

Sociology: 2019-2020

Definition of Unit

Providing Department:

Sociology BS

Department/Unit Contact:

Lori Maxwell

Mission/Vision Statement:

Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to 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.

The Department of Sociology has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work (and political science). Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also 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.

Based on the mission to 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, the Sociology program has identified two Program Goals and five student Learning Outcomes. These provide our students with a well-rounded education through fostering skills such as critical thinking, data analysis, effective communication and the ability to adapt to changing work environments within a variety of potential occupations. The two Program Goals and five student-Learning Outcomes also prepare our students to be more competitive on the job market or in graduate or law school after graduation. Additionally, these Program and Learning Goals will be clearly stated and defined and will be capable of being measured with a threshold of acceptable measurement indicated by our department and our own indications of our program strength and weakness.

Program Goal 1: Enrollment

Define Goal:

Program Goal 1: Sociology will have a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

The Program will maintain a student population of at least ## students. The threshold of acceptability for Sociology is 200 total majors and faculty attendance at Preview Days. If this is not met, a faculty review committee would be formed to recruit at Tennessee high schools.

Th Program will be involved in recruitment initiatives such as participation in Majors' Fairs faculty engagement through Majors Fairs and Scholarship support.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Program Goal 1: Enrollment

Frequency of Assessment:

Annual

Rationale:

Tracking sheet of the number of political science majors

Tracking the number recruitment activities

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Program Goal 1: Enrollment

Results:

List of recruitment activities for the year.

SOC/POLS recruitment activities on campus for 2019-2020:

Fall 2019: Tech-wide Preview Day on the Quad with swag

Spring 2020: Spring Showcase with swag

Emails to all potential students from the Chair

Emails to all potential students from a current student major

Swag giveaways to current majors for retention

Year	Sociology	Sociology w/ a Sociology- Criminology- Criminal Justice Concentration	Sociology w/ a Social Work Concentration
2013	39	178	61
2014	30	165	72
2015	28	157	70
2016	33	129	92
2017	41	116	87
2018	28	139	73
2019	18	142	70

Attachments:

Program Goal 1 Major Numbers.pdf

Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Define Goal:

Program Goal 2: The Program of Sociology will offer both curricular and extracurricular options for majors.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

DRILL DOWN-----
RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities

Frequency of Assessment:

annually

Rationale:

The annual survey of majors is delivered through Qualtrics and assesses student satisfaction with curricular and co-curricular offerings in Sociology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Program Goal 2: Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities

Results:

The annual Qualtrics survey of majors (that consistently demonstrates student satisfaction with curricular and co-curricular offerings) was not administered in spring 2020 due to the adverse impact on our students of an F4 tornado followed by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The threshold of acceptability is to retain these curricular and co-curricular options for majors and to return to the student Qualtrics survey option from previous years. The lack of this option is a weakness for 2019-2020 even if it could not be avoided.

Attachments:

Program Goal 2 Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities.pdf

Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline

Define Goal:

Majors in Sociology will develop knowledge of their discipline.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Learning Outcome 1: Majors in Sociology will demonstrate knowledge of their discipline at a level above or comparable to the national norm on the ETS Major Field Test.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline

Frequency of Assessment:

Each Semester

Rationale:

In the Sociology program, faculty administer the national Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination each fall

and spring semester to all enrolled majors in sociology with senior classification. The outcomes of this test allow faculty to directly

assess students' performance on Learning Outcome 1 by indicating how well our students demonstrate knowledge of the

discipline at a level above or comparable to the national mean. Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean

on the ETS Major Field Examination in Sociology is defined as Tech students having a mean score no lower than 1.644 standard

errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level. By using

this standard, the department can regularly assess students' performance on Learning Outcome 1.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Student Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge of the Discipline

Results:

ETS Major Field- Sociology Knowledge

Student Learning Outcome 1	Major Field Exam	
Spring 2020	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142.9	148.1
S.D.	9.7	12.4
N	29	8457
Fall 2019	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142.6	148.1
S.D.	11.9	12.3
N	18	8011
Fall 2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	143	148.1

S.D.	10	12.4
N	31	7065
Spring 2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142	148.0
S.D.	9	12.8
N	34	7065
Fall2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142	148.0
S.D.	8	12.8
N	33	6033
Spring2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	148.3	144
S.D.	12.4	11
N	39	4998
Fall 2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142	148.3
S.D.	9	12.4
N	29	4,998
Spring 2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	142	148.6
S.D.	13	12.3
N	35	3,804
Fall 2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	138	148.6
S.D.	9	12.3
N	32	3,804
Spring2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	143	148.7
S.D.	11	12.2
N	39	2,543

FY2020

	N	TTU Mean	S.D.	National Mean
Core Sociology	43	43	11.9	48
Critical Thinking	43	42.5	9.7	47.5

General Education Pre/Post results from SOC

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Pre Test Mean</u>	<u>Post Test Mean</u>	<u>Diff</u>	<u>Pre Test N</u>	<u>Post Test N</u>
FALL 2019	6	56.51	86.31	*29.8	28	18
FALL 2019	1	70.31	97.02	*26.71	86	90
FALL 2019	2	69.05	97.65	*28.60	84	73
FALL 2019	3	69.52	94.64	*25.12	30	20
FALL 2019	4	48.65	96.28	*47.63	29	24
FALL 2019	5	71.94	80.75	*8.93	28	23
FALL 2019	7	69.95	86.18	*16.23	29	23

Attachments:

Learning Outcome 1 Knowledge of the Discipline.pdf

Student Learning Outcome 2: Critical Thinking Skills

Define Goal:

Majors in Sociology will develop critical thinking skills.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Majors in Sociology will demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level above or comparable to the national mean based on the critical thinking sub-score on the ETS Major Field.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 2: Critical Thinking Skills

Frequency of Assessment:

Biannually

Rationale:

ETS major field examination (Administered each fall and spring semester)

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. Examination in Sociology is defined as TTU students having a mean score on critical thinking no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level. Thus, the department is able to assess our students' performance on Learning Outcome 2.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Student Learning Outcome 2: Critical Thinking Skills

Results:

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

Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the critical thinking sub-score on the ETS Major Field Examination in Sociology is defined as TTU students having a mean score on critical thinking no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Student learning Outcome 2	Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking
Spring 2020	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	42.8	47.5
S.D.	9.73	11.9
Fall 2019	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	42.4	47.5

S.D.	9.84	11.9
Fall 2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	42	47.5
S.D.	9	12
Spring2018	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	42	47.4
S.D.	8	7.2
Fall 2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	41	47.5
S.D.	8	12.0
Spring 2017	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	43	47.6
S.D.	11	12.0
Fall 2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	43	47.8
S.D.	9	12
Spring2016	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	44	48.4
S.D.	13	12.6
Fall2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	39	48.4
S.D.	10	12.6
Spring2015	TTU Data	National Data
Mean	43	48.3
S.D.	11	11.9

Attachments:

Student Learning Outcome 3: Communication Skills

Define Goal:

Majors in Sociology will be capable of effective oral and written communication.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Learning Outcome 3: Majors in Sociology will indicate confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively.

The threshold of acceptability is improvement from the freshman year to the senior year in critical thinking skills on the NSSE data, and this threshold was met. *A continuous improvement strategy will be to expect 75% of full-time faculty in SOC moving forward to assign writing assignments that include critical thinking components. This will align with the current 100% of POLS full-time faculty.*

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 3: Effective Oral and Written Communication

Frequency of Assessment:

Every two years

Rationale:

National Survey of Student Engagement (Administered spring semesters 2016, 2019) – 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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Student Learning Outcome 3: Effective Oral and Written Communication

Results:

Learning Outcome 3: Majors in Sociology will be capable of effective oral and written communication.

Sociology analyzes the results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in order to assess student confidence in their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively. The results of the National Survey of Student

Engagement allow us to assess how well our students perform on learning Outcome 3 by determining their capabilities in effectively using written and oral skills. These results are compared to other TTU students and to our Carnegie peer institutions. Full access to the questions are copyright and trademark protected, but the 2019 TTU College of Arts and Sciences NSSE data is linked here:

https://www.tntech.edu/assessment/pdf/NSSE19_Arts_and_Humanities.pdf. Responses are evaluated by TTU from these questions that address collaborative student research, teamwork, analytical research, research writing, exposure to diversity, faculty interaction, and cultural exposure, among others opportunities in preparation for professional development. Results from the Senior Questionnaire are compared with data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The NSSE was given spring semesters 2016 and 2019 and the senior Sociology majors demonstrated gains over their freshmen counterparts in both years and on both the oral and written questions components. The NSSE assesses students' engagement in curricular and extracurricular activities, abilities to work as a team, communicate, and critically think. Relevant values from the NSSE are compared to data from the senior questionnaire. The combination of the NSSE exam as well as the writing and presentation requirements in many of our courses ensure the continued ability to monitor students' performance on Learning Outcomes 3.

We are pleased that the NSSE (see Table 5) reflects gains in both 2016 and 2019 among the seniors and that Tech Sociology students score comparably to students in their Carnegie peer institutions.

The threshold of acceptability is improvement from the freshman year to the senior year in critical thinking skills on the NSSE data, and this threshold was met. *A continuous improvement strategy will be to expect 75% of full-time faculty in SOC moving forward to assign writing assignments that include critical thinking components. This will align with the current 100% of POLS full-time faculty.*

	2016				2019			
	<i>Oral</i>		<i>Written</i>		<i>Oral</i>		<i>Written</i>	
	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors	Freshmen	Seniors
TTU Sociology	2.89	3.00	2.67	3.27	2.44	3.50	2.22	3.17
TTU Total	2.60	2.90	2.70	2.80	2.64	2.91	2.25	2.88
Carnegie	2.80	3.00	2.90	3.10	2.60	2.90	2.80	3.10

Attachments:

Learning Outcome 3 NSSE Data.pdf

Student Learning Outcome 4: Criminal Justice Competence

Define Goal:

Majors in Sociology in the Criminology-Criminal Justice Concentration will be prepared for further Criminal Justice study and/or careers.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Learning Outcome 4: Majors in Sociology taking the Criminology-Criminal Justice concentration will demonstrate competence in their concentration (Criminal Justice) as evidenced by a department exam of Criminal Justice content. The threshold of acceptability is 70% passage for the SOC-CJ In-House Exam and was met in fall 2019.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 4: Criminal Justice Competence

Frequency of Assessment:

Biannually

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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Student Learning Outcome 4 - Competence in the Concentration

Results:

Learning Outcome 4: Majors in Sociology taking the Criminology-Criminal Justice concentration will demonstrate competence in their concentration (Criminal Justice).

In order to determine how well our students perform on Learning Outcome 4, we administer a **multiple-choice exam** each fall and spring semester to seniors within the Sociology-Criminology-Criminal Justice concentration. Students are expected to answer 75% or more of the questions correctly. The exam, available on file in the departmental office, was developed by faculty in the department, and is administered during the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Major Field exam. By including this additional assessment, the faculty are able to regularly gauge whether our students are competent in the topics emphasized in the criminal justice concentration. Students met this threshold 100% of the time during the 2012-2016 review period. The Program Reviewer for 2017-2018 suggested revisions during this time to update for new material and the test will be administered again beginning in the 2020-21 academic year. The threshold of acceptability is 70% passage for the SOC-CRCJ In-House Exam and was met in fall 2019. The Exam was not administered online due to the pandemic in spring 2020.

Fall 2019 74.29	Spring 2019 No Test Administered
Fall 2018 77.66	
Fall 2017-Spring 2018 Instrument Re-Design	
Fall 2016 82.04	Spring 2017 76.94
Fall 2015 80.63	Spring 2016 77.96

Attachments:

Learning Outcome 4 CJ Exam Data.pdf

Student Learning Outcome 5: Internship Performance

Define Goal:

Majors in Sociology will successfully complete an internship.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Learning Outcome 5: Majors in Sociology taking the Social Work concentration will be rated at a level above average by their supervisor when completing their required internship (Social Work).

The threshold of acceptability is 90% of interns are expected to be evaluated at a level above average (outstanding or good) and this has been consistently met by our standards.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Assessment: Student Learning Outcome 5: Internship Performance

Frequency of Assessment:

Biannually

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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Results: Student Learning Outcome 5: Internship Performance

Results:

Learning Outcome 5: Majors in Sociology taking the Social Work concentration will be rated at a level above average by their supervisor when completing their required internship (Social Work).

To assess our students' progress on Learning Outcome 5, we use the Internship Evaluation Form, completed by the Agency Supervisor to gauge students' overall performance on the internship requirements of the Social Work concentration. Student performance is rated and the final question is a scaled of one to five where students' work in the internship can be correlated to outstanding, good, average, fair or poor. This survey is evaluated in conjunction with the overall work completed by the Social Work Intern and the Journals completed. Ninety percent of Sociology-Social Work students were expected to be rated at a level above average (outstanding or good) by their supervisor at the completion of their required internship, and the Social-Work students have met this threshold almost every year during the evaluation period.

Internship Supervisor's Rating of Students in SW 4900 Internships:

Term	Number Enrolled	Number of Outstanding or Good
Spring 2020	22	22
Spring 2019	17	17
Fall 2018	17	17
Spring 2018	17	14
Fall 2017	23	23
Spring 2017	26	26
Fall 2016	25	25
Summer 2016	14	14
Spring 2016	14	13
Fall 2015	18	15
Summer 2015	11	11
Spring 2015	10	9

Attachments:

Learning Outcome 5 Supervisor Internship Evaluations.pdf