

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

Criminal Justice Studies

(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 criminal justice, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and related fields; b) contribute to meeting the career needs in social services and social sciences, as well as contribute to training for careers in criminal justice, social services, and other related fields; and c) provide 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 criminal justice as applied to everyday life.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Grades from the final exams (with essay) assigned in Sociology 231-Criminal Justice Systems, papers/chapter analyses in Sociology 300-Sociocultural Theory, research papers assigned in Sociology 427-Criminology, final exams (with essay) assigned in Sociology 329 – Institutional Corrections and research papers assigned in Sociology 493 – Race and Ethnic Relations. 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: | 74 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 23 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 97 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 76.3% |

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 60% of our alumni indicating employment, or graduate studies, in an area related to criminal justice.

Summary of Data:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---|-------------|
| Number of Students Meeting Criterion: | 2 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 0 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 2 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 100% |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

Regarding Outcome 1, Means 1, we were very excited to meet our goal with 76.3% of our students receiving a C or better on the relevant assignments in the assessed criminal justice required courses. We believe this success is a reflection of our efforts to restructure and redesign core CJ courses starting last year. As expected, we did see a significant increase in our success rate, reflecting our efforts to work with our students to improve their reading, class participation, writing and critical thinking skills. We expect to see continued success in this area.

On Outcome 1, Means 2, we also met our goal—both students responding to the survey are employed in a related field with one employed as a Court Monitor and one employed as a Victim Specialist. The second student was able to find this position within 1-3 weeks of graduation and felt the degree increased his/her chances of getting the job. We would like to see more responses in the future and will continue to 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 criminal justice literature.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Grades from papers in Sociology 330-Research Methods, Sociology 300-Sociocultural Theory, and 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: | 43 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 23 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 66 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 65.2% |

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Successful completion of Criminal Justice core classes (SOC 231, SOC 327, SOC 329, SOC 427 and SOC 493). Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students receiving 70% or better in the Criminal Justice core classes.

Summary of Data:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|-------|
| Number of Students Meeting Criterion: | 70 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 18 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 88 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 79.5% |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

Regarding Outcome 2, Means 1, we did not meet our goal. Only 65.2% of our students received a C or better on the papers in SOC 330, SOC 300 and SOC 427. However, we continue to interpret this slight improvement as a type of success. The change in this data suggests the students are a little better prepared for these changes. The improvement also suggests we did a better job of effectively communicating these new expectations. We believe we will continue to see improvement in this area.

On Outcome 2, Means 2, we were pleased that we met our goal with 79.5% of the students earning a C or better in these courses. We believe this success was a reflection of our willingness to work closely with students on other assignments (e.g., quizzes, exams, class participation). We expect to continue meeting this goal in the future.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

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

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Grades from the final paper assigned in Sociology 330-Research Methods and Sociology 427 - Criminology 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: | 37 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 20 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 57 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 64.9% |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

Regarding Outcome 3, Means 1, we did not meet our goal with only 64.9% of our students receiving a C or better on the final papers in SOC 330 and SOC 427. We recognize our students need more assistance writing papers and interpreting data. Our expectation is that next year we will meet this goal as we continue to strive to make our expectations more clear and work closely with students to improve data analysis and critical thinking skills.

Criminal Justice Studies (BA) 2014-2015 Outcomes Assessment Results by Main Campus and Centers

| SLO | Main Campus | | | | Centers | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | # Students Met Criterion | # of Student Did Not Meet Criterion | Total # Students Assessed | % Met Criterion | # Students Met Criterion | # of Student Did Not Meet Criterion | Total # Students Assessed | % Met Criterion |
| SLO 1, 1 | 48 | 13 | 61 | 78.7% | 8 | 3 | 11 | 72.7% |
| SLO 2, 1 | 25 | 12 | 37 | 67.6% | 6 | 4 | 10 | 60% |
| SLO 2, 2 | 43 | 10 | 53 | 81.1% | 8 | 3 | 11 | 72.7% |
| SLO3, 1 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 66.7% | 6 | 4 | 10 | 60% |

Criminal Justice Studies program students at the Centers performed less well than students on the main campus on all student learning outcomes. The majority of the criminal justice classes have been presented at the Centers via ITV and the program faculty has interpreted these data to mean that the ITV format is not ideal for those students. This year fewer of those classes are taught via ITV and the program is working with the administration to

eliminate ITV courses altogether. An analysis of the 2015-2016 data (which will be available this summer) will hopefully provide an opportunity to see if the change in instructional modality is improving performance on student learning outcomes at the Centers.