

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

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 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 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 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:	78	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	20
Total Number of Students Assessed:	98	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	79.6%

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:	N/A	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	N/A
Total Number of Students Assessed:	N/A	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	N/A

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1: Regarding Outcome 1 Means 1, we met our goal with 79.6% of our students receiving a C or better on paper assignments in the assessed sociology core courses. We would like to see more of our students with B's and A's on their papers and we will continue to develop our writing assignments while also providing more supervision for our students as they develop their critical thinking and writing skills. On Outcome 1 Means 2, data was not available for 2015-16. We are looking into developing our own exit and alumni surveys to gather data our graduates' employment status after leaving our program.

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:	78	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	20
Total Number of Students Assessed:	98	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	79.6%

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:	108	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	18
Total Number of Students Assessed:	126	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	85.7%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2: Regarding Outcome 2 Means 1, we met our goal with 79.6% 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, 85.7% 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 continue 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 this assignment.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	17	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	19	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	89.5%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3: On Outcome 3, 89.5% 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 goal. This level of success was achieved in part through 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, 80% of our students were able to meet this criteria. However, the “n” for this survey was small (19 students) due to missing data from one of our sections of SOC 330-Research Methods (faculty member was on sabbatical for the 2015-16 academic year and did not submit their paper grades for the assessment report—final course grades were available).