

**Institutional Effectiveness
2022-2023**

Program: Sociology BS

College and Department: College of Arts & Sciences

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Mission:

Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work and political science. It provides students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities. Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover.

Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The Department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.

Attach Curriculum Map (Educational Programs Only): *See Appendix 1.

PO1: MAINTAIN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Define Outcome:

The Program of Sociology will maintain student enrollment or not decrease more than 10% in student enrollment annually.

Assessment Methods:

The Program will monitor enrollment rates.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

The SOC enrollment threshold is 175;

Results and Analysis:

Table 1: Sociology Enrollment

Enrollment by Year	SOC General Track Majors	SOC-CRCJ Majors	SOC-SW Majors	Total Majors
2022-23	18	116	60	194
2021-22	27	127	62	216

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

If majors fall below that threshold, SOC will increase the recruitment initiatives listed below:

Faculty Recruitment Initiatives of New Majors

- (Weekly) Faculty one-on-one VIP Student Recruitment sessions; and
- Preview Day recruitment of freshmen Saturday Event; and
- Spring Showcase Recruitment of freshmen-Saturday events
- Faculty-led Departmental introductions to SOARS_ Student Orientation, Advisement, Registration, Scheduling

PO2: SUFFICIENT CURRICULAR OPTIONS

Define Outcome:

PO 2: Majors in Sociology will have sufficient curricular options

Assessment Methods:

1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey. A departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey is now annually circulated among Sociology Majors. Students are surveyed regarding the sufficiency of their curricular options.
 - *Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements (Strongly Disagree – Strongly Agree)*
2. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness: Completed by student majors
3. Co-Curricular Options

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

1. The threshold of acceptability for the Qualtrics student satisfaction survey is that the majority of students are on the positive side of the Likert responses (Somewhat agree, Agree, or Strongly Agree)
2. The threshold of acceptability for the student-evaluated curriculum map is that the students determine a majority of the courses prepare them for written and oral communication as well as prepare them for proficiency in their concentration. Absent this, a re-evaluation of the curriculum would be undertaken.
3. The threshold of acceptability is to offer co-curricular options in sociology “to enhance global understanding, experience, and education” www.tntech.edu/strategic.

Results and Analysis:

Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

- *Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements (Strongly Disagree – Strongly Agree)*
 - *The sociology curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of sociology. 83.87% of responding majors strongly agree or agree.*

Co-Curricular Options

- Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society
- Women and Gender Studies Course Options
- Sociology/CJ Club
- Sociology Social Work Credit-Based Clinical Internships with Community Partners
- QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Grant-Based Active Learning Classes
- One World
- Conference travel with faculty
- Publications with faculty
- Working as a Teaching Assistant
- Criminology/Criminal Justice Guest Speakers and Field Trips

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

The majority of responding students surveyed agree that there are sufficient curricular and co-curricular options. To seek improvement, Sociology faculty are making additional curricular revisions in the program 2023-2024.

SLO 1: KNOWLEDGE OF DISCIPLINE**Define Outcome:**

Majors in sociology will demonstrate knowledge of their discipline at a level comparable to the national mean.

Assessment Methods:

Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

Performance at a level comparable to the national mean is expected.

Results and Analysis:

ETS Major Field Assessment Indicator			
Spring 2023	N	TTU Mean	National Mean
Criminology and Deviance	26	36	40.9
Methodology	26	35	42.7
Social Institutions	26	33	41.3

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

To seek improvement, faculty will re-evaluate implementation of a capstone course after the 2023-2024 ETS audit data student results.

SLO 2: DEMONSTRATION OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**Define Outcome:**

Majors in Sociology will demonstrate critical thinking skills comparable to the Tech university-wide and national sociology averages.

Assessment Methods:

1. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech University. Sociology majors will average 90% of the TTU average on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).
2. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey. A departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey is now annually circulated among Sociology Majors. Students are surveyed regarding the sufficiency of their curricular options.
 - *Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements (Strongly Disagree – Strongly Agree)*
 - *The sociology curriculum has improved my ability to think critically. 74.20% of responding majors either strongly agree or agree.*

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

1. Students must score 90% of TTU's mean score on the California Critical Thinking Test (CCTST).
2. The threshold of acceptability for the Qualtrics student satisfaction survey is that the majority of students are on the positive side of the Likert responses (Somewhat agree, Agree, or Strongly Agree)

Results and Analysis:

California Critical Thinking Skills Test

2022-23 CCTST Scores	Mean	N
SOC	73.3	55
TTU	74.3	1652
TTU CAS	76.2	242
CCTST National	73.3	n/a

Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

- *Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements (Strongly Disagree – Strongly Agree)*
 - *The sociology curriculum has improved my ability to think critically. 74.20% of responding majors either strongly agree or agree.*

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

Sociology students scored 90% of TTU's mean but, to seek improvement, faculty will be asked to emphasize "critical thinking" in classes and on IDEA evaluations.

SLO 3: Proficiency in Concentration**Define Outcome:**

Majors in sociology will demonstrate proficiencies in their concentrations (Criminology and Criminal Justice and Social Work).

Assessment Methods:

1. An in-house multiple-choice exam SOC-CRCJ exam had been administered each fall and spring semester to graduating seniors within the Sociology- Criminology-Criminal Justice concentration. However, SOC was notified in 2022 THEC would not permit this internal assessment. SOC will now track the ETS Criminology and Deviance scores, beginning with the spring data.

2. Social Work students are required to complete a clinical internship as part of their curriculum. To assess Social Work students' success in the concentration, we use an Internship Evaluation Form, completed by the Agency Supervisor to gauge students' overall performance on the internship requirement of the Social Work concentration. Student performance is rated, and the final question is a scale of one to five where students' work in the internship can be correlated to outstanding, good, average, fair or poor.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

1. Scores within 10% on the ETS Criminology/Deviance Major Field Subscore are expected annually.
2. Ninety percent of Sociology-Social Work students are expected to be rated at a level above average (outstanding or good) by their supervisor at the completion of their required internship.

Results and Analysis:

ETS Major Field Test - Criminology and Deviance

ETS Major Field Assessment Indicator			
Spring 2023	N	TTU Mean	National Mean
Criminology and Deviance	26	36	40.9

Social Work Student Intern Evaluations

Term	Number Enrolled	Number of Outstanding or Good
Spring 2023	21	21
Spring 2022	21	20

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

Sociology students met the criteria for success for both the SOC-CRCJ and SOC-SW concentrations.

Summative Evaluation:**PO1:** Faculty Recruitment Initiatives of New Majors

- (Weekly) Faculty one-on-one VIP Student Recruitment sessions; and
- Preview Day recruitment of freshmen Saturday Event; and
- Spring Showcase Recruitment of freshmen- Saturday events
- Faculty-led Departmental introductions to SOARS_ Student Orientation, Advisement, Registration, Scheduling

SLO1: To improve ETS results and student knowledge, faculty will re-evaluate the implementation of a capstone course.

SLO2: Sociology students scored 90% of TTU's mean on the CCTST but, to seek improvement, faculty will be asked to emphasize "critical thinking" in classes and on IDEA evaluations.

Assessment Plan Changes:

None

Appendix 1: Sociology BS Curriculum Map

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS
Curriculum Analysis

Sociology Courses Listed Below:		Is Learning Outcome Goal Met?								
		Learning Outcome Goal 1	YES	NO	Learning Outcome Goal 2	YES	NO	Learning Outcome Goal 3	YES	NO
SOC 1010	Introduction to Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 1020	An Orientation to Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 1650	Social Problems		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 2100	Cultural Ecology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 2110	Social Class and inequality in America		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 2630	Marriage and Family Relations		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 2650	Criminology		✓				✓		✓	
SOC 2840	The Aged in American Society		✓				✓		✓	
SOC 3100	Sociological Theory		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3150	Social Psychology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3200	Sociology of Sex and Gender		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3300	Occupational Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3550	Applied Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3600	Environmental Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3620	Victimology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3640	Cybercrime		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3650	Juvenile Delinquency		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3710	Urban Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3720	Rural Sociology		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3730	Technology and Society		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3900	Introduction to Social Research		✓				✓		✓	
SOC 3910	Social Science Statistical Analysis		✓				✓			✓
SOC 3911	Introduction to Crime Analysis		✓			✓			✓	
SOC 3920	Sociological Applications Using SPSS		✓				✓		✓	
SOC 4010	Organized Crime		✓			✓			✓	

Appendix 1: Sociology BS Curriculum Map, cont.

SOC 4040	Law and Culture	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4050	Crime and Media	✓			✓	✓	✓	
SOC 4080	Sociology of Appalachia	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4090	Cross Cultural Communications and Cultural Diversity	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4120	Sociology of Death and Dying	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4120	Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4220	Sociology of Mass Communication	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4320	Sociology of Religion	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4330	Population and Social Process	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4430	People in Organizations	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4500	Sociology of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4510	Social Deviance	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4515	Sexual Offenses and Offenders	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4520	Domestic Violence	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4530	Sociology of Murder	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4610	Contemporary American Family	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4660	Corrections	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4810	Concepts of Gerontology	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4830	Medical Sociology	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4860	Social Movements and Social Change	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4860	Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4911	Social Sciences	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4920	Data Analysis and Management	✓			✓		✓	
SOC 4930	Field Research Methods	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Criminal Justice Courses Listed Below:								
CJ 2660	Criminology	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 2700	Introduction of Law Enforcement	✓			✓	✓	✓	
CJ 2850	Criminal Law and Procedure	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 3000	Rules of Evidence	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

CJ 3500	Wildlife Law Enforcement	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 3610	Advanced Criminal Procedure	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
CJ 3620	Victimology	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 3640	Cybercrime	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 3650	Juvenile Delinquency	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 3911	Introduction to Crime Analysis	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4010	Organized Crime	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4040	Law and Culture	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4050	Crime and Media	✓			✓	✓	✓	
CJ 4100	Probation and Parole	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CJ 4120	Case Management	✓			✓	✓	✓	
CJ 4250	Drugs and Behavioral Pharmacology	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
CJ 4515	Sexual Offenses and Offenders	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4520	Patterns of Domestic Violence	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4530	Sociology of Murder	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4540	Women and Crime	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4660	Corrections	✓			✓		✓	
CJ 4911	Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences		✓		✓		✓	✓