2021-2022 Assessment Cycle
Assessment Findings

Program Assessment Accomplishments

The Sociology program committee, which consisted of full time sociology faculty (Dr. Ibanez, Mr. Myers, and Dr. Park) and the department chair (Dr. Sundal), received the CTEL Assessment Grant #22AS09 in spring 2022. Our accomplishments include the following:

1. Revised mission statement
2. Revised PSLOs = moved from 5 PSLOs to 3 PSLOs
3. Revised degree requirements = reduced the number of required classes from 8 to 5 so that students can tailor their curriculum to their education and career goals with greater flexibility in the upper-division sociology elective credits
4. Created a Sociology Senior Capstone course
5. Revised the Sociology Curriculum Map
6. Reviewed the target threshold measurements
7. Created and administered the Sociology Senior Exit Survey
8. Finalized department protocols to gather, store, and report program assessment data
9. Created program assessment reporting calendar and rotation plan for assessment liaisons
10. Updated requirements for department honors

Finding per Measure

Sociology PSLOs revised spring 22

PSLO1: Sociological Imagination

Outcome: Critically analyze the role of culture and social structure (e.g., race, class, gender, and other dimensions of social diversity) in shaping

▼ **Measure:** Sociology Capstone Assignment
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description: SO495 Sociology Senior Capstone is a newly created independent study course. Previously the Sociology program did not have a senior capstone class. The assessment activities and associated

rubrics for this class are under construction and will be completed and reviewed by the Sociology program committee during AY2022-23 (the class is not slated to run until spring 2024).

Acceptable Target: 75% of majors score Target or Advanced on Course-Embedded Assignment

Findings for Sociology Capstone Assignment

Summary of Findings: The Sociology Senior Capstone course is a new course and has not yet been offered; thus, we have no direct measures to report for the PSLOs.

Data from direct measures for this PSLO will be reported in AY2023-24.

Recommendations: The Sociology program committee will create the direct measure (student artifact) and associated rubric next academic year and will implement assessment when the course is slated to run (e.g., spring 2024).

Reflections/Notes:

Measure: Sociology Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required sociology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs (on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree"). The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target:	70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO1.

Supporting Attachments:

ⓘ Sociology Senior Exit Survey.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Sociology Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings:	The Sociology program committee created a new Senior Exit Survey and administered it to graduating majors in spring 2022. Only 1 student completed the survey.
Recommendations:	The department will administer the Senior Exit Survey every semester to capture student feedback from both fall and spring graduates. In addition, sociology faculty will discuss with their advisees the importance of the survey to increase student participation.
Reflections/Notes:	We are not analyzing or reporting data from the survey this assessment cycle.

PSLO2: Theory Applications

Outcome: Apply core sociological theories/perspectives to social phenomena.

▼ **Measure:** Sociology Capstone Assignment
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:	SO495 Sociology Senior Capstone is a newly created independent study course. Previously the

Sociology program did not have a senior capstone class. The assessment activities and associated rubrics for this class are under construction and will be completed and reviewed by the Sociology program committee during AY2022-23 (the class is not slated to run until spring 2024).

Acceptable Target: 75% of majors score Target or Advanced on Course-Embedded Assignment

Findings for Sociology Capstone Assignment

Summary of Findings: The Sociology Senior Capstone course is a new course and has not yet been offered; thus, we have no direct measures to report for the PSLOs.

Data from direct measures for this PSLO will be reported in AY2024-25.

Recommendations: The Sociology program committee will create the direct measure (student artifact) and associated rubric next academic year and will implement assessment when the course is slated to run (e.g., spring 2024).

Reflections/Notes:

Measure: Sociology Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required sociology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs (on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree"). The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the

PSLOs.

Acceptable Target: 70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO2.

Supporting Attachments:

ⓘSociology Senior Exit Survey.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Sociology Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings: The Sociology program committee created a new Senior Exit Survey and administered it to graduating majors in spring 2022. Only 1 student completed the survey.

Recommendations: The department will administer the Senior Exit Survey every semester to capture student feedback from both fall and spring graduates. In addition, sociology faculty will discuss with their advisees the importance of the survey to increase student participation.

Reflections/Notes: We are not analyzing or reporting data from the survey this assessment cycle.

PSLO3: Evidence-based Applications

Outcome: Frame sociological questions of significance, outline processes by which they might be empirically answered, and evaluate the major ethical i

▼ **Measure:** Sociology Capstone Assignment
Program level Direct - Student Artifact

Details/Description:	SO495 Sociology Senior Capstone is a newly created independent study course. Previously the Sociology program did not have a senior capstone class. The assessment activities and associated rubrics for this class are under construction and will be completed and reviewed by the Sociology program committee during AY2022-23 (the class is not slated to run until spring 2024).
Acceptable Target:	75% of majors score Target or Advanced on Course-Embedded Assignment

Findings for Sociology Capstone Assignment

| Summary of Findings: | The Sociology Senior Capstone course is a new course and has not yet been offered; thus, we have no direct measures to report for the PSLOs.

Data from direct measures for this PSLO will be reported in AY2025-26. |
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| Recommendations: | The Sociology program committee will create the direct measure (student artifact) and associated rubric next academic year and will implement assessment when the course is slated to run (e.g., spring 2024). |
| Reflections/Notes: | |

Measure: Sociology Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description:	The department requests that graduating majors complete an exit survey. The first question of the survey asks majors to reflect on the required sociology courses completed at Washburn to determine if the courses met the associated PSLOs (on a 5-point scale from "Strongly Agree" to

"Strongly Disagree"). The survey also provides a space for majors to leave a qualitative response on how the coursework met or did not meet the PSLOs.

Acceptable Target: 70% of majors will respond "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" on Senior Exit Survey question #1 for PSLO3.

Supporting Attachments:

ⓘSociology Senior Exit Survey.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Sociology Senior Exit Survey

Summary of Findings: The Sociology program committee created a new Senior Exit Survey and administered it to graduating majors in spring 2022. Only 1 student completed the survey.

Recommendations: The department will administer the Senior Exit Survey every semester to capture student feedback from both fall and spring graduates. In addition, sociology faculty will discuss with their advisees the importance of the survey to increase student participation.

Reflections/Notes: We are not analyzing or reporting data from the survey this assessment cycle.

Overall Recommendations

While the Sociology program committee accomplished a lot of work this past academic year, we need to finalize the course approval form, and associated direct assessment measures and rubrics, for the new Sociology Senior Capstone course. The Sociology program committee and department chair will tackle these

remaining items at the department annual retreat in August so that our program and curriculum changes can make it through the university governance approval process in AY2022-23.

We will also communicate our program and assessment changes to internal (e.g., department faculty, Social Science division faculty, majors, and minors) and external stakeholders. We will report Sociology revisions in our department newsletter, social media pages, and website. In addition, we will create 1-page briefs that summarize our program assessment changes to distribute to internal and external stakeholder while eliciting their feedback.

Overall Reflection

The Sociology program committee is pleased with our program and curricular changes and look forward to implementing, collecting, and analyzing the data.

Faculty Collaboration

The current Sociology assessment liaison, Dr. Mary Sundal (department chair) collaborated with the full time Sociology faculty (Dr. Lindsey Ibanez, Mr. Alex Myers, and Dr. Sangyoub Park) during a day-long assessment retreat in spring 2022 to accomplish the aforementioned assessment goals. This work was funded by the CTEL Assessment Grant. The Sociology program committee will communicate the assessment revisions to the remaining department faculty and faculty in the Social Science Division in the upcoming academic year.

Communication & Collaboration with Students

The department and faculty advisors keep students informed and up-to-date on program and assessment practices throughout students' academic careers here at Washburn. Beginning at the first introduction to the program during NSO, TSO, or campus visits, faculty advisors discuss the Sociology mission statement, PSLOs, curriculum map (and related major map) and how the program will share assessment results with students (e.g., department website, newsletter, and student club meetings). Faculty reinforce this information during routine advising appointment with majors as well. Faculty also incorporate the PSLOs into all required courses from the Introduced level to the Reinforced level so that students are aware how their courses, and course-based assignments, are aligned in the program. Finally, the program values student feedback to improve our assessment practices, thus, we anonymously survey students prior to graduation (senior exit survey) so that we can review and potentially implement students' suggestions in future semesters.

Communication & Collaboration with External Stakeholders

The Sociology assessment plan and findings are shared with external stakeholders in a few ways. First, we post

major updates on our department social media page and in our twice-annual department newsletter. Second, we post the plan and findings on our department website. Finally, we communicate directly with our external stakeholders via email to solicit feedback.

Communication & Collaboration with University

The current assessment liaison, Dr. Mary Sundal, applied for and was awarded the CTEL Assessment Grant to complete, along with the full time Sociology faculty, the Sociology program assessment changes in AY2021-22. Dr. Sundal is also part of the program assessment committees for the two Anthropology programs and has received CTEL Assessment Grants (along with the full time Anthropology faculty). All three department programs share information among faculty and committees regarding best assessment practices.

The Sociology program committee members have numerous CAS and university service positions where they are able to discuss assessment and engage in meaningful conversations about assessment as well.

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