Central Washington University
Assessment of Student Learning
Sociology Department

Please enter the appropriate information concerning your student learning assessment activities for this year.

Academic Year of Report: 2012-2013
College or Support Area: College of the Sciences
Department or Program: BA Sociology/BS Social Services

Check here if your assessment report covers all undergraduate degree programs: [ X ]
Check here if your assessment report covers all graduate degree programs: [   ]

1. What student learning outcomes were assessed this year, and why?
In answering this question, please identify the specific student learning outcomes you assessed this year, reasons for assessing these outcomes, with the outcomes written in clear, measurable terms, and note how the outcomes are linked to department, college and university mission and goals.

Our department assessed three student learning outcomes this year. They included:

1. Students will apply the sociological perspective. This is related to Program Goal 2: Develop student interest and involvement in social policies and community service organizations that elicit social justice and social change. This goal is related to COTS Goal 5: Build partnerships that support academic program quality and student experiences, including those with private, professional, academic, government and community based organizations. This goal is related to the CWU Goal 4: Build mutually beneficial partnerships with the public sector, industry, professional groups, institutions, and communities surrounding our campuses. This goal was chosen because our department wanted to know whether we needed to increase the opportunities for community engagement in courses.

2. Students will demonstrate competence in sociological theory. This goal is related to Program goal 1: Offer a superior sociology program that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving skills. This goal is related to COTS Goals 1 & 2: Provide for an outstanding academic and student experience. This SLO is related to CWU goals 1 & 2: Maintain and strengthen outstanding academic and student life. This goal was chosen because to see whether the department should add writing components to more of the coursework.

3. Students will recognize and use different methods of sociological inquiry and data analysis. This is related to Program goal 1: Offer a superior sociology program that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving skills. This goal is related to COTS goals 1 & 2: Provide for an outstanding academic and student experience. This SLO is related to CWU goals 1 & 2: Maintain and strengthen outstanding academic and student life. This goal was chosen because the department wanted to make sure that students were getting exposure to all types of sociological methodology.

2. How were they assessed?
In answering these questions, please concisely describe the specific methods used in assessing student learning. Please also specify the population assessed, when the assessment took place, and the standard of
mastery (criterion) against which you will compare your assessment results. If appropriate, please list survey or questionnaire response rate from total population.

A) What methods were used?
B) Who was assessed?
C) When was it assessed?

1. The Student Learning Outcome Assessed “Students will apply the sociological perspective” was evaluated through seniors enrolled in the capstone seminar course, fall and spring quarters 2012-2013. Students were assessed through meeting the course rubrics and the ability to pass the course. One hundred students were assessed 18 from Fall and 66 from Spring. Our minimal level of mastery was to have at least 90% of the students assessed meet the course rubric requirements and 95% if students obtain passing grades.

2. The Student Learning Outcome Assessed “Demonstrate Competence in Sociological Theory” was evaluated through the students enrolled in SOC 350 fall, winter and spring quarters 2012-2013. Seventy three students were assessed, 24 in Fall quarter, 19 Spring quarter, and 30 in winter quarter. Students were evaluated using the student learning outcomes developed in individual courses. The minimal level of mastery is to have 90% of students meet those outcomes.

3. The Student Learning Outcome “students will recognize and use different methods of sociological inquiry and data analysis” was evaluated using student learning outcomes (students were able to identify research methods and social analysis) established in Sociological Methods courses taught fall, winter and spring quarters 2012-2013. There were 71 students evaluated, 27 each quarter. The minimal level of mastery is to have 90% of students meet the student learning outcomes, 95% of students to obtain passing grades, and 100% of majors graduate with GPA at or above a 2.3.

3. What was learned?
In answering this question, please report results in specific qualitative or quantitative terms, with the results linked to the outcomes you assessed, and compared to the standard of mastery (criterion) you noted above. Please also include a concise interpretation or analysis of the results.

1. Students will apply the sociological perspective.
   A. Ninety-nine percent of students met the course requirements and passed the course. Students met the mastery for this outcome. This is not a surprise, most students have had considerable practice and experience with applying the perspective since this is the capstone course, students who have not applied this perspective in previous courses have not been successful and are not taking the Capstone course, which is taken the last quarter students are enrolled.

2. Students will demonstrate competence in sociological theory.
   A. Ninety percent of students met the learning outcomes in Sociological Theory and 95% of them passed the course. All department majors graduates with a GPA of 2.3 or above in Sociology. It appears that theory is a good way to assess theoretical knowledge. It may be that we will assess this in the SOC 489 class in subsequent quarters to identify the extent to which they retain this knowledge.

3. Students will recognize and use different methods of sociological inquiry and data analysis.
   A. Students were effectively able to meet the student learning outcomes established in the Sociological Methods courses. Ninety five percent of students received passing grades and all majors graduated with a GPA at or above a 2.3.
4. What will the department or program do as a result of that information?
In answering this question, please note specific changes to your program as they affect student learning, and as they are related to results from the assessment process. If no changes are planned, please describe why no changes are needed. In addition, how will the department report the results and changes to internal and external constituents?

1. Students will apply a sociological perspective: Based on the results of this year’s assessment our department will try to use different indicators to assess application of a sociological perspective. The first improvement will be to SOC 460 for a more direct measure of community engagement. In addition, the department will also assess all internships as a measure of the application of a sociological perspective.

2. Demonstrate competence in sociological theory: Based on the results of student success in Social Theory, our department believes that there are no programmatic changes needed. However, we will continue to emphasize the importance of social theory in all courses.

3. Recognize and use different methods of sociological inquiry and data analysis. Based on the results of this year’s assessment, our department believes there are no programmatic changes needed. However, we will assess student research projects in the future to further identify the extent to which students are using different methods of data analysis.

5. What did the department or program do in response to the feedback from last year’s assessment report?
In answering this question, please describe any changes that have been made to improve student learning based on previous assessment results. Please also discuss any changes you have made to your assessment plan or assessment methods.

Last year’s report was a Reading Assessment in the General Education courses. We have not changed the assessment methods for Sociology or our Assessment Plan.

6. Questions or suggestions concerning Assessment of Student Learning at Central Washington University:

It would be beneficial to tie Student Learning Outcomes to the Strategic Plan.