

## Sociology [SOCL]

**Cycles included in this report:**

Jun 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018

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## **Program Name: Sociology [SOCL]**

**Reporting Cycle: Jun 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018**

### **1 Is this program offered via Distance Learning?**

100% Traditional or less than 50% Distance/Traditional

### **2 Is this program offered at an off-site location?**

No

### **2.1 If yes to previous, provide addresses for each location where 50% or more of program credits may be earned.**

### **3 Example of Program Improvement**

2016-2017:

The B.A. in Sociology offers concentrations in general sociology or family and child studies. An increasing pool of highly qualified visiting lectures have been developed to assist regular faculty in offering a broad range of required and elective major courses.

2017-2018:

In an effort to improve the Sociology B.A. degree program within the Department of Social Sciences, a number of departmental Sociology professors met with IRE to improve the assessment items within this academic plan. By moving in this direction, the quality of our assessments and student learning outcomes have been enhanced.

### **4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year**

2016-2017:

Students continue to meet benchmarks. New program coordinator appointed for Family and Child Studies.

2017-2018:

Program Coordinator for Family and Child Studies resigned around midterm of the spring 2018 semester. Temporarily, a faculty member became Family and Child Studies Coordinator. All of the resigning teacher's classes were covered by adjuncts and a faculty member. His vacant position replacement started in the fall of 2018. The Sociology Program has continued to have a large number of students. The students are served by dedicated adjunct and full time faculty.

### **5 Program 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.
- 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. Faculty are encouraged to engage in research and publication.

### **6 Institutional Mission Reference**

This degree supports the University's fundamental mission to offer baccalaureate curricula in service to the residents and employers of the SWLA region and beyond. It provides opportunities for student internships in local industry and prepares students to become effective in academic and professional environments.

### **7 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 201 Pre-test & Post-test [Not Approved]**

Assessment: SOCL 201 pre-test & post-test scores.

Benchmark: 60% of students will correctly answer three of the five questions.

#### Outcome Links

##### Theories of Sociology [Program]

Students will demonstrate a knowledge of theories of sociology.

### 7.1 Data

Term	# of students that completed a pre- and post-test	Students that met the benchmark	
		#	%
Fall 2017	252	174	69.0%
Spring 2018	202	129	63.8%

#### 7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 201 (pre-test/post-test). Strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' knowledge of theories of sociology. An analysis of the pre-test/post-test scores will be conducted to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

The current benchmark was met during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters. During the fall of 2017, 69% of the students met the benchmark. In the spring of 2018, 63.8% of the students met this benchmark. In this particular vein, there was a lower percent meeting the benchmark in the spring 2018 semester. The plan for continuous improvement includes a process which will entail gathering some additional data for the SOCL 201 classes. By moving in this direction, it is anticipated that the future benchmark could be elevated to a higher percent of students (70%) meeting the benchmark number of answering three out of five questions on the pre-test/post-test assessment.

### 8 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 211 Simulated Social Problem V [Approved]

Assessment: SOCL 211 Simulated Social Problem V scores for sociology majors.

A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish a benchmark for this new SOCL 211 assessment.

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### Outcome Links

##### Social Problems [Program]

Students will draw connections between social stratification systems & social problems/life outcomes.

### 8.1 Data

2016-2017:

A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 211 (simulated social problem).

2017-2018:

This assessment is being replaced by a pre-/post-test.

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 8.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement [Approved]

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. Based upon an analysis of the data collected from the simulated social problem in SOCL 211, strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' ability to draw connections between social stratification systems and social problems/life outcomes. A rubric will be utilized to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

By analyzing this particular assessment, it was revealed that a simulated social problem was never integrated within the grading framework of SOCL 211. With that being said, the plan for continuous improvement includes a new assessment tool which will include a pre-test/post-test.

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 9 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 211 Final Exam [Approved]

Assessment: SOCL 211 Final Exam grades for sociology majors.

Benchmark:

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### Outcome Links

##### Social Problems [Program]

Students will draw connections between social stratification systems & social problems/life outcomes.

### 9.1 Data

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year.

2017-2018:

According to Greg Clark, 90% of the students made an "A" or "B" on their final exam in SOCL 211. This has surpassed any reasonable benchmark. The department does not have a departmental final for SOCL 211. Collecting data on the grade for the final exam is not an accurate measure considering there are different teachers and different finals. Based on this information this assessment will be discontinued.

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 9.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. Based upon an analysis of the data collected from the final exam in SOCL 211, strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' ability to draw connections between social stratification systems and social problems/life outcomes. An analysis of the final exam scores will be conducted to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

Data tracking began this 2017-2018 academic year. Based upon the examination of SOCL 211 class data, approximately 30% of students earn a grade of "A" on their final exam, 60% earned a grade of "B", and 10% received a grade of "C" or "D". With the reporting of the

aforementioned grades, the plan for continuous improvement includes the decision to discontinue this assessment.

#### Course Links

**SOCL211 [Social Problems (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 10 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 311 Pre-test & Post-test

Assessment: SOCL 311 pre-test/post-test grades for sociology majors.

A benchmark will be determined after more data is collected and analyzed.

#### Course Links

**SOCL311 [The Family (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### Outcome Links

##### Theories of Sociology [Program]

Students will demonstrate a knowledge of theories of sociology.

### 10.1 Data

Term	# of students that completed a pre- and post-test	Average Score	
		Pre-test	Post-test
Spring 2018	72	60.63	69.67

#### Course Links

**SOCL311 [The Family (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### 10.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 311 (pre-test/post-test). Strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' knowledge of theories of sociology. An analysis of the pre-test/post-test scores will be conducted to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

The current trend is in the desired direction. For instance, an evaluation of the data indicates that there was an increase of nine out of a possible 100 points on the post-test. With that being said, the plan for continuous improvement includes an additional year of monitoring and continued observation. Based upon the results of future assessments, a benchmark for this assessment will be established.

#### Course Links

**SOCL311 [The Family (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 11 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 320 Writing Assignment [Approved]

Assessment: SOCL 320 writing assignment grades for sociology majors.

Benchmark: 72% of students will earn at least 32 of the possible 40 points.

#### Course Links

**SOCL320 [Social Research Methods (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### Outcome Links

**Communication [Program]**

Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

**11.1 Data**

Term	Students that scored at least 32 points	
	#	%
Fall 2017	16/23	69.53%
Spring 2018		

**Course Links**

**SOCL320 [Social Research Methods (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

**11.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement**

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 320 (writing assignment). Strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' ability to formulate and to express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

2017-2018:

The benchmark was almost met; there were 69.6% of the students reaching this benchmark. Based upon an analysis of reported data, the plan for continuous improvement involves monitoring the data for at least another year. This tracking of the data may lead to a refinement of this benchmark number and/or the rubric used to assess this assignment.

**Course Links**

**SOCL320 [Social Research Methods (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

**12 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 411 Final Paper [Approved]**

Assessment: SOCL 411 final paper grades for sociology majors.

Benchmark: Students will earn, on average, 30 of the 40 possible points (75%).

**Course Links**

**SOCL411 [Sociological Theory (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

**Outcome Links****Theories of Sociology [Program]**

Students will demonstrate a knowledge of theories of sociology.

**12.1 Data**

Term	# of students	Average Score
Fall 2017	33	29.5

**Course Links**

**SOCL411 [Sociological Theory (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

**12.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement**

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 411 (final paper). Strengths and

weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' knowledge of theories of sociology.

2017-2018:

The average score for these students was 29.15 points. Based upon the current benchmark being earning 30 of the possible 40 points, this benchmark was almost reached. Based upon an analysis of reported data, the plan for continuous improvement involves monitoring the data for at least another year. This tracking of the data may lead to a refinement of this benchmark number and/or the rubric used to assess this assignment.

[Course Links](#)

**SOCL411 [Sociological Theory (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 13 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 413 American Dream Assignment [Approved]

Assessment: SOCL 413 American Dream assignment grades for sociology majors.

Benchmark: Students will earn, on average, 30 of the 40 possible points.

[Course Links](#)

**SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

[Outcome Links](#)

**Social Problems [Program]**

Students will draw connections between social stratification systems & social problems/life outcomes.

#### 13.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students	Average score
2017-2018	121	33.35

[Course Links](#)

**SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

#### 13.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 413 (American Dream Assignment). Strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' ability to draw connections between social stratification systems and social problems/life outcomes.

2017-2018:

The 121 students earned on average 33.35 of the possible 40 points. The benchmark was met. Based upon an analysis of reported data, the plan for continuous improvement will include the monitoring of the data for at least another year. This tracking of the data may lead to a refinement of this benchmark number and/or the rubric used to assess this assignment.

[Course Links](#)

**SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### 14 Assessment and Benchmark SOCL 413 Writing Assignment [Approved]

Assessment: SOCL 413 writing assignment-comparative social stratification in three countries.

Benchmark: Students will earn, on average, 30 of the 40 possible points.

[Course Links](#)

**SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

### Outcome Links

#### Communication [Program]

Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

#### 14.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students	Average Score
2017-2018	121	31.77

### Course Links

#### SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]

##### 14.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This is a new assessment. Data tracking will begin next year. A scoring rubric will be utilized to establish the benchmark for this new assessment in SOCL 413 (writing assignment). Strengths and weaknesses will be identified, and strategic decisions will be made as to what steps need to be taken to enhance the students' ability to formulate and to express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

2017-2018:

The students earned an average of 31.77 of the possible 40 points. The current benchmark was met. As a result of this finding, our plan for continuous improvement includes the step to monitor this assessment item for at least another year. Based upon the 2018-2019 data, a new benchmark and/or rubric may be developed.

### Course Links

#### SOCL413 [Social Stratification (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]

#### 15 Assessment and Benchmark SOSC 499 Capstone Assignment

Assessment: SOSC 499 research paper prospectus grades for sociology majors.

Benchmark: 100% of students will successfully (earn a B or better) develop a prospectus for future research as their capstone assignment in SOSC 499.

*Files: See list of attachments to view. (Requires Adobe Reader or compatible viewer).*

GRADING RUBRIC FOR SOSC 499

### Course Links

#### SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]

### Outcome Links

#### Critical Thinking [Program]

Students develop critical thinking skills.

#### 15.1 Data

Academic Year	Students that earned a B or higher	
	#	%
2013-2014	N/A	91%
2014-2015	N/A	80%

	Students that earned
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Term	a B or higher	
	#	%
Fall 2015	43	98%
Spring 2016	26	98%
Fall 2016	11	100%
Spring 2017	11	100%
Fall 2017	21	95%
Spring 2018	29	97%

## Traditional Program:

Term	Students that earned a B or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2016	4	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	4	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spring 2018	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Online Program:

Term	Students that earned a B or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2016	7	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	7	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spring 2018	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Course Links

**SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]****15.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement [Approved]**

2016-2017:

Current benchmark met. Based upon the results of this student learning outcome, we have decided to take a step to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the students' work on this capstone assignment. A rubric will be developed to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

The current benchmark was virtually met. The current plan is to begin using a recently developed rubric. It is anticipated that this said rubric will reveal where new student learning outcomes can be developed and utilized.

## Course Links

**SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]****16 Assessment and Benchmark SOSC 499 Research Paper [Approved]**

Assessment: Students will demonstrate effective writing skills in SOSC 499 by completing a research paper prospectus in their major.

Benchmark: 85% of the students will earn a "B" or higher on their SOCL 499 research paper.

Files: See list of attachments to view. (Requires Adobe Reader or compatible viewer).

## GRADING RUBRIC FOR SOSC 499

**Course Links****SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]****Outcome Links****Communication [Program]**

Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through oral, written, and/or technological communications in academic and professional environments.

**16.1 Data [Approved]**

Term	Students that earned a B or higher	
	%	% in fall and spring
Fall 2015	100%	100%
Spring 2016	100%	100%
Fall 2017	100%	100%
Spring 2018	100%	100%

## Traditional Program:

Term	Students that earned a B or higher		Benchmark met?
	%	% in fall and spring	
Fall 2016	100%	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	100%	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	100%	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	100%	100%	Yes

## Online Program:

Term	Students that earned a B or higher		Benchmark met?
	%	% in fall and spring	
Fall 2016	100%	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	100%	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	100%	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	100%	100%	Yes

**Course Links****SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]****16.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement**

2016-2017:

Benchmark was met. Based upon the results of this student learning outcome, we have decided to take a step to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the students' work on this capstone assignment. A rubric will be developed to help us assess where improvements can be made in this student learning outcome.

2017-2018:

The benchmark was met once again. This has resulted in the development of a new rubric. The rubric will be used to assist in developing improved student learning outcomes.

### Course Links

**SOSC499 [Senior Research Seminar Capstone Experience (Lec. 3, Cr. 3)]**

## Program outcomes

### Critical Thinking

*Students develop critical thinking skills.*

### Communication

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

### Theories of Sociology

*Students will demonstrate a knowledge of theories of sociology.*

### Social Problems

*Students will draw connections between social stratification systems &#38; social problems/life outcomes.*

End of report