

## 2007 MASTER PLAN/PROGRESS REPORT

**Academic Program: BA Sociology**

**Person Responsible: Billy Turner**

**Date Submitted: 15 May 07**

**Mission :** The purposes of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology are:

- Students will broaden their knowledge and increase their understanding of humankind's past and present social endeavors through an academic understanding of various societies, cultures, social theories, and social philosophies.
- Students will be provided with a solid liberal arts background and program of study leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology which prepares them for careers and graduate level study in sociology and related areas. All students will be required to receive instruction in statistics, languages, theory, and various human/social sciences (EPO3, EPO2).
- To offer students the opportunity to obtain a minor in sociology and/or acquaint themselves with sociology. The Department offers a minor in sociology to all students.
- To serve the University, the academic community, and Southwest Louisiana through teaching, research, community service and University service. The sociology faculty are encouraged and supported by the University to be involved in the academic community and local community as service providers. Faculty are required to be actively involved in research and publication (EPO4, EPO1).

**Institutional Mission Reference:**

- To provide excellent instruction and advising to Sociology majors and other students accompanied by academic excellence with a personal touch both in and without the classroom setting.
- Emphasize excellence in instruction. Annual Performance Reviews include SEI's to monitor student assessment of faculty classroom performance (AE1, EPO2, EPO3).
- The Department currently has no degree programs that have national accreditation status. However, all sociology faculty continue to input to keep each discipline contemporary with sociology degree programs nation wide (AE4, EPO2).
- Foster a climate that enhances student learning, focuses on retention, values advising, and enriches the quality of campus life. All departmental faculty are strongly encouraged to support student learning and high academic standards while maintaining "a personal touch" with students. Students and their advisors know each other and meet frequently in the classroom and advising office (EPO2)
- Utilize technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of campus operations. The department continues to write grant proposals to attain technological innovation and replacement of older equipment or attainment of new equipment. (EPO4).
- Support mutually beneficial university/community collaboration. The department and relevant faculty continue to work closely with university and community organizations to include advising, consulting, grant proposal writing assistance and more. (UCA1).

**Assessment Methods Utilized:**

- Standardized Exam (nationally normed)
- Standardized Exam (state-normed)
- Major Field Examination
- Internally-developed Examination
- Student Opinion Survey (SOS)
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Employer Survey

**Data Repository Location:**

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Kaufman #175  
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- Graduate Survey
- Alumni Survey
- Exit Survey/Interview/Exam
- Program-specific Survey
- Scoring of Essay
- Portfolio Evaluation
- Capstone Project
- Presentation
- Research Paper
- Research Project
- Course Summary
- Excel Spreadsheet
- Access Database
- Other - Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Student Learning Outcome 1:** Graduates apply critical thinking in academic and professional environments.

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<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>100 percent of sociology majors will take at least one Philosophy course: most will take Phil 102 (Critical Thinking) or Phil 201 (Introduction to Philosophy): Additional Philosophy courses can be taken as electives. All Philosophy courses offered in the Department of Social Sciences assess critical thinking.</p>	<p>Philosophy faculty will use embedded questions on objective exams and examine critical portions of essay requirements to aggregate appropriate data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes in coursework or focus will be implemented as needed based upon data compiled.</p>
<p>90 percent of sociology majors will complete SOCL 320 (Methods) and SOCL 411 (Theory). Both classes teach students to think critically and clearly about a broad range of subjects (BOR Goal #3, BOR Goal #5).</p>	<p>Embedded questions and critical portions of essay components will be analyzed and findings aggregated for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes in course materials and presentation will be made based upon data compiled.</p>

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**Student Learning Outcome 2:** Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>50 percent of sociology majors will complete SOCL 451 Q (Special Topics) which includes a research topic and lengthy research paper. Successful completion of SOCL 451 Q requires a demonstration of college level English usage and grasp of technological transfer of information where appropriate. 80 percent of students enrolled in SOCL 451 Q will make a grade of “C” or higher. (BOR Goal #1, BOR Goal #2).</p>	<p>The Department Head will evaluate the research papers and compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>70 percent of sociology majors will earn a final grade of “C” or higher in both ENGL 351 (Advanced Grammar) and ENGL 361 (Advanced English Composition).</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>80 percent of sociology majors will earn a final grade of “C” or higher in a Speech course. Most take SPCH 201 (Fundamental of Public Speaking) or SPCH 205 (Interpersonal Communication) where they learn to communicate effectively through oral communication (BOR Goal #1b).</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>30 percent of sociology majors will complete an Internship (SOSC 370, SOSC 371, or SOSC 372) in an appropriate area of endeavor.</p>	<p>An Internship Sponsor Questionnaire has been developed for sponsors to complete. The Coordinator of Criminal Justice administers all Internships. Information from sponsors will be aggregated and compiled for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>
<p>100 percent of sociology majors will take ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (English Composition) and earn passing grades. Students must repeat these courses if a passing grade is not earned. No substitutions will be allowed.</p>	<p>The Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Students must repeat these courses if a passing grade is not earned. No substitutions will be allowed.</p>

**Student Learning Outcome 3:** Graduates analyze the global community to make sound judgments in academic and professional environments.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>100 percent of sociology majors will take SOCL 211 (Social Problems). 80 percent of them will complete the course with a final grade of “C” or higher. (BOR Goal # 8, BOR Goal #10).</p> <p>70 percent of students enrolled in SOCL 211 will correctly answer embedded questions to demonstrate a grasp of global events, cross-cultural comparisons, and develop a personal value system (BOR Goal #8, BOR Goal #10). Embedded question data for each exam will be aggregated for review purposes.</p>	<p>Embedded questions on global issues, value systems, and cross-cultural perceptions are included on all exams. Assessed data will be compiled and benchmarked.</p> <p>Data will be compiled and benchmarked.</p>	<p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p> <p>Evaluate data and make changes as indicated.</p>

**Student Learning Outcome 4:** Sociology majors will self-assess their knowledge acquisition and their level of satisfaction with advisement within the program.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>90 percent sociology majors will complete a departmental Sociology Exit Survey prior to graduation and rate their knowledge acquisition as "Satisfactory."</p>	<p>Sociology Exit Survey has been developed which addresses seminal areas of sociology. Sociology faculty will administer this survey to sociology seniors prior to graduation. Findings will be presented to the Department Head in aggregated format for benchmarking.</p>	<p>To begin Fall 2007 and continue. Changes will be made as indicated by data.</p>
<p>90 percent of sociology majors will complete a departmental Sociology Exit Survey prior to graduation and rate their satisfaction level with advising within the department as "Satisfactory."</p>	<p>Findings will be presented to the Department Head in aggregated format for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes will be made as indicated by data.</p>

**Student Learning Outcome 5:** Sociology majors will understand the scientific method (BOR Goal #5).

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>90 percent of sociology majors will understand the scientific method. All Sociology majors will complete SOCL 201 (Introductory) and earn a grade of “C” or higher (BOR Goal #5). Embedded questions will be extracted from exams and monitored for student progress.</p>	<p>Embedded questions will be utilized to assess student learning. Scores will be aggregated and presented to the Department Head for benchmarking.</p>	<p>Changes in instruction will be implemented as indicated by the data.</p>

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**Student Learning Outcome 6:** Sociology majors will complete the capstone course, SOSC 400.

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<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
90 percent of sociology majors will complete SOSC 400 (Portfolio) with a grade of “C” or higher. This course requires completion of a professional-quality resume, an exit questionnaire, and an interview with the Department Head.	Department Head will compile data for benchmarking.	Changes will be made as indicated by data.

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**Resources Allocated:** Currently, the Department's main source of funding for technology and other equipment comes from grant proposals which are subsequently accepted for funding. The Department has enjoyed some success in this endeavor, but resources are limited in scope and availability.

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