



Major Field Assessment Plan

B. A. Sociology

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of Southeast Louisiana.

The mission of the department and sociology is to prepare students for full participation in the modern world by providing an understanding of the social, cultural, economic and physical environments and the ways they affect how humans live; and by providing the skills needed to contribute in an ever changing global society.

A. Program Goals

As almost every field requires an understanding of human behavior in social settings, research and analytic tools, and strong communication skills, this degree will give students the ability to be successful in many careers. This includes such occupational settings as voluntary agencies, community and social service organizations, media, human resources, public relations, government agencies, politics, marketing and education. Students planning to enter professional schools in sociology, education, social work, public health, law, medicine, business administration, urban/rural community development, public policy, and theology are also well-served by this degree.

Learning Goals

Ten expected learning outcomes are articulated for sociology students, expressed as cognitive or knowledge based, and as attitudes and skills which can be demonstrated during the program and used in later careers.

For students who graduate from our program, the goals are for them to be able to:

1. Grasp and use sociological theories, paradigms, and concepts to understand social life.
2. Understand how to conduct research and apply research methodologies in real world settings.
3. Be able to conduct research in real world settings.
4. Critically assess oral and written communications.
5. Understand organizational/institutional structures of society and their interactions.
6. Recognize the global/local intersection and how it affects both individuals and societies.
7. Write and speak effectively.
8. Promote and manage social change and empower others.
9. Articulate the knowledge and skills they have developed.
10. Enter the professional career or graduate school of their choice, or improve their occupational standing in the workplace.

B. Assessment

Measurement Methods, Timeline, and Uses

1. At the end of the program students will be required to take an on-line outcomes assessment test.
 - a. It will represent all primary content for which the students are responsible at the completion of the program, and utilize the **ETS standardized test for sociology**. This allows for comparison to national norms.
 - b. In addition, after students have completed the redesigned Sociology 471 Advanced Sociology course, a **non ETS test** will be administered and assessed by sociology faculty:
 - o It will include **critical thinking and writing** components,
 - o It will include selected opinion **questions to address perceptions about status for learning outcomes** (e.g., to what extent do you agree or disagree that the sociology major has prepared you to promote and/or manage social change, 1. Strongly Disagree to 5. Strongly Agree).
2. Because this is a post-test only design, these groups will be analyzed in light of incoming ACT scores to see the extent to which our students are comparable to other students at the university.
3. Additional data points will be compiled of **student activity** in such scholarly activity as independent studies, undergraduate research and authoring or co-authoring papers for publication or presentation at conferences
4. Southeastern sends out an **Alumni Survey** periodically for which departments are allowed to add items of special interest for their students. This allows for further assessment of selected elements once the students have graduated. Some questions should be how valuable the following were to graduates after graduation:
 - o Coursework (substantive, inequality and diversity, theory, research methods, statistics, and data analysis, senior-level/capstone courses and internships
 - o How the major enhanced the following critical and analytic application skills in:
 - Functioning as a collaborative member of a team
 - Writing a report
 - Working with people from diverse backgrounds
 - Conducting research and analyzing data and applying statistical skills
 - Defining problems and developing solutions
 - Understanding, use and appreciation of science
 - Awareness of people, cultures, languages, and nations
5. All test results, survey data, and student scholarly activity records will be reviewed yearly by the sociology course and curriculum committee to determine areas for course and curriculum improvement.

C. Expected Learning Outcomes

1. ETS standardized test for sociology: graduating sociology majors will have an average total score on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Sociology which meets or exceeds the 50th percentile rank on a national sample of students. For the sub-scores, they will also meet or achieve the 50th percentile rank.
2. For the non ETS portion for writing and thinking, 90% of graduating sociology majors will have a satisfactory writing and thinking grade.
3. For the non ETS portion on opinions on whether they achieved the expected learning outcomes, 90% will agree they achieved satisfactory status on those learning outcomes.
4. For student activity: for every 50 sociology students, we will have one involved in some scholarly research project per year.
5. For the Alumni Survey, 80% will agree they were satisfied or very satisfied with coursework and with success in the expected learning outcomes for the department.