

Program Assessment Plan
 American University
 Academic Program: CAS: Sociology - BA

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Contact Person for Natalia Ruiz-Junco

Assessment:

Unit Website Address: <http://www.american.edu/cas/sociology/>

Unit's Primary Department: Sociology

COLA Reader -1: Brian Yates

COLA Reader -2: Melissa Becher

Learning Outcome: Theory

Students will demonstrate a command of one or more sociological theories and corresponding relevance to the research area by using theory to analyze research findings, or by using research findings to extend, create or critique sociological theory.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 10/31/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Senior Capstone Paper is used to assess competence in both theory and research. Exemplary: strong command of the objective; ability to critically challenge material represented and apply material in an original analysis. Excellent: strong command of the objective and ability to critically challenge material. Acceptable: strong command of the objective. Unacceptable: superficial, weak or uneven command of the objective. As we meet our current assessment goals for ASA style, sociological theory and sociological research, the department will introduce new areas for assessment. Over the next three to five years we plan to broaden our assessment by sequentially introducing other key components in our curriculum. For example, we want to assess how effectively we have institutionalized the department's emphases on the topical areas of social inequalities, social change and social justice. In addition, we plan to include consideration of the internship experience as part of our assessment. Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	100% of students in the capstone will be rated each year.	Collected annually and reviewed by an undergraduate assessment committee of 2 or more people. The capstone instructor will not evaluate the assessment. Findings are reported to the full faculty for discussion and development of recommendations for improvement.	Yes
Faculty Meeting to discuss goals, outcomes and path to improvement. Faculty will identify students strengths and weaknesses and sample course syllabi to ensure that research skills are being taught as expected. Measure Type: Other	No target identified.	Annual faculty meeting every fall to be attended by the full faculty.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Logic of Research

Students will demonstrate a command of the logic of social research by writing a literature review; designing an original research project; applying analytical skills to pretest data and writing a conclusion that situates the findings within the contexts of one or more theories and the literature review.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 10/31/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

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Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Paper is used to assess competence in both theory and research.</p> <p>Exemplary: strong command of the objective; ability to critically challenge material represented and apply material in an original analysis.</p> <p>Excellent: strong command of the objective and ability to critically challenge material.</p> <p>Acceptable: strong command of the objective.</p> <p>Unacceptable: superficial, weak or uneven command of the objective.</p> <p>As we meet our current assessment goals for ASA style, sociological theory and sociological research, the department will introduce new areas for assessment. Over the next three to five years we plan to broaden our assessment by sequentially introducing other key components in our curriculum. For example, we want to assess how effectively we have institutionalized the department's emphases on the topical areas of social inequalities, social change and social justice. In addition, we plan to include consideration of the internship experience as part of our assessment.</p> <p>Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project</p>	100% of students in the capstone will be rated each year.	Collected annually and reviewed by an undergraduate assessment committee of 2 or more people. The capstone instructor will not evaluate the assessment. Findings are reported to the full faculty for discussion and development of recommendations for improvement.	Yes
<p>Faculty Meeting to discuss goals, outcomes and path to improvement.</p> <p>Faculty will identify students strengths and weaknesses and sample course syllabi to ensure that research skills are being taught as expected.</p> <p>Measure Type: Other</p>	No target identified.	Annual faculty meeting every fall to be attended by the full faculty.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Writing

Students will demonstrate the ability to use ASA style, and structure a formal research paper.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 10/31/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Senior Capstone Paper is used to assess competence in both theory and research.</p> <p>Exemplary: strong command of the objective; ability to critically challenge material represented and apply material in an original analysis.</p> <p>Excellent: strong command of the objective and ability to critically challenge material.</p> <p>Acceptable: strong command of the objective.</p> <p>Unacceptable: superficial, weak or uneven command of the objective.</p> <p>As we meet our current assessment goals for ASA style, sociological theory and sociological research, the department will introduce new areas for assessment. Over the next three to five years we plan to broaden our assessment by sequentially introducing other key components in our curriculum. For example, we want to assess how effectively we have institutionalized the department's emphases on the topical areas of social inequalities, social change and social justice. In addition, we plan to include consideration of the internship</p>	100% of students in the capstone will be rated each year.	Collected annually and reviewed by an undergraduate assessment committee of 2 or more people. The capstone instructor will not evaluate the assessment. Findings are reported to the full faculty for discussion and development of recommendations for improvement.	Yes

Assessment Plan

Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
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experience as part of our assessment.

Measure Type:

Final Paper/ Final Project

Faculty Meeting to discuss goals, outcomes and path to improvement. Faculty will identify students strengths and weaknesses and sample course syllabi to ensure that research skills are being taught as expected. Measure Type: Other	No target identified.	Annual faculty meeting every fall to be attended by the full faculty.	Yes
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