

Academic Year 2008-2009 Assessment Report
Sociology
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Introduction

During the 2008-2009 Academic Year, the Department of Sociology evaluated the final papers collected from the SOC512, Measurement and Analysis, and SOC545, Sociological Theory. In addition, the rubric was developed for Goal 2 which asks students to describe the consequences of structural issues in society (racism, sexism, classism, etc.)

The 61 papers collected from the SOC315, Marriage and Families, and SOC330, Social Inequality classes were evaluated based on the rubric (two separate faculty members). As a result of the evaluation based on the new rubric, some changes in the rubric were recommended.

Data from employer evaluations of students placed in community jobs through Cooperative Education has been requested for the AY, 2007-2008. The results have not yet been provided, and changes at Cooperative Education may require that we re-evaluate Goal 3, outcome 4 based on their data.

Sociology majors are now taking an exit survey at the end of SOC512, our capstone course, and there may be information their around which we can develop another Assessment Goal to replace the one using Cooperative Education data.

Goals/Outcomes

Goal 1, Outcome 1, which focuses on understanding sociological theory as part of the research process, was assessed based on nine papers from last year's class. Of the nine, 100 percent met criteria on the rubric. The standard was 80 percent.

Goal 1, Outcome 2, centers on demonstrating the accurate application of the scientific method in carrying out a research project. Thirty-four papers from two sections of SOC512 were evaluated against the rubric, and 88 percent met or surpassed the criteria. The standard was 80 percent.

Goal 2, Outcome 3, describing the consequences of structural issues in society, was successfully evaluated for the first time this year. Assignments from two classes were collected (N=61) and evaluated against the rubric developed this year. The evaluator indicated that 87 percent met or exceeded the expectations set by the rubric (standard was 80 percent), but hoped the rubric might be changed to better accommodate the written assignment.

Sociology Major Exit Survey

The Sociology Department has instituted an exit survey for our undergraduate majors near the end of their undergraduate work (see Appendix B). We have a data base with an N of 42 students at this time. These data center on the students' evaluation of different

dimensions of the sociology curriculum/program and whether they believe that there is career relevance to the major. As sociology continues to evaluate these data, we may find a few variables that will lead us to amend our Assessment Plan as it relates to employment.