Tennessee Tech University

Final Annual Report

Tennessee Tech University

President

Provost

College of Arts and Sciences

Sociology and Political Science

Sociology BS

Sociology Major Mission
Department/Unit Contact: James Raymondo

Mission/Vision/Goal Statement
The mission statement of the Department of Sociology and Political Science reflects the wide range of academic disciplines represented in the department, and our commitment to an education that is both grounded in the traditions of the liberal arts and reflecting the needs of an increasingly technological society.

> The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, social work, philosophy, political science, criminal justice, and anthropology. We provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities. Students are educated not only to master a diverse body of knowledge but also how to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover. Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.

Program Goal 1

Define Goal
Program Goal 1: The Department of Sociology and Political Science will be staffed with a faculty committed to excellence in the areas of: teaching; research; and, service.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

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⚙ Program Goal 2

Define Goal
Program Goal 2: The Department of Sociology and Political Science will serve the needs of students seeking non-traditional instruction methods by participating in the Regents Online Degree Program (RODP).

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

⚙ Student Learning Outcome 1

Define Goal
Student Learning Outcome 1: Majors in sociology will demonstrate knowledge of their discipline at a level above or comparable to the national mean.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

⚙ Student Learning Outcome 2

Define Goal
Student Learning Outcome 2: Majors in sociology will demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level above or comparable to the national mean.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

⚙ Student Learning Outcome 3

Define Goal
Student Learning Outcome 3: Majors in sociology will be capable of effective oral and written communication.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

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Student Learning Outcome 4

Define Goal

Student Learning Outcome 4: Majors in sociology taking the criminal justice concentration will demonstrate competence in their concentration.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Student Learning Outcome 5

Define Goal

Student Learning Outcome 5: Sociology majors taking the social work concentration will be expected to be rated at a level above average by their supervisor when completing their required internship.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Program Goal 1 Assessment Tool
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Program Goal 1
Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Faculty Annual Report and Evaluation Process (Conducted annually in the spring semester) – Program Goal 1: Each faculty member will submit an annual report to the chairperson of the department discussing their efforts for the previous calendar year in the areas of teaching, research, and service. The report will address the following indicators. Teaching: number of courses taught including on-campus courses; on-line courses; and independent studies; enrollment in each course; and, appropriate teaching evaluations. Research: publications; grants funded or continuing; presentations at international, national, regional, or state professional organizations; manuscripts submitted for publication; grant applications submitted; and, research in progress. Service: service activities for the department, college, university, and community. The annual report is the basis for the **Faculty Annual Evaluation**.

Each individual faculty member's progress in their **Faculty Annual Report** will be discussed with the chair, and an overall summary of the department's progress will be included in an annual report from the chair to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. **Committed to Excellence** is measured by at least 80% of the faculty receiving a rating of "Outstanding" or, "High" (the two highest ratings on the five point scale used in the evaluations) on their annual faculty evaluation.

The chairperson of the department will monitor the **number of RODP courses** offered each term, the number of sections offered each term, and the enrollment. Results will be included in the department annual report.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

⚙ **Program Goal 2 Assessment Tool**
  Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Program Goal 2
  Type of Tool: FTE Enrollment

Rationale

  RODP Courses (Monitored each semester) – Program Goal 2: The chairperson of the department will monitor the number of RODP courses offered each term, the number of sections offered each term, and the enrollment. Results are included in the Department's Annual Report, and the Institutional Effectiveness Report.
  The chairperson of the department will monitor the **number of RODP courses** offered each term, the number of sections offered each term, and the enrollment. Results will be included in the department annual report.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

⚙ **Student Learning Outcome 1 Assessment Tool ETS exam**
  Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 1
  Type of Tool: Exit Exam

Rationale
ETS major field examination (Administered each fall and spring semester) - Student Learning Outcomes 1, & 2. Majors in sociology with senior classification will take the ETS major field examination in sociology.

  Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the **ETS Major Field Examination in Sociology** will be defined as TTU students having a mean score above or equal to the national mean, or a score no lower than one standard deviation below the national mean.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

⚙ **Student Learning Outcome 2 Assessment Tool ETS exam**
  Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 2
  Type of Tool: Exit Exam

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Rationale

ETS major field examination (Administered each fall and spring semester) - Student Learning Outcomes 1, & 2. Majors in sociology with senior classification will take the ETS major field examination in sociology.

Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on **Subscore 2 Critical Thinking on the ETS Major Field Examination in Sociology** will be defined as TTU students having a mean score on Subscore 2 Critical Thinking above or equal to the national mean, or a score no lower than one standard deviation below the national mean.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

Student Learning Outcome 2 Assessment Tool IDEA Form
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 2
Type of Tool: Survey

Rationale

IDEA Student Evaluation results (Administered each semester) – Student Learning Outcome 2. The chairperson of the department will monitor the percent of sociology instructors identifying Critical Thinking as a key course objective, and the percent of students who report citing progress on Critical Thinking in the related course.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

Student Learning Outcome 3 Assessment Tool NSSE
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 3
Type of Tool: Survey

Rationale

National Survey of Student Engagement (Administered spring semesters 2006, 2009, 2011) – Student Learning Outcome 3: The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will assess students' confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively.
Sociology majors will be required to write papers and give oral presentations in various sociology courses. The **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)** will assess students' confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively. These results will be compared to other TTU students and to our Carnegie peer institutions.

Frequency of Assessment: Every two years

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⚙ Student Learning Outcome 4 Assessment Tool CJ Exam
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 4
Type of Tool: Exit Exam

Rationale
> **Multiple Choice Exam** (Administered each fall and spring with the ETS Major field examination) – Student Learning Outcome 4: A multiple choice exam covering topics in criminal justice developed by faculty in the department. The exam is taken by majors in the criminal justice concentration and administered along with the ETS major field exam.
>
> Sociology majors with the criminal justice concentration will be expected to answer 75% or more of the questions correctly on a **multiple choice exam** covering topics in criminal justice. The exam was developed by faculty in the department, and will be administered during the ETS major field exam.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

⚙ Student Learning Outcome 5 Tool Internship Supervisor form
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Student Learning Outcome 4
Type of Tool: Survey

Rationale
> **Supervisor Internship Evaluation Form** (Completed by the student's supervisor at the internship location) – Student Learning Outcome 5: Supervisors of student internships complete a Supervisor Internship Evaluation Form for each student.
> Overall performance on the **Supervisor Internship Evaluation Form** is rated on a scale of: Outstanding; Good; Average; Fair; or, Poor. Ninety percent of sociology majors with the social work concentration will be expected to be rated at a level above average by their supervisor when completing their required internship.

Frequency of Assessment: Annual

📏 Program Goal 1 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 1

Results
The **Faculty Annual Reports** (Program Goal 1) dealing with the teaching, research and service activities of the faculty are provided to the department chair by each faculty member in the form of their annual progress report. The faculty progress reports provide the basis for much of the department's annual report submitted to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and are the basis of the faculty member's annual evaluation. **Committed to Excellence** is measured by at least 80% of the faculty receiving a rating of "Outstanding" or, "High" (the two highest

ratings on the five point scale used in the evaluations) on their annual faculty evaluation. We have consistently met or exceeded our goal since 2010.

Faculty Annual Evaluation Data

Percent of Faculty Rated

Year	Outstanding or High
Calendar Year 2016	100%
Calendar Year 2015	100%
Calendar Year 2014	100%
Calendar Year 2013	100%
Calendar Year 2012	100%
Calendar Year 2011	100%
Calendar Year 2010	83.3%

Attachments
No items to display.

Program Goal 2 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 2

Results
Data on the **number of RODP courses** (Program Goal 2) dealing with the department's support of students needing non-traditional course opportunities by participating in the Regent's Online Degree Program are obtained from the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) website. Data for the period from Spring 2010 to Fall 2016 are presented below. Note that TBR changed its RODP enrollment data software system in the 2014-15 academic year so Summer 2014 and 2015 data are not reported below.

While the department's commitment to on-line education remains recent changes in the structure of the Tennessee Board of Regents system is resulting in a drop in RODP participation since the four-year universities now have more freedom to enter the on-line space without the previous restrictions of not competing with ROPD offerings. Program goal 2 will be evaluated in the near future and will likely be revised or replaced.

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RODP Data

Term	Number of Courses	Number of Sections	Enrollment
Fall 2016	~11	13	138
Summer 2016	10	10	85
Spring 2016	7	10	159
Fall 2015	11	14	180
Spring 2015	7	13	193
Fall 2014	9	13	193
Summer 2014	8	8	106
Spring 2014	8	14	262
Fall 2013	8	14	267
Summer 2013	8	9	123
Spring 2013	8	14	251
Fall 2012	8	17	356
Summer 2012	8	8	105
Spring 2012	8	15	296
Fall 2011	8	16	324
Summer 2011	8	9	141
Spring 2011	8	14	269
Fall 2010	8	14	265
Summer 2010	8	14	296
Spring 2010	8	9	128

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(data from the RODP website)

Department faculty in sociology have been among the most active at the University in developing RODP courses to serve the needs of students needing non-traditional delivery of the curriculum. Department faculty have developed a total of 11 RODP versions of upper division sociology courses including: social psychology; juvenile delinquency; childhood; deviance; sociological theory; sex and gender; population and social process; and, organized crime. Three new RODP courses were added to our offerings in the 2014-2015 academic year: SOC 3640 Cybercrime; SOC 4520 Domestic Violence; and, SOC 4580 Sociology of Murder.

Attachments
No items to display.

Student Learning Outcome 1 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 1

Results
Data on the **ETS Major Field Exam** in sociology (Student Learning Outcome 1) regarding the knowledge base of sociology majors are obtained from the Educational Testing Service. All majors are required to take the sociology field exam during their senior year. Data for the period from Fall 2011 to Fall 2016 are presented below.

Sociology majors at Tennessee Tech have not scored significantly below the national mean of the **ETS Major Field Exam in Sociology** in the 2011-12 to 2015-16 academic years period.

Appendix 1. Sociology Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2016		Spring 2017	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]
Mean	142	148.3		
S.D.	9	12.4		

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Term	Fall 2015		Spring 2016	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]
Mean	138	148.6	142	148.6
S.D.	9	12.3	13	12.3
N	32	3,804	35	3,804

Term	Fall 2014		Spring 2015	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]
Mean	142	148.7	143	148.7
S.D.	9	12.2	11	12.2
N	27	2,543	39	2,543

Term	Fall 2013		Spring 2014	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]
Mean	142	148.8	146	148.8
S.D.	8	11.8	9	11.8
N	30	1,143	38	1,143

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2012		Spring 2013	
Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]

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Mean	145	147.8	144	147.8
S.D.	9	12.2	10	12.2
N	27	9,423	52	9,423

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Sociology Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2011		Spring 2012	

Major Field Exam	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data[1]
Mean	145	147.6	145	147.6
S.D.	20	12.2	10	12.2
N	8	7,819	38	7,819

Attachments
No items to display.

Student Learning Outcome 2 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning 2

Results
Discussion Student Learning Outcome 2

Data from the **ETS Major Field Exam Subscore 2** dealing with critical thinking skills

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are presented below. TTU sociology majors have not scored significantly below the national mean during the reporting period from Fall 2011 to Fall 2016.

An additional source of data to assess critical thinking is found in the analysis of the department's **IDEA Student Evaluation results**. The table below provides data on the percent of sociology instructors identifying Critical Thinking as a key course objective, and the percent of students who report citing progress on Critical Thinking in the related course. The 2016 data reflect the latest results from the Assessment Office and show an increase from the 2015 period.

Appendix 1. Sociology Major Field Test Results

Term	Fall 2016		Spring 2017	
Critical Thinking				
Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	43	47.8		
S.D.	9	12		

Term	Fall 2015		Spring 2016	
Critical Thinking				
Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	39	48.4	44	48.4
S.D.	10	12.6	13	12.6

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2014		Spring 2015	

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Critical Thinking

Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	41	48.3	43	48.3
S.D.	7	11.9	11	11.9

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in *Italics* are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2013	Spring 2014

Critical Thinking

Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	42	48.4	47	48.4
S.D.	9	11.7	9	11.7

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in <u>*Italics*</u> are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2012	Spring 2013

Critical Thinking

Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	44	47.6	44	47.8
S.D.	8	12.3	9	7.3

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TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in _Italics_ are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

Term	Fall 2011		Spring 2012	
Critical Thinking				
Subscore	TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
Mean	**48**	47.4	47	47.4
S.D.	10	12.3	10	12.3

TTU Scores in **Bold** are at or above the national mean

TTU Scores in _Italics_ are over one standard deviation below the national mean.

IDEA Student Evaluation Data

Percent of Instructors Selecting Critical Thinking as a Key Course Objective, and

Percent of Students Citing Progress on Critical Thinking

	Percent of Instructors	**Percent of Students**
Year	**Selecting as Key Obj.**	**Citing Progress**

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2016	44.8	57.5
2015	43.8	54.1
2014	64.3	56.1
2013	63.0	56.9
2012	60.8	56.4
2011	67.5	46.7
2010	60.6	55.5

Attachments
No items to display.

Student Learning Outcome 3 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 3

Results
Discussion: While year to year performance fluctuates between increases and decreases in the performance of TTU students, the more significant pattern is that in each reporting period the scores for seniors are higher than the scores for freshman. We view these data to indicate that our program is effective in improving the oral and written skills of our majors.

NOTE: 2016 NSSE Data are SOC & POLS combined due to the small response rate.

Learning Outcome Skill	TTU Sociology	TTU Total	Carnegie Peers

2016 Data

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Oral Communication

Freshmen	2.00	2.50	2.80
Seniors	3.78	2.80	3.00

Written Communication

Freshmen	3.00	2.60	2.90
Seniors	3.11	2.80	3.10

2014 Data

Oral Communication

Freshmen	2.89	2.60	2.80
Seniors	3.00	2.90	3.00

Written Communication

Freshmen	2.67	2.70	2.90
Seniors	3.27	2.80	3.10

2011 Data

Oral Communication

Freshmen	2.18	2.39	2.33
Seniors	3.06	2.84	2.86

Written Communication

Freshmen	3.35	3.12	3.15
Seniors	3.41	3.26	3.38

2009 Data

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Oral Communication

Freshmen	2.50	2.46	2.34
Seniors	2.94	2.88	2.84

Written Communication

Freshmen	3.00	3.10	3.13
Seniors	3.18	3.27	3.36

2006 Data

Oral Communication

Freshmen	2.14	2.33	2.87
Seniors	2.67	2.86	2.87

Written Communication

Freshmen	3.00	3.04	3.04
Seniors	3.11	3.19	3.31

Attachments
No items to display.

Student Learning Outcome 4 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 4

Results
Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam.

Data on the **Multiple Choice Exam** (Student Learning Outcome 4) dealing with the performance of students taking the criminal justice concentration of the sociology major are obtained from an in-house developed multiple choice exam covering the

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content on crime and deviance. The exam is administered to the students taking the criminal justice concentration following their completion of the ETS sociology major field exam. Data for the period from Fall 2011 to Spring 2016 are presented below. Tennessee Tech students have exceeded the goal of answering at least 75% of the questions correctly each of the last ten semesters.

Note: Due to recent revisions in the Criminal Justice program, and our development of an on-line version of the SOC/CJ major the Criminal Justice in-house exam is no longer administered, and will be replaced by another assessment measure to better reflect our current efforts.

Sociology CJ Exam Results

Term	Fall 2016	Spring 2017
	NA	NA

Term	Fall 2015	Spring 2016

Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam (scored by ETS).

TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
80.63	N.A.	77.96	N.A.

Term	Fall 2014	Spring 2015

Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam (scored by ETS).

TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
78.6	N.A.	82.5	N.A.

Term	Fall 2013	Spring 2014

Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam (scored by ETS).

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TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
83.1	N.A.	84.51	N.A.

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Sociology CJ Exam Results

Term   Fall 2012   Spring 2013

Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam (scored by ETS).

TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
83.1	N.A.	82.19	N.A.

Sociology CJ Exam Results

Term   Fall 2011   Spring 2012

Mean Percent Correct on Criminal Justice in-house developed exam (scored by ETS).

TTU	National Data	TTU	National Data
85.71	N.A.	84.59%	

Attachments
No items to display.

Student Learning Outcome 5 Results
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 5

Results
Data on the **Supervisor Internship Evaluation** (Student Learning Outcome 5) dealing with the performance of students taking the social work concentration of the sociology major are obtained from the professor of record for the social work internship class. The goal is for all students to be rated at a level of above average in performance of the required internship. The student's supervisor is asked to rate the overall performance of the student on a scale of: Outstanding; Good: Average; Fair; or, Poor. Data for the spring 2008 to fall 2016 are presented below. We have begun to report Summer term internship results since many of our students have begun to complete their internship experience in that term.

In the majority of the semesters reported 100% of the students have been rated

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Outstanding or Good by their placement supervisor easily meeting our goal of at least 90%. The Fall 2015 semester has been the only one in which we did not meet or exceed our goal when only 86% of the students were rated Outstanding or Good.

Supervisor's Rating for Students in SW 4900 Internship

	Number Enrolled	Number Outstanding or Good
Fall 2016	25	25
Summer 2016	14	14
Spring 2016	14	13
Fall 2015	18	17
Summer 2015	11	11
Spring 2015	10	09
Fall 2014	14	12
Spring 2014	13	12
Fall 2013	12	11
Spring 2013	9	9
Fall 2012	12	12
Spring 2012	9	9
Fall 2011	12	12
Spring 2011	11	11
Fall 2010	10	10
Spring 2010	2	2
Fall 2009	8	8
Spring 2009	11	11
Fall 2008	5	5

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Spring 2008   5   5

Attachments
No items to display.

💡 **Program Goal 2**
   Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Program Goal 2

   Program Changes and Actions due to Results
   Program Goal 2 deals with our efforts to meet student's needs for a non-traditional
   instruction method, and has been tied to our participation in the Tennessee Board of
   Regents (TBR) on-line degree program (RODP).

   Recent changes in the structure of the TBR system has resulted in the 4-year
   universities being allowed to operate as independent state universities rather than as
   part of the TBR system. One result is that the 4-year universities are also withdrawing
   from RODP and expanding their won on-line programs.

   The department has recently implemented an on-line delivery method for our SOC/CJ
   major. We are in the process of revising Program Goal 2 to reflect our new approach,
   and will select a method of assessment that is a better match for our current direction.

   Link to Assessment

   Link to Flight Plan:

💡 **Student Learning Outcome 4**
   Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Student Learning Outcome 4

   Program Changes and Actions due to Results
   Student learning outcome 4 is intended to measure our success in the SOC/Criminal
   Justice version of our major. The traditional assessment method was an in-house
   created exam designed to measure student progress across a number of CJ oriented
   courses.

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The in-house exam has become somewhat dated, and is not as good a fit with our program as it once was. We have discontinued the use of the in-house exam as of Fall 2016, and will revise our learning outcome to focus on our new on-line delivery of the SOC/CJ major.

Link to Assessment
This change is linked to Student Learning Outcome 4.

Link to Flight Plan: Technology in Teaching, Improve Undergraduate Student Experience