

Academic Program Workspace

Sociology (B.A.)

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General Information (Academic Program Workspace)

General Program Information

NAME OF DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Daphne Pedersen

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT

Daphne Pedersen

SPECIALIZED ACCREDITATION IF APPLICABLE (NAME OF ACCREDITING AGENCY, STATUS OF ACCREDITATION, DATE OF NEXT ACCREDITATION)

Not applicable

LICENSURES OR CERTIFICATES OFFERED IF APPLICABLE (EX. RN, SECONDARY EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL PILOT, ETC.)

Not applicable

PERCENTAGE OF DEGREE OFFERED ONLINE (100% ONLINE, ONLINE WITH SOME CAMPUS VISITS, OR NOT ONLINE)

64%

DO YOU OFFER 50% OR MORE OF YOUR COURSES LEADING TO YOUR DEGREE(S) AT ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS?

No

Standing Requirements

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department fosters the discipline of sociology through teaching and learning, research, and service. We are committed to helping the students of the University of North Dakota understand the complex social and cultural forces shaping our world. We strive to discover, develop, preserve, and disseminate sociological knowledge that contributes to the public well-being. Consistent with the core values of the University of North Dakota, we strive to facilitate among the faculty and student body a sense of community, discovery, an awareness and appreciation of diversity and inclusivity, and a passion for lifelong learning. We are teachers and scholars interested in advancing the growth of our students, the University of North Dakota, and the body of scientific knowledge. In doing so, we draw on the individual strengths and expertise of our faculty members and value their unique contributions.

OUTCOMES

Sociology (B.A.) Outcome Set

Outcome 1a

How is sociology distinctive as a discipline? Students should be able to: a) Recognize and apply sociological perspectives

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 2a

What do sociologists know? Students should be able to: a) Identify how social and historical contextual factors help shape society and social life.

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 2b

What do sociologists know? Students should be able to: b) Demonstrate an understanding of the key knowledge areas in the discipline (e.g., structure, interaction, inequality, and diversity)

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 3a

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to: a) Apply theoretical concepts to an issue.

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 3b

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to: b) Identify key methodological concepts and

practices.

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 3c

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to:c) Analyze data statistically using appropriate software.

Mapping

No Mapping

Outcome 3d

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to:d) Use discipline-specific conventions to convey sociological information in writing.

Mapping

No Mapping

CURRICULUM MAP

Active Curriculum Maps

Sociology B.A. (See appendix)

Alignment Set Sociology (B.A.) Outcome Set

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Assessment Map (When are outcomes measured? Upload map)

ASSESSMENT MAP OF WHEN OUTCOMES ARE MEASURED (UPLOAD TABLE DETAILING WHAT OUTCOMES ARE MEASURED EACH YEAR)

File Attachments:

1. **Assessment Timeline Sociology 2019.docx** (See appendix)

2019-2020 Assessment Cycle

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Mission Statement

The Department fosters the discipline of sociology through teaching and learning, research, and service. We are committed to helping the students of the University of North Dakota understand the complex social and cultural forces shaping our world. We strive to discover, develop, preserve, and disseminate sociological knowledge that contributes to the public well-being. Consistent with the core values of the University of North Dakota, we strive to facilitate among the faculty and student body a sense of community, discovery, an awareness and appreciation of diversity and inclusivity, and a passion for lifelong learning. We are teachers and scholars interested in advancing the growth of our students, the University of North Dakota, and the body of scientific knowledge. In doing so, we draw on the individual strengths and expertise of our faculty members and value their unique contributions.

Measures

Sociology (B.A.) Outcome Set

Outcome

Outcome: Outcome 3d

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to:

d) Use discipline-specific conventions to convey sociological information in writing.

Measure: Senior survey

Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description:

Includes self-report measures for the following items:

1. How well your education prepared you for academic writing
2. How would you rate the opportunities you had to develop your writing skills
3. How would you rate your writing skills
4. How comfortable are you with academic writing
5. If, in your first job out of college, you were tasked with writing a report how well do you think you would perform

Target:

75% of students will rate their writing skills as good or better

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Measure: SOC 431 - Quantitative Analysis, Part 2: Sociological Writing portion

Course level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:

This rubric scores students on various aspects of the literature review portion of the Quantitative Analysis Part 2 assignment for Soc. 431 that is worth a total of 40 points. Goal 3d is assessed using the portion of the rubric centered on sociological writing—in particular, the ability to convey hypotheses using discipline-specific writing conventions. This aspect of the rubric is worth 10 of the 40 points.

Target: 80% of students will score at least an 8 out of 10 on this aspect of the rubric.
Implementation Plan (timeline): Spring semester 2020

Measure: SOC 475 Capstone project - final paper
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: Rubric focuses on: (a) sense of purpose; (b) synthesis, analysis, and evaluation; (c) guidance for readers; and (d) clarity and sociological conventions

Target: 75% of students will score a 1 (meets) or higher (2 = exceeds)

Implementation Plan (timeline): Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Finding per Measure

Sociology (B.A.) Outcome Set

Outcome

Outcome: Outcome 3d

How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to:

d) Use discipline-specific conventions to convey sociological information in writing.

Measure: Senior survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: Includes self-report measures for the following items:
 1. How well your education prepared you for academic writing
 2. How would you rate the opportunities you had to develop your writing skills
 3. How would you rate your writing skills
 4. How comfortable are you with academic writing
 5. If, in your first job out of college, you were tasked with writing a report how well do you think you would perform

Target: 75% of students will rate their writing skills as good or better

Implementation Plan (timeline): Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Findings for Senior survey

Summary of Findings: 76.5% of students who responded to the senior survey (n = 17) reported that their writing skills were either "good" or "excellent"

Results : Target Achievement: Met

Action Plan: Continue to emphasize academic writing across the curriculum, with extra

emphasis and repeated drafts in SOC 475 (Sociology Capstone)

Measure: SOC 431 - Quantitative Analysis, Part 2: Sociological Writing portion
Course level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: This rubric scores students on various aspects of the literature review portion of the Quantitative Analysis Part 2 assignment for Soc. 431 that is worth a total of 40 points. Goal 3d is assessed using the portion of the rubric centered on sociological writing—in particular, the ability to convey hypotheses using discipline-specific writing conventions. This aspect of the rubric is worth 10 of the 40 points.

Target: 80% of students will score at least an 8 out of 10 on this aspect of the rubric.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Spring semester 2020

Findings for SOC 431 - Quantitative Analysis, Part 2: Sociological Writing portion

Summary of Findings: 90% of students scored at a level of 8 out of 10 or higher on this aspect of the rubric.

Results : Target Achievement: Exceeded

Action Plan: The target achievement was met on this goal. The area in which students demonstrated the greatest need for additional practice was in phrasing hypotheses in a manner that does not imply causality. An in-class practice activity will be designed and implemented to enhance performance in this area.

Measure: SOC 475 Capstone project - final paper
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: Rubric focuses on: (a) sense of purpose; (b) synthesis, analysis, and evaluation; (c) guidance for readers; and (d) clarity and sociological conventions

Target: 75% of students will score a 1 (meets) or higher (2 = exceeds)

Implementation Plan (timeline): Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Findings for SOC 475 Capstone project - final paper

Summary of Findings: (a) Sense of purpose
Fall = 94% proficiency; Spring = 92% proficiency

(b) Synthesis, analysis, and evaluation

Fall = 78% proficiency; Spring = 75% proficiency

(c) Guidance for readers

Fall = 89% proficiency; Spring = 100% proficiency

(d) Clarity and sociological conventions

Fall = 83% proficiency; Spring = 92% proficiency

Results :

Target Achievement: Exceeded

Action Plan:

Students met the learning objective and target for all criteria. While the target was met, the lowest marks were for "synthesis, analysis, and evaluation." Extra guidance will be provided during class on writing the discussion portion of the capstone paper.

Overall Reflection

Data pertaining to Goal 3d (How is sociological knowledge produced? Students should be able to: use discipline-specific conventions to convey sociological information in writing) indicated that target achievement was exceeded (in course assessments) or met (indirect, via student survey). We are satisfied with the program curriculum, both in terms of course coverage and sequencing. Nonetheless, efforts to maintain high levels of achievement and performance will continue to be undertaken over future years and assessment cycles. As always, teaching sociological writing is a challenge and having it woven across the curriculum is important in fostering students' skills development.

Appendix

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- A. **Sociology B.A.** (Curriculum Map)
 - B. **Assessment Timeline Sociology 2019.docx** (Word Document (Open XML))
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