

**ASSESSMENT REPORT
2018-2019**

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 and anthropology 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.

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	41	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	18
Total Number of Students Assessed:	59	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	69.5%

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 target of 70%. On this measure, 69.5% of our students received a C or better on paper assignments in the assessed sociology core courses, slightly above our target. However, 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 2018-19. We are developing our own exit and alumni surveys to gather data on our graduates' employment status after leaving our program and are contemplating revising our outcome assessment plan for Outcome 1 Means 2 to reflect graduate school acceptance in addition to employment.

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:	41	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	18
Total Number of Students Assessed:	59	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	69.5%

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:	47	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	12
Total Number of Students Assessed:	59	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	79.7%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2: Regarding Outcome 2, Means 1, we did not quite meet our target of 70%. On this measure, 69.5% of our students received a C or better on paper assignments in the assessed sociology core courses. This is slightly less than last year (74.7%). This decrease, we believe, indicates that our students need more assistance writing papers and interpreting data. We will continue to monitor student progress on papers during the semester to ensure that students are making adequate progress, and will continue to utilize the Library's one-credit library research courses.

On Outcome 2, Means 2, 79.7% of our students received a C or better in the selected sociology/criminology core classes, thus demonstrating an adequate ability to read, understand and critique the sociological and criminological literature. This is a slight increase from last year (77%). 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:	21	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	5
Total Number of Students Assessed:	26	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	80.8%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3: On Outcome 3, 80.8% 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 smaller sections. The percentage has decreased slightly from last year (from 85%) but remains high.

Utilization of Results & Changes to Program Based on Results:

The Outcomes Assessment process has encouraged us to look more closely at our overall program. The results have been discussed by faculty in discipline and department meetings to assess our curriculum and assignments in order to enhance student success. We have added sections of core courses to ensure that students receive more supervision on coursework, changed paper assignments to include multiple drafts, and are currently considering revising our curriculum based on these discussions.

Changes to Program Based on Results:

We now offer two sections of SOC 300-Sociocultural Theory and SOC 330-Research Methods in order to be able to provide students with more individualized instruction and supervision on course assignments and papers. Previously there was one section of each course. In SOC 300-Sociocultural Theory, the writing assignment was changed from one term paper to multiple smaller papers to provide students with more feedback, and to help students develop their critical thinking and writing skills. One faculty member is experimenting with offering multiple smaller papers as an alternative to a single research paper as an option in all but 4000-level undergraduate courses.

Retention Strategies:

Our faculty regularly participate in Attendance Alert and Early Alert to identify students having difficulties early in the term in order to assist them. We also refer students with writing difficulties to the University's Writing Center for assistance. Our faculty strive to be personable and accessible to the students in our programs to enhance their chances

of success. We announce advising opportunities in class and we are working to make advising mandatory for all students in our major (the University has no current mandatory advising policy). Additionally, we developed two-year and four-year “Degree Roadmaps” for our students to assist with advising and to help students stay on track toward degree completion.

We plan to continue working with the Writing Center and utilizing NetTutor to help improve students’ writing skills. Each faculty member has evaluated their individual course assessments and has made relevant changes to assist students (e.g., Dr. Derkas and Dr. Gadsden both *require* paper drafts and provide extensive feedback on said drafts and Dr. Álvarez offers extra credit for students who submit paper drafts in her courses and divides the writing requirement into shorter papers for an overall longer writing requirement).

Department faculty also regularly refer students to the Library’s one-credit library research courses, which enable students to prepare effectively for the research writing required in our program’s courses.

The department plans to keep upper-level courses relatively small to ensure that students receive sufficient attention from faculty members.

Finally, the department will continue to discuss a way of mandating at least one advising session every semester before students can enroll in future courses. One suggestion is to make all required courses “instructor permission” courses in order to ensure that students visit with a faculty member before they can enroll in these courses.