

## SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY ASSESSMENT PLAN (REVISED SPRING 2014)

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MISSION OF THE Sociology/Criminology Program. The program is oriented around the following objectives:

- To provide a well-rounded liberal arts education heavily invested in Sociology.
- To provide students an opportunity to study social worlds, societies and individuals in-depth, including social arrangements, interactions, structures, institutions, and cultures.
- To foster critical reading and thinking, intellectual curiosity, and ethical reasoning.
- To enable students to pursue their own intellectual questions through independent research and learning.
- To help progress our students' communication skills.
- To prepare students for the workforce – in government, business, education, nonprofits – by developing skills in research, synthesis, analysis, and written and oral communication.
- To prepare interested students for graduate-level studies in academic and applied fields.

### SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT. The Sociology Program engages in assessment as an effective means for enhancing student learning and the fulfillment of our mission. The main priority of our assessment plan is to enable the program and its faculty to systematically study student learning in a way that such learning can be enhanced. Our academic program assessment further enables us to enhance student learning by making a clear conceptual distinction between teaching and learning. We achieve this by focusing on the (a) teaching process through the alignment of learning goals and embedded assessment and the (b) resultant learning outcomes through the analyses of the embedded assessment data and trends. We also strive for a properly executed assessment of our academic programs so that it contributes to our improved teaching and learning in a variety of ways.

Specifically, from our assessment, our faculty

1. engage in serious and substantive discussions about important learning outcomes and the education of our students.
2. design and administer good assessment instruments and methods that offer a meaningful way to rigorously evaluate our learning outcomes.
3. reflect on and discuss the assessment results in a forum that facilitates a genuine consideration of possible changes that will enable learning objectives to be more fully realized.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- *Learning Outcome 1: Sociology as a Discipline.* Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of society and changes in society.
- *Learning Outcome 2: Sociological Concepts.* Our students will demonstrate a knowledge, comprehension, and relevance of core sociological concepts.
- *Learning Outcome 3: Sociological/Criminological Theories.* Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of theory in sociology/criminology.
- *Learning Outcome 4: Sociological Application.* Our students will formulate research questions based on critical readings and understandings of sociological research.
- *Learning Outcome 5: Oral Communication.* Our students will demonstrate the ability to present material orally in an organized and effective manner.
- *Learning Outcome 6: Written Communication.* Our students will demonstrate appropriate writing practices and formats and effective written communication and editing skills.
- *Learning Outcome 7: Empiricism.* Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the roles and uses of evidence in qualitative and quantitative methods.

ASSESSMENT PLANNING CHART. PROGRAM: Sociology/Criminology					
LEARNING OUTCOME	Assessment Year and Targeted Courses				Assessment Targets
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
<i>Learning Outcome 1: Sociology as a Discipline.</i> Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of society and changes in society		SOCI414 (Family Violence)			Essay Question
<i>Learning Outcome 2: Sociological Concepts.</i> Our students will demonstrate a knowledge, comprehension, and relevance of core sociological concepts.		SOCI 335 (Juvenile Justice System)			Final Project & Poster
<i>Learning Outcome 3: Sociological Theories.</i> Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of theory in sociology.			SOCI455/S OCI 311		Essay Questions
<i>Learning Outcome 4: Sociological Application.</i> Our students will formulate research questions based on critical readings and understandings of sociological research.			SOCI318		Final Project
<i>Learning Outcome 5: Oral Communication.</i> Our students will demonstrate the ability to present material orally in an organized and effective manner.	SOCI470 (Environmental Sociology)				Discussion Leader
<i>Learning Outcome 6: Written Communication.</i> Our students will demonstrate appropriate writing practices and formats and effective written communication and editing skills.	SOCI499			SOCI499	Final Project
<i>Learning Outcome 7: Empiricism.</i> Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the roles and uses of evidence in qualitative and quantitative methods.				SOCI318	Essay Question

NOTE: SOCI 318 and 499 are required of all sociology/criminology majors. Other courses are electives for sociology and criminology option students.