam. (Active)
Criterion: 90% of our graduates will pass this final exam. **Schedule:** End of the semester.