

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

Sociology/Anthropology: Sociology Concentration
(Instructional Degree Program)

B.A.
(Degree Level)

Program Mission:

The mission of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences is to: a) contribute to meeting the educational and research needs in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and related fields; b) contribute to meeting the career needs in psychological and social services and social sciences, as well as contribute to training for careers in education, engineering, physical and biological sciences, medicine, and other science fields; c) contribute to meeting the need for secondary school teacher certification in sociology and/or anthropology; and d) provide psychological and socio-cultural service and expertise for the region, as well as the greater global community.

Student Learning Outcome 1:

Demonstrate critical thinking and an understanding of sociology as applied to everyday life.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Grades from the papers assigned in Sociology 330-Research Methods, papers/chapter analyses in Sociology 300-Sociocultural Theory, and papers in Sociology 427-Criminology will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 70% of students in those classes receiving a grade of C or better on these papers.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	68	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	6
Total Number of Students Assessed:	74	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	91.9%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research conducts an annual survey of alumni who received their degrees three years prior to the year the survey is administered. The survey includes a question regarding employment status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 70% of our alumni indicating employment in an area related to sociology or criminology.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	4	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	4	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1: Regarding Outcome 1 Means 1, we met our goal with 91.9% of our students receiving a C or better on paper assignments in the assessed sociology core courses. We believe that we achieved this high percentage of success (an increase over each of the last two year's assessments) because we have been working to develop additional writing assignments while also providing more supervision for our students as they develop their critical thinking and writing skills. On Outcome 1 Means 2, we also met our goal—all four students responding to the survey are employed in a related field with one employed as a case manager with a governmental agency, one as director with a governmental agency, one employed as a sociology instructor, and the last employed by the government. We would like to see more responses in the future and will look into ways to increase the response rate on the Alumni Survey.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Be able to read, understand and critique sociological and criminological literature.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Grades from papers in Sociology 330-Research Methods, Sociology 300-Sociocultural Theory, Sociology 427-Criminology will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 70% of students in the class receiving a grade of C or better on their papers.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	68	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	6
Total Number of Students Assessed:	74	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	91.9%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Successful completion of Sociology/Criminology core classes (SOC 300, SOC 330 and SOC 427). Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 70% of students receiving 75% or better in the Sociology/Criminology core classes.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	60	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	14
Total Number of Students Assessed:	74	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	81.1%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2: Regarding Outcome 2 Means 1, we met our goal with 91.9% of our students receiving a C or better on paper assignments in the assessed sociology core courses. This indicates that our students can read, understand and critique the sociological and criminological literature adequately as demonstrated in class essays and papers. On Outcome 2 Means 2, 81.1% of our students received a C or better in the selected sociology/criminology core classes, thus again demonstrating an adequate ability to read, understand and critique the sociological and criminological literature. However, we would like to see our students demonstrate a more than adequate understanding of the literature in our field and we will be discussing ways to increase our students' performance in this area.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Ability to design, analyze and interpret the results of research and to report the results in written form using ASA format.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills

- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Grades from the final paper assigned in Sociology 330-Research Methods will be used. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 70% of students in the class receiving a grade of C or better on these assignments.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	31	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	31	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3: On Outcome 3, 100% of our students demonstrated an ability to design, analyze and interpret the results of sociological and criminological research in the proper format, thus meeting our goals. This level of success was achieved in part through greater supervision of students as they completed their final paper in our research methods class and by splitting the class into two smaller sections. In terms of receiving a final grade of a C or better in the class, 70% of our students were able to meet this criteria.