

Department of Sociology
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Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
Undergraduate	Exit Interviews	9
	Review of Student Academic Transcripts	50
Masters, PhD	Comprehensive exam	10
	Preliminary exam	6
	Completion of PhD Dissertation	8
	Completion of Masters Thesis	3

Analysis and Findings

Exit Interviews: The exit interview was designed to assess student satisfaction and provide an indicator of where the department could work to improve student experience. As in past assessments, students named helpful and caring staff and instructors as the department's greatest strength. Instructors are characterized as having great interest in student success. The department's greatest weakness is considered to be the timing and variety of courses available. Students often have a difficult time scheduling courses needed for graduation, however this often is related to late declaration of major and trying to fit required courses for the major into a very short time-frame. Students also expressed concern with the perception by those outside of Sociology; they believe it is viewed as an easy major and one with limited application. Those students who expressed that concern, however, were quick to point out that this is a faulty perception. When asked what the department could do to improve their experience as a sociology major, students indicated that there is a need for more courses and more sections of required courses. They would appreciate more information on jobs available to sociology majors. They suggest either more emphasis on this in the courses or the development of a course that focuses on this. Students also express the need to have some "physical space" in the department.

Students named Social Research Methods and Stratification as some of the most valuable courses. Students said making the Social Research Methods class more hands on allowed them to see how research is done and how results impact their lives. They also said the Internship was a very useful requirement that helped them bridge the academic and the "real-job" world. The internship led to jobs for several students.

Review of Student Academic Transcripts: Fifty academic transcripts were reviewed. All students were able to complete the required courses with the required C or higher. In a few instances, the courses which are recommended to be sequenced and completed early (Soc 1113, 3113, Stat4053) were done later than recommended; in most cases it was because students declared the major in their junior or senior year. Although a 2.5 gpa in the major is required, transcript analysis shows the majority of students have a significantly higher gpa. in the major.

Preliminary and Comprehensive Exams: Ten PhD students took comprehensive exams and all passed. Six Master students took preliminary exams and passed. There were no failures in either category. This is a strong indicator that sociology graduate students receive the academic background in theory, methods and specialty areas necessary for their success as scholars in the field.

Completion of Dissertations and Theses: Eight PhD students successfully defended their dissertations during the past year. Successful defense is an indicator that students graduating with advanced degrees in sociology are able to perform independent research required of professionals in the field. Three Master students successfully completed their thesis.

Uses of Assessment Results

The findings of the Assessment efforts are shared with the departmental faculty and used to make changes or additions to the department. Assessment findings have been used to determine degree requirements and how courses are structured. In addition, the department has requested some additional space in the building to use for undergraduate purposes. We have requested and gotten 2 computers for undergraduate use. The computers will be used to meet undergraduate needs such as for enrollment purposes, for career information, for scholarship and university information.