

Annual Program Report 2023-2024

(For programs not using Planning & Self Study software for the annual report)

The report(s) should be inclusive of all levels, degrees (i.e. certificates, bachelor’s and master’s), modalities and locations.

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Department Chair: Dr. Richard Wiebe

Department Assessment Committee Contact: Dr. Patricia Arend

This document is to be kept in the department and an electronic file is due to the AVP of Institutional Research and Planning by June 1, 2024.

Section I: Program Assessment (please complete this section for each program in your department)

Program: Sociology

A. Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) (Educational Objectives)

I. List of PLOs and the timeline for assessment

PLO #	PLO – Stated in assessable terms	Where are the learning outcomes for this level/program published? (please specify) Include URLs where appropriate.	Timing of assessment (annual, semester, bi-annual, etc.)	When was the last assessment of the PLO completed?
1.	Students will be able to understand key sociological concepts	Annual department report	Annual	N/A
2.	Students will be able to communicate	Annual department report	Annual	N/A

	sociological concepts effectively through the use of writing and/or oral skills			
3.	Students will be able to think critically about social issues and social theories	Annual department report	Annual	AY 19-20
4.	Students will be able to apply sociology to social life	Annual department report	Annual	N/A
5.	Students will develop appropriate skills for conducting sociological research	Annual department report	Annual	N/A

II. **PLO Assessment** (Please report on the PLOs assessed and/or reviewed this year. Programs should be assessing at least one each year.)

Using the table below, list and briefly describe the **direct method(s)** used to collect information assessing whether students are learning the core sets of knowledge (K), skills (S) and attitudes (A) identified as essential.

PLO # (from above)	Assessment description (exam, observation, national standardized exam, oral presentation with rubric, etc.)	When assessment was administered in student program (internship, 4 th year, 1 st year, etc.)	To which students were assessments administered (all, only a sample, etc.)	What is the target set for the PLO? (criteria for success)	Reflection on the results: How was the “loop closed”?
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	---

3	In-class paper	Final paper in class, which is taken in the fall of junior or senior year	All students in Social Theory	3; on a scale of 1 to 3 (1 = Beginning; 2 = Developing; 3 = Proficient)	Results to be discussed in program meetings when complete

You may use this comment box to provide any additional information, if applicable:

We normally use a paper assigned in the Social Theory class; however, Dr. Nwankwo is ill and not able to complete the assessment with the current time constraint.

Summary of Findings: Briefly summarize the results of the PLO assessments reported in Section II above combined with other relevant evidence gathered and show how these are being reviewed/discussed. How are you “closing the loop”?

Reflection Prompt	Narrative Response
-------------------	--------------------

<p>Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine that graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (e.g., capstone course, portfolio review, licensure examination)</p>	<p>No other evidence is used beyond the assessment described above.</p>
<p>Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (e.g. annually by the curriculum committee)</p>	<p>The evidence is assessed by Dr. Nwankwo, the professor of the course from which the written artifacts are drawn. He assesses them using a three-stage rubric, utilizing TK20 to keep track of the results.</p>
<p>What changes have been made as a result of using the data/evidence? (close the loop)</p>	<p>N/A since we have not conducted the review recently. Our focus is more on enrollment right now due to low numbers at the university and in our department.</p>

B. Assessment Plan for Program/Department

- I. Insert the program or department Assessment Plan (This is an independent plan from what is reported in this document).

Please follow this link for our latest Assessment Plan:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N-db_IZ-ZDhjNrYJJ5nPxsenbw6gfuj/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116642331609971205245&rtpof=true&sd=true

- II. Explain any changes in the assessment plan including new or revised PLOs, new assessments that the program/department plans to implement and new targets or goals set for student success.

N/A - no changes have been made

- III. If you do not have a plan, would you like help in developing one? Yes

N/A

C. Program Review Action Plan or External action Letter/Report

Annual Reflection/Follow-up on Action Plan from last Program Review or external accreditation (only complete the table that is appropriate for your program)

- I. **Programs that fall under Program Review:**

- i. Date of most recent Review:

- ii. Insert the Action Plan table from your last Program Review and give any progress towards completing the tasks or achieving targets set forth in the plan.

Specific area where improvement is needed	Evidence to support the recommended change	Person(s) responsible for implementing the change	Timeline for implementation	Resources needed	Assessment Plan	Progress Made this Year
The Sociology program proposes to	There is consensus among faculty, administration, and	Sociology faculty	Fall 2022	Faculty time	Review whether a new mission	Completed in AY 2022-2023

<p>revise its mission statement to include the concepts of the “sociological imagination” and social justice.</p>	<p>the external reviewer that the program needs a clearer identity. Crafting a new mission statement will simultaneously help achieve this goal and reflect the changes made by the program in other areas in crafting its new identity.</p>				<p>statement was written in the proposed time frame</p>	
<p>The Sociology program proposes to develop and run a capstone-analogous course as a special topics course, and – upon its completion – evaluate the success of this course to determine whether a capstone course will</p>	<p>Faculty, administration, and the external reviewer are in agreement that having a capstone course (or an analogous class) would benefit the program and its students.</p>	<p>Sociology faculty; Dean</p>	<p>Developing and offering course (Spring 2022)</p> <p>Evaluating course success and deciding how to move forward (Fall 2022)</p>	<p>Faculty time</p>	<p>Meeting after the first offering of the class to discuss the merits of making the special topics course into a required capstone</p>	<p>No change since last year:</p> <p>Dr. Arend developed a capstone-analogous course and it was scheduled to run in SP 22, but the course was canceled</p>

become a permanent part of our curriculum.						due to low enrollment
The Sociology program proposes to collect the rubrics used for upper-level classes and have a discussion about achieving greater standardization across upper-level class rubrics.	Faculty and external reviewer concur that greater standardization of rubrics will help students transition to upper-level classes	Sociology faculty	Spring 2022	Faculty time	Review whether this meeting took place, and review whether faculty make changes to their rubrics as a result	N/A
The Sociology program proposes to re-evaluate the sequencing and prerequisites for high-level courses such as Social Theory and	Faculty and external reviewer concur that limiting Social Theory to more advanced students will produce better outcomes, and that there should be debate about potentially	Sociology faculty	Prior to Fall 2022	Faculty time	Review whether AUC proposals have been submitted and approved within the set time frame to achieve goals	The Sociology program reviewed all course numbers and decided to change Soc of Sexualities to a 2000 level course.

the two research methods courses	changing the current progression of courses.				identified by the program	*here will be further discussions about whether the newly approved 2XXX course Environmental Sociology will eventually be changed to a 3000-level course. Other courses will not change.
The Sociology program proposes to develop required clusters of classes, from which students would choose to take one class in each.	Faculty, Dean, and external reviewer concur that structuring the wide range of courses currently offered by the program faculty into clusters will create benefits for students, and broaden their	Sociology faculty	Prior to Fall 2022	Faculty time	Review whether necessary AUC proposals have been submitted and approved to create the clusters and make the	No change since last year: These proposals were made and passed successfully through AUC

<p>These areas will be broadly reflective of the main focuses of Sociology (race, class, and gender).</p>	<p>understanding of sociology, without requiring us to offer any new classes. Creating these clusters will also help our program develop an identity around the key topics we address in our required clusters.</p>				<p>necessary changes to our curriculum</p>	
<p>The Sociology program proposes to draw up boilerplate language about key campus resources – such as those mentioned above, as well as others – so that faculty can easily include this language in their syllabi, thus increasing</p>	<p>Faculty and external reviewer concur that including campus resource information on syllabi could potentially enhance students’ awareness of, and ability to access, these resources.</p>	<p>Sociology faculty</p>	<p>Spring 2022</p>	<p>Faculty time</p>	<p>Review whether this information was compiled, and made available to faculty, within the given time frame</p>	<p>N/A</p>

uniformity across courses in the program.						
The Sociology program proposes to gather data about the feasibility of changing our minimum required major GPA from 2.0 to 2.5, and subsequently to make a decision about whether to implement this change. We intend to delay this change for a short time, however, both to facilitate the gathering of data, and to get past the immediate effects of COVID-19,	Faculty and reviewer agree that increasing the GPA requirement would help distinguish our program, though at the cost of some number of majors who are unable to maintain the 2.5 requirement.	Sociology faculty	Fall 2023 - Spring 2024	Faculty time	Review whether this discussion took place and resulted in a definitive decision to change, or not change, the GPA requirement.	Implementation of this has been moved by the department until the next academic year, with the goal of allowing students' GPAs to rebound to normal following the COVID semesters

<p>which might temporarily affect students' ability to maintain a high GPA</p>						
<p>The Sociology program proposes to follow the recommendations made in our self-study to continue applying for a new faculty line yearly, and to collaborate with other programs / departments to propose mutually beneficial faculty appointments.</p>	<p>Faculty and external reviewer concur that an additional faculty line is necessary for the program to reach its full potential. However, based on discussions with the Dean, we understand that a new faculty line will not be possible in the immediate future due to financial limitations stemming from the impacts of COVID-19. Therefore, we will pursue a faculty line yearly throughout the</p>	<p>Sociology faculty</p>	<p>Yearly applications, throughout the next review cycle</p>	<p>Faculty time; university resources to hire a new faculty member</p>	<p>Review to confirm that faculty requests are submitted yearly</p>	<p>No application for a new line since the university was not accepting new faculty line requests except for replacements.</p>

	review cycle, as the university's financial status hopefully improves.					
The Sociology program proposes to do a systematic review and revision of materials available on the program's website, including: transitioning useful portions of the student and faculty handbooks online; and identifying, digitizing, and/or creating any necessary student resources that are not	Faculty and reviewer concur that the Sociology program will need to promote awareness of the changes to the program.	Sociology faculty	Fall 2024	Faculty time	Review all aspects of the website, and any ancillary materials, to ensure that the desired content is clear and easily accessible	This work is partially complete. Faculty did a full review of the language on the website and edits will be submitted summer 2024. More content needs to be found in AY 24-25.

currently online.						
-------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

iii. If you do not have an action plan, would you like help in developing one based on your last program review and needs of the program? _____Yes

II. Programs with external Accreditation: N/A

- i. Professional, specialized, State, or programmatic accreditations currently held by the program/department.
- ii. Date of most recent accreditation action by each listed agency.
- iii. Date and nature of next review and type of review.

List key issues for continuing accreditation identified in accreditation action letter or report.	Key performance indicators as required by agency or selected by program (licensure, board or bar pass rates; employment rates, etc.) (If required.)	Update on fulfilling the action letter/report or on meeting the key performance indicators.

Section II - Departmental Outcomes

A. Departmental Strategic Initiatives

Accomplished Initiatives AY23-24 <small>Add more rows as needed</small>	Corresponding Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy <small>Goal # followed by Strategy # ex: 1.3</small>	Indicate (X) if a Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) Goal

Planned Initiatives for AY 24-25 <small>Add more rows as needed</small>	Associated Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy <small>Goal # followed by Strategy # ex: 1.3</small>	Indicate (X) if a Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) Goal

B. Departmental Accomplishments and Reflection:

We remain frustrated by our inability to offer a capstone class and believe it impedes the attraction of more majors to our program.

Given the low enrollment at both FSU and in the Sociology program we have decided to merge our qualitative and quantitative methods courses back into one class. (It was previously taught as Basic Skills of Social Research). Dr. Min Lee will work on an AUC proposal during summer 2024 for review in fall 2024.

Also in summer 2024 Dr. Miner will write an AUC proposal to add civic learning and diverse perspectives designations to Juvenile Delinquency, while Dr. Arend will write AUC proposals to remove several courses from the catalog that are no longer being offered, including Women in American Society and Cultural Anthropology.

Dr. Min Li reported on her research of other universities' policies on the criteria for a BA or BS in sociology. Our program used this information to reflect and to determine that our current policy is the best practice for our students. We want to encourage students to take a foreign language and hence will keep that as a requirement of the BA. We also do not want to discourage students from majoring in sociology if they are not interested in taking a foreign language. Thus, a foreign language will still not be required for a BS. We will explain these differences to our students in advising.

Take this section to reflect on--

- 1. 23-24 Accomplishments not captured above*
- 2. Initiatives that you may be considering for 24-25 academic year that you did not already capture above*
- 3. Any other thoughts or information that you would like to share*