

Sociology Program Student Learning Outcome (PSLO) Assessment Reporting 2016-2017

Program: Sociology

Semester: Spring 2017

Faculty/Staff Assessing the Program: Alexander Sample III

Part 1: Assessment Goals

What do you want to learn about your students and their learning from this process?

- What is/are your research question(s)? Why is this research question significant to your program?

This research question is significant to the sociology program because sociology students should be able to understand and analyze sociological theory, research methods, and the basic principles associated with the field of sociology. This subject content in sociology is important because it can provide students with insights into how social forces work and contribute to their (as well as other society members) everyday social behavior.

Part 2: Assessment Plan

PSLO	Method of Assessment	Proficiency Criteria	Student Population Assessed
Enter all the PSLOs for your program below. (Additional rows may be needed)	Identify and describe the assessment activity (capstone project, portfolio, interview, pre/post survey, analysis of success rates, etc) used to assess the students' proficiency of the PSLO. Explicitly state which part of the assessment activity assessed a particular PSLO.	List the criteria you used to determine proficiency levels for each of your PSLOs. How did you determine "needs improvement," "meets proficiency," or "exceeds proficiency" criteria?	Describe which student populations you assessed and how you chose those populations. How many students did you assess? To what extent did the sample adequately represent all students in the program? Why did you choose this particular group for this particular PSLO? Explain.
<p>PSLO 1 :</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the major theoretical perspectives, concepts and research findings in the field of sociology.</p>	<p>Analysis of Sociology 016</p> <p>CSLO 1 is mapped to PSLO 1 Read critically and communicate effectively as a writer and speaker on research methods and theoretical sociological perspectives</p> <p>Assessment Activity:</p> <p>Students will participate in writing and class discussion exercises that are designed to assess their understanding of sociological research methods and the sociological theory involved in each of the research methods.</p> <p>Prompt:</p> <p>Students should be able to discuss and write an analysis identifying the component parts</p>	<p>High Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed all elements asked for in the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to accurately analyze and are able to communicate effectively how research methods and sociological theory are related to the field of sociology.</p> <p>Meets Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed most of the elements of the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to partially analyze how research methods and sociological theory are related to the field of sociology.</p>	<p>The two courses in sociology that were selected for analysis include Sociology 015 and Sociology 016. These two courses were chosen because they represent the two foundation courses for the sociology major (AAT Sociology). Students were assessed from Sociology 015 and students were assessed from Sociology 016. These two courses are a good sample because all sociology majors are required to complete these courses for the sociology major. I choose this particular group for this particular PSLO because understanding research methods and theoretical sociological perspectives are the foundation for a sociology major. Proficiency in this PSLO is a good indicator of student success in sociology.</p>

	<p>of the various research methods and the sociological theory involved in each of the research methods (such as experimental, observational, and survey research).</p> <p>Examination Question:</p> <p>Based on student participation in a classroom discussion and a writing exercise, students will be able to answer a question like this: If you were a sociologists using the theoretical functional perspective, how you would view the organizational structure of society. Please explain. Also explain what type of research method would be used to examine why this organizational structure works like it does?</p>	<p>Below Proficiency</p> <p>Only a small percentage of the work is correct or answers are completely wrong: Students demonstrated a limited understanding of how research methods and sociological theory are related to the field of sociology.</p>	
<p>PSLO 2:</p> <p>Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze, evaluate and make decisions regarding current issues studied in the field of sociology.</p>	<p>Analysis of Sociology 015</p> <p>CSLO 1 is mapped to PSLO 2 Read critically and communicate effectively as a writer and speaker on sociological positions related to the consequences of subordinate and dominant category membership in the United States.</p> <p>Assessment Activity:</p> <p>Students will participate in writing and class discussion exercises that are designed to assess their understanding of how to use critical thinking skills to make decisions regarding social issues faced by the various categories of people living in the United States. People make decisions everyday regarding their social assignment to certain social groups. These social assignments can create dominant and subordinate categories of people living in the United States. How people will behave after society has assigned them to a social category consisting of power and position is a matter for sociological analysis.</p>	<p>High Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed all elements asked for in the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to accurately analyze and are able to communicate effectively the consequences of subordination and domination.</p> <p>Meets Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed most of the elements of the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to partially analyze and communicate the consequences of subordination and domination.</p> <p>Below Proficiency</p> <p>Only a small percentage of the work is correct or answers are completely wrong: Students have a limited understanding of how to analyze and communicate the consequences of</p>	<p>The two courses in sociology that were selected for analysis include Sociology 015 and Sociology 016. These two courses were chosen because they represent the two foundation courses for the sociology major (AAT Sociology). Students were assessed from Sociology 015 and students were assessed from Sociology 016. These two courses are a good sample because all sociology majors are required to complete these courses for the sociology major. I choose this particular group for this particular PSLO because understanding current issues studied in the field of sociology is important in recognizing how society operates. The nature of subordination and dominance is fundamental in understanding how societies distribute power. Which particular category of people in the society has obtained power can determine who has access to the major institutions of that society. Subordination and dominance can determine the quality of life that people will experience in a society. Proficiency in this PSLO is a good indicator of student success in sociology.</p>

	<p>Prompt:</p> <p>Students should be able to discuss and write an analysis of how group behavior can result in the formation of social in-groups and social out-groups. These groups can then become the basis for social identities such as dominant category and subordinate category.</p> <p>Examination Question:</p> <p>Based on student participation in classroom discussions and a writing exercise, students will be able to answer a question like this:</p> <p>In American society people are divided into various racial and ethnic categories. These social assignments can produce social attitudes. These social attitudes can create in-groups and out-groups. Please explain how in-group and out-group behavior can lead to the formation of dominant and subordinate categories. What social factors can reduce in-group and out-group separation and thus reduce the dominant and subordinate category membership faced by many racial and ethnic categories in American society?</p>	<p>subordination and domination.</p>	
<p>PSLO 3 :</p> <p>Recognize the diversity of social, cultural and global perspectives.</p>	<p>Analysis of Sociology 015</p> <p>. CSLO 4 is mapped to PSLO 3 Analyze and synthesize how ethical values, obligations, consequences and the resulting moral implications related to how we are socialized in American society. Be able to recognize and understand how our daily decisions and subsequent actions are products of the American value system.</p> <p>Assessment Activity:</p> <p>Students will participate in a writing exercise that is designed to access their understanding of how our American socialization</p>	<p>High Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed all elements asked for in the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to accurately analyze how personal values impact the daily decisions that people make in everyday life.</p> <p>Meets Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed most of the elements of the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to partially analyze how personal values impact the daily decisions that people make in everyday</p>	<p>The two courses in sociology that were selected for analysis include Sociology 015 and Sociology 016. These two courses were chosen because they represent the two foundation courses for the sociology major (AAT Sociology). Students were assess from Sociology 015 and students were assessed from Sociology 016. These two courses are a good sample because all sociology majors are required to complete these courses for the sociology major. I choose this particular PSLO because understanding the diversity of social, cultural, and global perspectives can better help us understand different people around the world. We can compare and</p>

	<p>practices have created an American value system. These cultural values have become the basis of how we judge both members of American society as well as members of other societies around the world.</p> <p>Prompt:</p> <p>Students will be able to write an analysis of how the socializations patterns of members of American society can differ from socialization patterns of other societies around the world. Understanding how to recognize and appreciate cultural diversity will assist students in seeing the world and the people around them in a global perspective.</p> <p>Examination Question:</p> <p>A writing examination presenting a question like this will be used to determine if students can understand socialization pattern in the United States and around the world.</p> <p>You are a sociologists. You have been asked to study socialization patterns in the United States and other nations around the world. Please explain what social factor would be responsible for the differences in how Americans socialize their children compared to how other nations around the world would socialize their children.</p>	<p>life.</p> <p>Below Proficiency</p> <p>Only a small percentage of the work is correct or answers are completely wrong: Students have demonstrated a limited understanding of how personal values impact the daily decisions that people make in everyday life.</p>	<p>contrast how socialization practices around the world can create ethical values, obligations, and moral implications different than those in the United States. The daily decisions that people make in life are linked to the culture of that society. Proficiency in this PLSO is a good indicator of student success in sociology.</p>
<p>PSLO 4 :</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research and the ethical considerations involved in conducting research.</p>	<p>Analysis of Sociology 015</p> <p>CSLO 3 is mapped to PSLO 4</p> <p>Think critically and creatively about the questions which can be answered in an empirical manner. Be able to distinguish questions which can be researched using science from questions which are philosophical in nature.</p> <p>Assessment Activity:</p> <p>Students will participate in a writing exercise that is designed to access their understanding of</p>	<p>High Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed all elements asked for in the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to accurately understand the questions which can be researched using science and questions which are philosophical in nature.</p> <p>Meets Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed most of the elements of the prompt: Students demonstrated the</p>	<p>The two courses in sociology that were selected for analysis include Sociology 015 and Sociology 016. These two courses were chosen because they represent the two foundation courses for the sociology major (AAT Sociology). Students were assessed from Sociology 015 and students were assessed in Sociology 016. These two courses are a good sample because all sociology majors are required to complete these courses for the sociology major. I chose this particular PSLO because understanding the ethical considerations involved in research</p>

	<p>how researchers have to use values judgments to determine ethical considerations involved in conducting research. Researchers have to make determinations about the questions that they will examine. Do the research questions involve science or are the questions philosophical in nature?</p> <p>Prompt:</p> <p>Students will be able to examine a potential research question and write an analysis of how this question can be examined by the use of a sociological research method.</p> <p>Examination Question:</p> <p>A writing examination presenting a question like this will be used to determine if students can recognize how researchers have to make ethical considerations when conducting research.</p> <p>You are a sociologist studying high school bullying. You have to decide which research method you will use in your study Are there ethical considerations such as the juvenile status of the students, issues of student privacy, and issues of student safety? Please explain which research method would provide the most information about student bullying and protect the student interest in the process.</p>	<p>ability to partially understand the questions which can be researched using science and questions which are philosophical in nature.</p> <p>Below Proficiency</p> <p>Only a small percentage of the work is correct or answers are completely wrong. Students demonstrated a limited understanding of which questions can be researched using science and questions which are philosophical in nature.</p>	<p>is fundamental for students of sociology. Students should be able to understand how researchers choose topics to examine in a scientific manner. They should be able to understand empirical questions from philosophical questions. Making the correct distinction can influence the nature of the research that would be examined by a sociologists. Proficiency in this PLSO is a good indicator of student success in sociology.</p>
<p>PSLO 5 :</p> <p>Understand how theoretical perspectives can explain both the causes and the solutions to social problems.</p>	<p>Analysis of Sociology 016</p> <p>CSLO 3 is mapped to PSLO 5 Think critically and creatively about how sociological theory can present causes and solutions to American social problems.</p> <p>Assessment Activity:</p> <p>Sociologists have identified three major sociological theories. Each theory can be used to explain the causes and</p>	<p>High Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed all elements asked for in the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to accurately relate to sociological theory and to the causes and solutions of American social problems.</p> <p>Meets Proficiency</p> <p>Students addressed most of</p>	<p>The two courses in sociology that were selected for analysis include Sociology 015 and Sociology 016. These two courses were chosen because they represent the two foundation courses for the sociology major (AAT Sociology). Students were assessed from Sociology 015 and students were assessed from Sociology 016. These two courses are a good sample because all sociology majors are required to complete these courses for the sociology major. I choose</p>

	<p>solutions to social problems. Which theoretical perspective is chosen to examine the question can determine how that sociologists would see causes of the social problem and what solutions could best be used to solve that American social problem.</p> <p>Prompt:</p> <p>Students will be able to understand sociological theory and use this understanding to write an analysis of how different theories can produce different causes and solutions to American social problems.</p> <p>Examination Question:</p> <p>A writing examination presenting a question like this will be used to determine if students can identify how sociological theory can produce different causes and solutions to American social problems. You are a sociologists. You are studying social factors such as social divisions on values, increasing social inequality, and unresolved discrimination issues. Which sociological theory would focus on analyzing these factors with the expectation of reducing social problems in American society? Please explain your answer.</p>	<p>the elements of the prompt: Students demonstrated the ability to partially relate to sociological theory and the causes and solutions of American social problems.</p> <p>Below Proficiency</p> <p>Only a small percentage of the work is correct or answers are completely wrong. Students demonstrated a limited understanding of how sociological theory can be related to the causes and solutions of American social problems.</p>	<p>this particular PSLO because sociology students must be able to understand theoretical perspectives in the field of sociology. Sociological perspectives are fundamental in explaining the causes and the solutions to American social problems. Which perspective is selected can produce government action directed toward solutions to solving the problem. Proficiency in this PSLO is a good indicator of student success in sociology.</p>
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Part 3: Assessment Findings

What are the findings from your assessment efforts?

- Summarize and interpret your data. How many students were at each proficiency level?

The assessment examined 100 students. Sixty students were selected from Sociology 015 (Introduction to Sociology) and forty students were selected from Sociology 016 (Introduction to Social Problems). These two courses were selected because they represent the foundation courses for the Sociology AAT Degree (Sociology Program Degree). Student assessment results were divided into: High Proficiency, Meets Proficiency, and Below Proficiency (See Proficiency Criteria for rubric).

Assessment Results:

Assessment results for PSLO 2, PSLO 3, and PSLO 4 (60 students were used in the assessment)

High Proficiency: 30 students

Meets Proficiency: 24 students

Below Proficiency: 6 students

Assessment results for PSLO 1 and PSLO 5 (40 students were used in the assessment)

High Proficiency: 17 students

Meets Proficiency: 14 students

Below Proficiency: 9 students

The Sociology Program Assessment (which includes all five PSLOs) was developed by creating an aggregate score for PSLO 1, PSLO 2, PSLO 3, PSLO 4, and PSLO 5 (100 students).

Assessment results for the complete Sociology Program

High Proficiency: 47 students

Meets Proficiency: 38 students

Below Proficiency: 15 students

The assessment data indicates that 85% of assessed students in the Sociology Program (PSLOs) were either at the High Proficiency Level or the Meets Proficiency Level.

- Describe what you discovered about your students and their learning from the assessment.

The assessment data indicates that students in the Sociology AAT Program are doing very well in the fundamental sociology courses. All of the five PSLO's that were assessed are directly related to research methods in sociology and sociological theory. Students must be able to demonstrate through critical thinking skills an understanding of these five PSLO's if they are considering advance study in the field of sociology. The remaining AAT Sociology Program courses (Sociology 012 -- Introduction to Marriage and Family and Sociology 017 -- Introduction to Research Methods) are directly related to the sociology foundation courses. The ability of students to achieve academic skills in the foundation courses are a good indicator of student success in the Sociology AAT Program.

Part 4: Next Steps

What are your next steps?

- *How will the results of this assessment be used to improve student learning in your program, if you found that improvement is needed? How might you adjust your teaching methods, program design, or other component of your program, if applicable?*

I will use the results of this assessment to improve student learning by examining how the assessment results have indicated which PSLOs may need new or modified ways to present the topic for class discussion. Although the overall results were very positive, I will consider using different or revised exercises, video clips, newspaper articles, and classroom discussions to highlight the topic under examination. Presenting sociological concepts and theory in a format that will parallel the student's everyday life is one of the themes of my sociology courses.

- ***To what extent do your results point you to a need for professional development? Explain.***

Professional development is very important to me. I will continue to work with department and college faculty and participate in activities that are designed to enhance my professional development. These activities will include attendance at both department and focused flex activities, lectures/conferences and other activities that will increase my competence as a sociology professor. I will integrate this knowledge into my sociology lectures and discussions. These enhanced classroom presentations should improve the student's ability to understand the sociology concepts that are presented during classroom lectures and discussions.

- ***What is the plan of action and timeline of your next steps? Who are the major players?***

The timeline:

Spring 2017 faculty in both the sociology program and the Behavioral Science Department will develop flex activities and attend flex workshops that are targeted for the improvement in student learning (increasing knowledge, skills and competence in sociology as well as other behavioral science disciplines).

Fall 2017 review the Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO) assessment 2016-2017 with faculty in both the sociology program and the Behavioral Science Department.

Fall 2017 Sociology program faculty will revise and update course content (if necessary) to reflect current research.

Fall 2017 Sociology program and Behavioral Science Department faculty will discuss maintenance and improvement levels.

Who are the major players?

The major players in the plan of action and timeline are the full time and adjunct faculty members in sociology as well as full time and adjunct faculty in the Behavioral Science Department.

Part 5: Report Summary

Lastly, sum up your PSLO assessment in 400 words or less. This summary, along with all program assessment summaries, will be made public on the LMC website's Program Assessment page and used to inform our accreditation self-evaluation. Your summary should include:

- What you wanted to learn about your students
- What you did
- What you learned
- What you plan to do next to improve student learning

**** If available, please include the assessment collection or analysis tools you used, such as exam questions, essay prompts, or rubrics, at the end of your report [*copy and paste into this same document to limit your report to one file*].****

What you wanted to learn about your students

I wanted to conduct an analysis of how my CSLOs were mapped to my PSLOs. This mapped assessment process was designed to determine how well students in sociology were able to:

- **(CSLO 1 mapped to) PSLO 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical perspectives, concepts and research findings in the field of sociology;
- **(CSLO 1 mapped to) PSLO 2:** Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze, evaluate and make decisions regarding current issues studied in the field of sociology;
- **(CSLO 4 mapped to) PSLO 3:** Recognize the diversity of social, cultural and global perspectives;
- **(CSLO 3 mapped to) PSLO 4:** Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research and the ethical considerations involved in conducting research; and
- **(CSLO 3 mapped to) PSLO 5:** Understand how theoretical perspectives can explain both the causes and the solutions of social problems.

What you did

The assessment examined 100 students. Sixty students were selected from Sociology 015 (Introduction to Sociology) and forty students were selected from Sociology 016 (Introduction to Social Problems). These two courses were selected because they represent the foundation courses for the Sociology AAT Degree (Sociology Program Degree).

What you learned

The assessment data indicated that students in the Sociology AAT Program were doing very well in the fundamental sociology courses. The assessment data indicated that 85% of the assessed students in the Sociology Program (PSLOs) were either at the High Proficiency Level or the Meets Proficiency Level. The remaining AAT Sociology Program courses (Sociology 012 – Introduction to Marriage and Family and Sociology 017 – Introduction to Research Methods) are directly related to the sociology foundation courses. Success in the foundation courses is a good indicator of student success in the Sociology AAT program.

What you plan to do next to improve student learning

My plan to improve student learning will focus on new approaches and strategies designed help students understand the sociological theories and research methods used in the field of sociology.

- I will examine new and creative approaches to present classroom exercises, video clips, newspaper articles and classroom discussions to highlight the topics under discussion.
- I will continue to work with members of my department who have similar PSLOs to develop new approaches for classroom presentations.
- I will also continue to work with other college faculty in professional development activities.
- Finally, I will develop new approaches and rubrics for student assessment.

I believe that it is extremely important to continue to enhance the classroom experience for students. When students have a good classroom experience it tends to reflect itself in student performance and success.