

Department of Sociology

Assessment Plan – Fall 2007

Programs: B.A. and B.S. in Sociology, B.S. in Social Services

I. Program Goals

1. Offer a superior sociology program that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving skills.
2. Develop students' interest and involvement in social policies and community service organizations that elicit social justice and social change.
3. Support faculty scholarship and professional development activities and student research.
4. Participate in the life of the university, local community, and professional organizations through service.
5. Offer a variety of sociology courses to General Education curriculum, interdisciplinary programs, and selected University Centers.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to:

1. **demonstrate critical thinking skills**
 - a. identify underlying assumptions in theoretical models and arguments
 - b. distinguish between arguments based on empirical evidence and those based on opinion
 - c. recognize alternative viewpoints on social issues

2. **communicate effectively**
 - a. express sociological ideas in a clear and coherent manner
 - b. make oral presentations focused on course content in group settings
 - c. read professional-level sociological reports with understanding

3. **apply sociological perspective**
 - a. describe similarities and differences between sociology and the other social sciences
 - b. explain the contributes of sociology to understanding social reality
 - c. define and apply key concepts such as: culture, status, roles, norms, socialization, deviance, conformity, self, social structure, social institution, social inequality, stratification, race, gender, social change, and cultural diversity

4. **demonstrate competence in sociological theory**
 - a. describe the role of theory in building sociological knowledge
 - b. compare and contrast major theoretical orientations
 - c. explain how theories reflect the historical and cultural context of the times and cultures in which they were developed

5. **Recognize and use different methods of sociological inquiry and data analysis**
 - a. identify, compare, and contrast the major methodological approaches and techniques for analyzing data
 - b. design and carry out a social research project
 - c. be aware of ethical issues in research
 - d. demonstrate basic computer skills necessary to find, create, apply, and communicate sociological information

6. **Show knowledge in substantive areas within sociology**
 - a. summarize existing knowledge, current questions, and important issues in one substantive area within sociology
 - b. suggest specific policy implications of research and theories in one area

7. **Integrate the knowledge and skills learned in the sociology program with life goals and career interests**
 - a. Participate in extra curriculum and service activities that elicit positive social change
 - b. Apply sociological perspective in real world, professional experience