

Assessment of Student Learning Plan (ASLP): Sociology Program

2017-18 Academic Year

University of Southern Maine

A. College, Department, Date

College College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Department Department of Economics and Sociology
Date May 31, 2018

Contact Person for the Assessment Plan

Name and title Cheryl Laz, Department Chair

B. Degree Program

Name of Degree Program BA in Sociology

C. Assessment of Student Learning: Program Assessment

Step 1: Identify the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

Do you have your student learning outcomes published on your department's website? Yes, though written for a broad audience

If yes, please indicate the url <https://usm.maine.edu/sociology/overview>

“Sociology is a liberal arts major with particular emphasis on developing students' abilities to think critically about complex issues, to analyze social issues and organizations, to design and carry out research, and to write with clarity and economy. ... In putting sociology to work, you will not only learn about the broad issues behind the social problems you see as a volunteer or employee. Your sociological training will provide you with the skills to research, report on, and organize solutions to these problems. Thus, you can transform your social awareness into social change. People with undergraduate degrees in sociology work in the justice system as juvenile court workers and correctional counselors; in the community as substance abuse counselors and child development technicians; in the government as affirmative action workers and urban planners; and in many other research and social service positions.

Appendix A includes long list of SLOs and draft of short list (unchanged from last year).

*Please identify **which of your student learning outcome(s) were assessed this past academic year.** No assessment was done this year.*

*Do you have a **matrix or curriculum map** showing when your student learning outcomes are assessed and in which courses? Yes*

If yes, do you have this map published on your website? Not on website; curriculum map attached as Appendix B.

Step 2: Assessment Methods Selected and Implemented

a. *Identify which direct measures (other than course grades), that were used to determine whether students achieved the stated learning outcomes for the degree.*

None

b. *Briefly describe when you implemented the assessment activity, and if a scoring rubric was used to evaluate the expected level of student achievement. (This information may be shown on your curriculum map).* None

Step 3: Using the Assessment results to Improve Student Learning

a. *Briefly describe your unit's process of reviewing the program assessment results (i.e. annual process by faculty committee, etc). No program assessment was done. Expected assessment related to Capstone course could not be completed (only 1 student enrolled in the course).*

b. *What specific changes have been or will be made to improve student learning, as a result of using the program assessment results? N/A*

c. *Date of most recent program review/self-study? 2015*

D. **Course Assessment Activities:** *Is your program able to report any assessment-related activities at the Course-Level... (i.e. created grading rubrics to use in required courses, examined student progress in entry-level courses, developed a new course, etc)? Please briefly explain any assessment projects.*

No assessment-related activities to report this year.

F. Community Engagement Activities in your departmental curriculum:

a. Does your department have a student learning outcome that is related to any community engagement activities? If so, please state the outcome. No, but we should.

b. Please indicate if any of the community engagement activities listed below are included in your program’s curriculum, by noting which activities are required or optional for students in your major.

<u>Community Engagement Activity</u>	<u>Required/Optional</u>
Student Research (related to a community-based problem)	Optional
Student-Faculty Community Research Project	Optional
Internship, or a Field Experience	Optional
Independent Study (community-related project)	Optional
Capstone Course (community-related project)	Optional
Service-Learning (course-based)	Optional
Study Abroad, or an International Program	Optional
Interdisciplinary Collaborative Project (community related)	Optional
Student Leadership Activities (related to a team project)	Optional
Students/Faculty Community Leadership (advisory boards, committees, conference presentations)	Optional
Other activities:	

c. Please list any courses (i.e. EDU 400) that have a community engagement activity in your program.

Entry-level courses: some sections of SOC 100

Mid-level courses:

Upper-level courses: SOC 301

Appendix A

Version A: Long List of Sociology Learning Outcomes (preliminary) Goals for Sociology Major

SKILLS

Students graduating with a major in Sociology can

1. Read critically and think independently about social issues and social policy
2. Communicate ideas clearly and effectively in writing
3. Design and execute an original research project; this includes

- a. The ability to define the problem
 - b. The ability to review literature (below)
 - c. The ability to develop an appropriate research design
 - d. The ability to gather data
 - e. The ability to analyze data and interpret results
4. Understand and evaluate advantages and limits of particular research designs and samples
 5. Understand and use basic statistics and have competency in using statistical software packages
 6. Appreciate ethical issues involved in research
 7. Produce a useful literature review; this includes the ability to select a topic; use databases and other resources to identify relevant articles, books, and other sources; write meaningful, accurate, and concise abstracts of articles, books, and other sources; organize a review thematically or topically rather than in a linear fashion by source; and accurately cite and document sources
 8. Analyze a social problem, process or organization from a distinctly sociological perspective
 9. Exercise the sociological imagination, including the ability to apply sociological concepts, in everyday settings and practical situations through, for example, internships, service learning, and other off- campus learning.
 10. Effectively collaborate in the production and evaluation of knowledge
 11. Appreciate the epistemological groundings of various theories
 12. Critically assess and apply theory
 13. Read and comprehend primary sociology texts including journal articles
 14. Think critically about social life and social issues; this includes the ability to identify the reasoning in arguments, identify descriptive and value assumptions, identify and evaluate alternate perspectives and opposing views on social issues.
 15. Possess higher-level thinking skills (application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation)

KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCIES

Students graduating with a major in Sociology

1. Understand the basic concepts of the discipline and the connections between concepts
2. Understand and appreciate disciplinary differences and similarities. Sociology majors can articulate what is distinctive about a sociological perspective and appreciate insights generated by other disciplines.
3. Understand the role of theory in sociology, including an ability to
 - a. Define theory and describe its relationship to sociological research
 - b. Compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations
 - c. Identify assumptions underlying particular theoretical perspectives
 - d. Describe and apply the major theoretical perspectives of the discipline in at least one subfield of sociology
4. Understand the causes and consequences of inequalities and evaluate strategies to address inequality
5. Understand and appreciate cross cultural variations and global interdependencies
6. Understand how institutions and organizations work
7. Understand how individual and collective perceptions, attitudes, identities, and actions are shaped by culture, social structure, and interaction
8. Understand the causes and consequences of conformity and deviance within a social unit
9. Comprehend and evaluate strengths and limits of different kinds of sociological knowledge; this includes the ability to understand and assess qualitative and quantitative research.
10. Understand and appreciate diversities of religion, ethnicity, race, sexuality, gender, and class in the United States
11. Understand the connections between micro- and macro-level phenomena
12. Understand social change at various levels (historical, institutional, organizational)
13. Understand issues related to global transformation

Appendix A -- Version B: Revised List (still in progress)

Students graduating with a major in Sociology will have the skills and knowledge below.

Our graduates can

1. Read and think independently and critically about social life and social issues. This includes the ability to identify and evaluate reasoning, descriptive and value assumptions, and alternate perspectives.
2. Communicate ideas clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
3. Design and execute an original research project. This includes defining the problem, reviewing the literature, developing an appropriate research design, gathering data, analyzing data and interpreting results.
4. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various research methods, designs, and samples. This includes the ability to use basic statistical software, and the appreciation of ethical issues involved in research.
5. Produce a useful literature review. This includes the ability to select a topic; use databases and other resources to identify relevant articles, books, and other sources; write meaningful, accurate, and concise abstracts of articles, books, and sources; organize a review thematically or topically; and accurately cite and document sources.
6. Analyze a social problem, process, or organization from a distinctly sociological perspective.
7. Exercise the sociological imagination, including in everyday settings and practical situations.

Appendix B: Matrix mapping SLOs over courses

Map of Sociology Major Learning Outcomes across required courses

I = introduced, R=reinforced, M=mastered

Learning Outcome	SOC 100	SOC 210	SOC 300	SOC 301	SOC 307	Inequality	Other (Electives)			
Read critically and think independently about social issues & policy	I	R	M	R	R	M	R/M			
Write Effectively	I	R	R/M	R	R	R	R/M			
Design & execute orig research		I		I/R/M	I/R/M					
Understand & eval research designs & samples	I	I/R		R/M	R/M		R/M			
Understand & use basic statistics & statistical software		I		R	R/M		R/M			
Appreciate ethical issues in research	I			R/M	R/M					
Produce a useful literature review		I		I/R	I/R					
Analyze a social problem, process or organization from a distinctly sociological perspective	I	I	R/M	R/M	R/M	R/M	R/M			
Exercise the sociological imagination	I	R	R	R	R	R	R/M			
Effectively collaborate		I	R	R	R	R	R			
Appreciate the epistemological groundings of various theories			I/R	I	I		R/M			
Critically assess and apply theory	I		I/R/M	I/R	I/R	I/R	I/R/M			
Read and comprehend primary sociology texts inc journal articles	I	R	R/M	R/M	R/M	R/M	R/M			
Think critically about social life and social issues;	I	I/R	R/M	R	R	R/M	R/M			
Possess higher-level thinking skills		I	R	R	R	R	R			
Understand basic concepts & connections between concepts	I	I	R	R	R	R	R/M			
Understand & appreciate disciplinary diff & similarities	I	I	R	R	R	R	R/M			
Understand the role of theory in sociology	I		R	R	R	R	R			
Understand causes & consequences of inequalities and eval strategies to address them	I	I/R				R			R/M	R/M
Understand and appreciate cross cultural variations and global interdependencies	I					I			R	R
Understand how institutions and organizations work	I	I/R				R			R/M	R/M
Understand how indiv & collectv perceptions, attitudes, identities, & actions are shaped by culture, social structure, and interaction	I	I/R				R			R	R/M
Understand the causes & conseq of conformity & deviance	I					R			R	R
evaluate strengths and limits of different kinds of sociological knowledge;	I								R	R
Understand the connections between micro- and macro	I	R				R/M			R/M	R/M
Understand & appreciate diversities of religion, ethnicity, race, sexuality, gender, & class	I	R				R			R/M	R/M
Understand issues related to global transformation	I	I				R				