

Major Field Assessment Plan M.S. Applied Sociology

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the educational and cultural needs of society, primarily those of Southeast Louisiana, to disseminate knowledge and to facilitate life-long learning through quality instruction, research and service in a safe, student-centered environment.

The purposes of the M.S. in Applied Sociology is to provide students with the ability to research, analyze and develop strategies for the effective and efficient functioning of community institutions, organizations and groups of individuals.

Goal 1

To provide students with a strong knowledge of the core components of applied sociology.

A. Expected Outcomes

Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will be able to demonstrate a mastery of applied sociological theory, research methods, complex organizations, social stratification, statistics and evaluation and assessment.

B. Assessment

- 1) A student graduating with the M.S. in Sociology will have a GPA no lower than 3.0.
- 2) Students will receive a grade of “A” or “B” in all core M.S. Applied Sociology courses (SOC 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606).
- 3) Upon completing the required courses in the program, students will successfully pass an oral comprehensive exams.
- 4) Student assessment of the above courses will be gauged by the completion of a field assessment examination taken during the first semester of enrollment and during the final semester of enrollment.

C. Results

- 1) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, 20 students graduated with the M.S. in Applied Sociology and had a GPA of no lower than 3.0.
- 2) Partially Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, 126 students enrolled in either SOC 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, or 606; of which, 110 earned either an “A” or a “B” in each course (87.3%).
- 3) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, of the 20 students that defended a thesis or an internship report, all 20 (100%) passed the oral comprehensive exam.

- 4) Not met. The faculty are still in the process of structuring a field assessment exam. The exam will be in place for Fall 2011 cohort.

Goal 2

To provide students with the skills needed to work in middle or upper management of public/private agencies or for further graduate study.

A. Expected Outcomes

Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will complete a field internship or applied research thesis project in which they will master applied sociological skills.

B. Assessment

- 1) A student graduating with the M.S. in Applied Sociology will successfully complete a field internship or applied thesis project in which they will master applied sociological skills.

C. Results/Use

- 1) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, of the 20 students that graduated, all 20 (100%) completed a field internship or applied thesis project in which they demonstrated applied sociological skills.

Goal 3

To provide students with the skills to communicate theoretical concepts and apply theoretical perspectives to research.

A. Expected Outcomes

Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will complete a field internship or applied research thesis in which theoretical concepts and research will be examined.

B. Assessment

- 1) Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will successfully complete a field internship or applied research thesis project in which they will communicate theoretical concepts and apply theoretical perspectives to research.
- 2) Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will successfully defend their field internship report or applied thesis project.

C. Results/Use

- 1) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, of the 20 students that graduated, all 20 (100%) completed a field internship or applied thesis project in which they applied theoretical concepts and perspectives to research.
- 2) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, of the 20 students that attempted to defend their field internship or applied thesis project, all 20 were successful (100%).

Goal 4

To provide students with a cultural or global perspective.

A. Expected Outcomes

Students M.S. in Applied Sociology will gain an awareness of an applied sociologist's role in a multicultural environment through an internship in an agency that serves the public or through a research project with multicultural or global perspectives.

B. Assessment

- 1) Students completing the M.S. in Applied Sociology will successfully complete a field internship or applied research thesis project and successfully defend it to a committee consisting of graduate faculty.

C. Result/Use

- 1) Met. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2010, 20 students completed field internship or applied thesis project and successfully defended them to committees consisting of graduate faculty (yearly average of 10 per year). Of the 20, all projects either dealt with elements of cultural and/or global perspectives.

Summary:

Based on the available data, the M.S. in Applied Sociology program has successfully met its stated goals. The faculty of the M.S. in Applied Sociology program have used the results of this assessment in making modifications in the curriculum as needed.