Institutional Effectiveness
2024-2025

Program: Sociology BS
College and Department: College of Arts & Sciences, Sociology & Political Science
Contact: Lori Maxwell
Mission:

The Department of Sociology has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, and social work. 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):
Attached Files: See Appendix 1

PO1: The Program of Sociology will not decrease more than 10% annually in student enrollment.

Define Outcome:
The Program of Sociology will not decrease by more than 10% annually in student enrollment in order to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the Strategic Plan: www.tntech.edu/strategic

Assessment Methods:
Program Goal 1 was met as is evidenced by the direct measure attachment of SOC enrollment. Faculty also fully support recruitment initiatives as indirect measures, and these are delineated in the additional attachment.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
Annual enrollment did not decrease by more than 10%; thus, the **THRESHOLD FOR ASSESSMENT** was met. Sociology continues **SEEKING IMPROVEMENT** by supporting the indirect measures of recruitment attached above.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.B General Education Curriculum,1.C Diversity,1.D High Impact Practices

Results and Analysis:

Table 1: Sociology Enrollment

Enrollment by Year	Total Majors
2024-2025	194
2023-2024	190
2022-2023	194
2021-2022	216
2020-2021	235

Program Goal 1 is clearly identified and is measurable. Annual enrollment did not decrease more than 10% annually; in fact, it increased. Thus, Program Goal 1 was met.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
To supplement Program Goal 1 toward continuous improvement, the faculty annually participate in several student recruitment initiatives, as indicated by Table 2 below.

Table 2: Faculty Recruitment Initiatives of New Majors
1. (Weekly) Faculty one-on-one VIP Student Recruitment sessions; and
2. (Fall) Preview Day recruitment of freshmen Saturday Event; and
3. Fall "Race to Tech" recruitment of underrepresented minorities; and
4. Spring Showcase recruitment of freshmen 2 Saturday Events; and

5. Summer: 15 Faculty-led Department Introductions during: Student Orientation, Advisement, Registration, Scheduling (SOARS)

PO2: Majors in Sociology will have sufficient curricular options.

Define Outcome:
PO 2: Majors in Sociology will have sufficient curricular options as determined by student response to the curriculum map and a departmentally designed Qualtrics student survey.

Assessment Methods:
Sociology conducts an annual student survey in Sociology-General Track, Sociology-Criminology/Criminal Justice, and Sociology-Social Work. The threshold assessment is a majority of students indicate they "agree" or "strongly agree" with the survey questions. A curriculum map is also provided.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
The **THRESOLD FOR ASSESSMENT** was met because a majority of students surveyed indicated they "agree" or "strongly agree" with the survey questions. **SEEKING IMPROVEMENT:** Sociology will seek to improve the response rate on the annual student survey. For 2024-2025, 29 students of 194 majors responded for a response rate of 15%. Sociology will seek to improve this response rate to 30% by better advertising the survey and incentivizing survey completion by awarding gift certificates to the first several students who complete the survey.
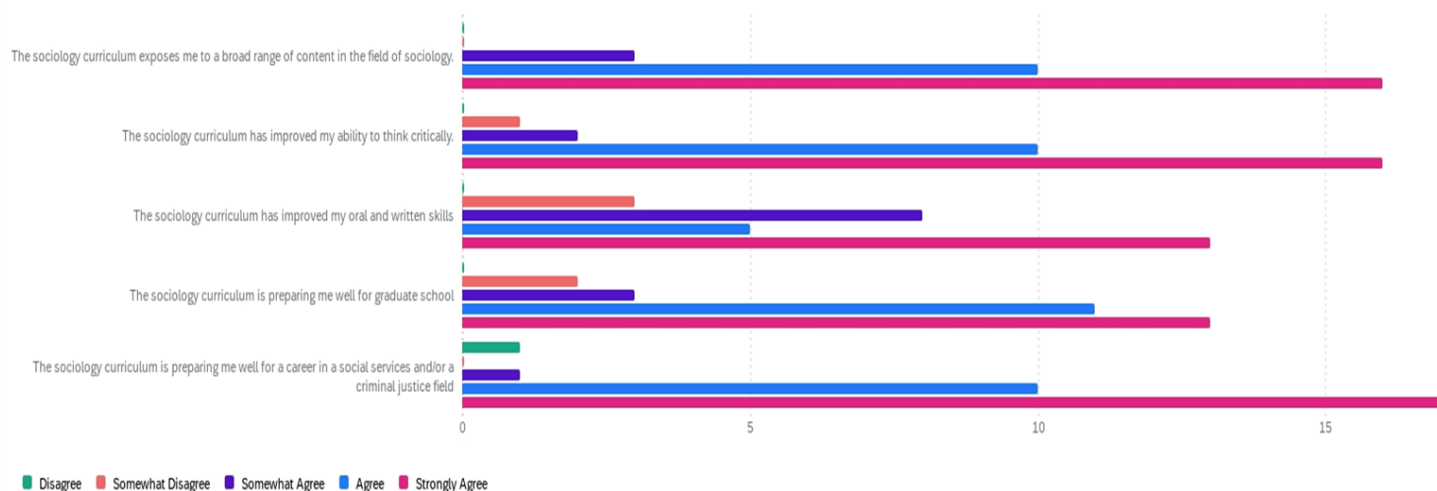
Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.A Experiential Learning,1.B General Education Curriculum,1.D High Impact Practices,2.A Technology Infused Programs,2.C Adult Learners,3.A Efficiency and Effectiveness
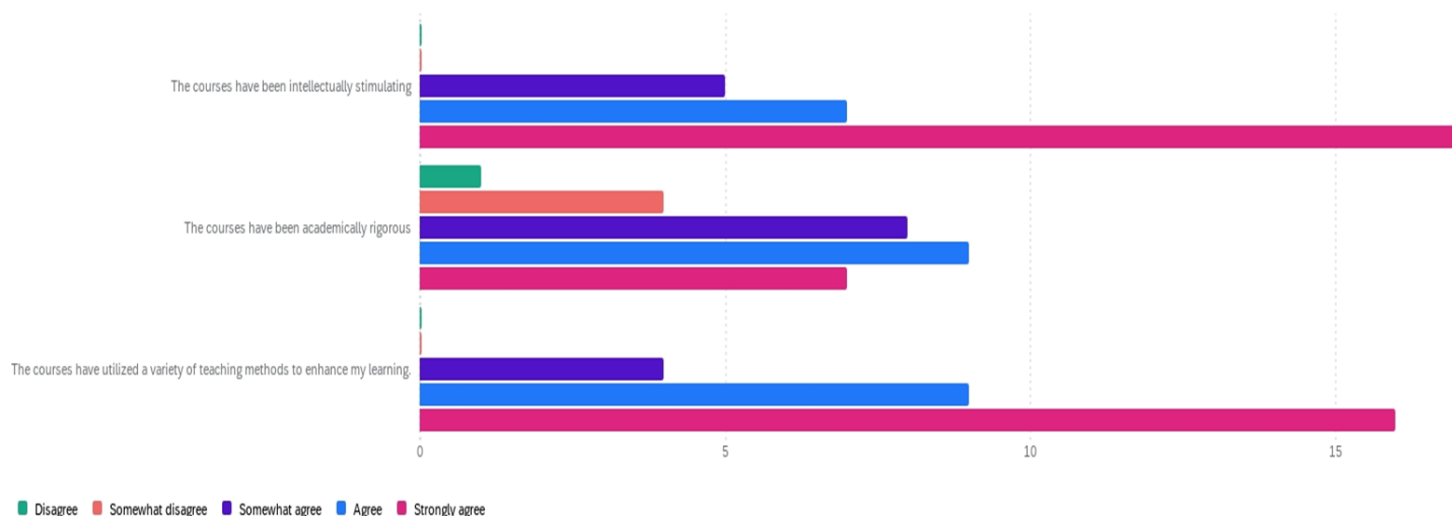
Results and Analysis:
The Department of Sociology and Political Science annually surveys student majors to assess their level of satisfaction with the departmental curriculum. The survey is anonymized and completed via Qualtrics. Sociology majors' responses regarding curricular options are provided below.

Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: 29

Legend: Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree

Thinking specifically about the Sociology, Criminology & Criminal Justice, and Social Work courses you have taken at TN Tech, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: 29

Legend: Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Strongly agree

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
Sociology will seek to improve the response rate on the annul student survey to 30%. For 2024-2025, 29 students of 194 total majors responded, for a response rate of 15%. While the department currently incentivizes survey completion by awarding gift cards to a handful of students who take the survey, the department can increase the amount offered and better advertise the annual survey.

SLO 1: Senior Sociology majors will demonstrate knowledge of the discipline at a level comparable to the national mean on the Senior ETS Major Field Test.

Define Outcome:
Students will score an average over five years on the ETS Major Field Test within 10 points of the national ETS score and not fall below the national average for more than two years in a row.

Assessment Methods:
Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. If students fall below the national average on this direct measure by more than ten points for more than two years in a row, study sessions will be added.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
As indicated above by the attachment, SOC met the **ETS THRESHOLD FOR ASSESSMENT** and did not fall below the ETS national average by ten points for more than two years in a row.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.A Experiential Learning,1.B General Education Curriculum,1.D High Impact Practices,2.A Technology Infused Programs,3.C Dynamic Long-term Budget,4.B Programs, Certificates, and Training

Results and Analysis:
Sociology majors at Tech are required to take two different exams during their final semester: the Senior Exit Exam and the Major Field Exam. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) Major Field Test Sociology subscore is monitored twice annually by the Sociology faculty and students are expected to score comparable to the annual mean. The ETS is a "comprehensive assessment designed to measure the critical knowledge and understanding obtained by students in an academic major" https://www.ets.org/mft/about.html. The majority of students graduate in spring semester although the ETS is administered in both spring and fall annually. As is evidenced by Table 4, below, Spring Sociology graduates score comparably to the national mean in the "Sociology Core Knowledge" Sub-Score. Fall and Spring graduating seniors scored comparably to the annual mean for all five years on the ETS Major Field Sociology Subfield Scores, and these scores are available for review.

Table 4: ETS Major Field Sub-Score knowledge: Sociology

		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
TN TECH	**N**	37	45	45	49
	Overall Score	140	142	143	142
ETS	**Overall Score**	148	148	148	148
	Percent of Overall	95%	96%	97%	96%
Subscores	**Core Sociology**	41	41	44	44
	Critical Thinking	41	41	42	43

The ETS Major Field Test also contains a set of Assessment Indictors providing information on student knowledge in key areas of Sociology Content.

		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	*ETS National**
		TTU	**TTU**	**TTU**	**TTU**	
Selected Indicators	**Methodology and Statistics**	36	38	38	38	*42.7*
	Criminology and Deviance	38	41	41	38	*40.8*
	Race, Ethnicity, Gender	40	44	44	43	*54.7*
	Social Institutions	33	34	34	34	*41.1*
	Global	34	37	37	38	*47.5*

*2023-24 National Norms; 2024-25 norms not available as of the IE report deadline

Students continue to score below the ETS National norm in Race, Ethnicity, Gender; Social Institutions; and Global indicators. However, the Human Behavior in the Social Environment course sequence introduced this year should realize gains in those indicators as student matriculate through the course sequence and into their senior years.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
The Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE) course sequence, introduced this academic year, orients students to the 'person-in-environment' focus in Social Work. While the first course (HBSE I) primarily focuses on the individual's social experience as they develop

across the lifespan, HBSE II focuses on the functioning of families, groups, communities, organizations, and global systems, including the impact of oppression and discrimination at each level of practice. At the end of the course sequence, students completed a "Global Issue Project." Learners identified, researched, and analyzed an international human rights issue, applying their knowledge of human behavior in the social environment to inform global interventions. Each student had the opportunity to briefly profile a nation, identify and apply at least one issue from the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and complete a comparative analysis of this issue with another similarly situated nation. Finally, students connected theoretical knowledge of HBSE to their chosen global issues and recommended appropriate interventions.

Global issues continues to be a difficult topic as compared to other course content. Some students needed significant assistance choosing a nation and issue to research, and most had not read the UN Declaration of Human Rights (though many were aware of its existence and general importance). However, almost all students delivered outstanding final products. Popular issues explored included prenatal and postnatal maternal healthcare, youth incarceration, gender-based violence and femicide, human trafficking, institutional violence, forced migration, and oppressive work conditions.

The student feedback was generally positive. One learner expressed concern that the lecture and classroom discussion did not adequately prepare them for the major projects. This is important feedback and will help in the preparation of lectures and assignments for next year. One major change planned for the Global Issue Project is to change the format to a group rather than an individual assignment- a change suggested by the students.

SLO 2: Demonstration of Critical Thinking Skills

Define Outcome:
Majors in Sociology will demonstrate critical thinking scores within 90% of the national mean or review sessions will be offered the next year.

Assessment Methods:
As is indicated by the attached scores below, SOC Majors demonstrated critical thinking scores within 90% of the national mean as a direct assessment measure.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
Students scored 90% of the national average on the California Critical Thinking Test (CCTST) and met the **THRESHOLD FOR ASSESSMENT.**

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.A Experiential Learning,1.B General Education Curriculum,2.A Technology Infused Programs,3.A Efficiency and Effectiveness,4.A Sustainable Partnerships

Results and Analysis:
As is indicated by Table 5 below, Sociology majors score comparably to both the TTU and national averages on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).

Table 5: Sociology Critical Thinking Scores (CCTST)

	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	N	100pt Mean	*N*	100pt Mean	*N*	100pt Mean	*N*	100pt Mean	*N*	100pt Mean
SOC	16	71	48	72.2	55	73.3	45	72.4	44	71.2
TTU	1,444	74.5	1,457	75.2	1,652	74.3	1,722	74.4	1,620	74.8
CCTST National		74		73.3		73.3		72.8		72.8
National Comparison		96%		98%		100%		99%		98%

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
While Sociology majors are scoring comparable to the TTU and national mean on the CCTST, faculty will be asked to include "critical thinking" as an evaluation measure on their IDEA faculty evaluations. This can improve critical thinking assessments for students. Faculty will directly reference and discuss the critical thinking they are incorporating in the classroom, and students will learn the corollaries more directly.

Summative Evaluation:

The Program Goal of enrollment was met because enrollment increased. For the Program Goal of sufficient curricular options, students indicated on an Annual Student Survey that they have sufficient curricular and co-curricular options. Sociology majors also scored within a ten-point threshold of recent national averages on the ETS Major Field Test, but national norms for 2024-2205 were not available at the time of the IE report deadline. Finally, student majors scored comparably to the national average in critical thinking.

While all program goals and learning outcomes were met within the designated threshold, room for improvement remains. Students indicated they have sufficient curricular and co-curricular options on the annual student survey, but we can improve response rates.

More specifically, as note above in the "Seeking Improvement" section, response rates for the annual student survey should increase to reflect continuous improvement. Sociology will seek to improve the response rate on the annul student survey to 30%. For 2024-2025, 29 students of 194 total majors responded, for a response rate of 15%. While the department currently incentivizes survey completion by awarding gift cards to a handful of students who take the survey, the department can increase the amount offered and better advertise the annual survey.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

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SOCIOLOGY COURSES COURSE TITLES AND NUMBERS ~ Place an "x" in the box of the course outcomes that were met. Evaluate only the courses you have taken. Save and send to Your responses are anonymized. Thank you!		1. Demonstrate knowledge of their discipline. * *The ETS Major Field measures this, but we also seek your evaluation of courses.	2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills. * *The NSSE measures this, but we also seek your evaluation of critical thinking as reflected in SOC courses.	3. Demonstrate proficiencies in SOC concentration(s). * *The CRCJ Exam with the ETS and the internship evaluations measure this, but we also seek your evaluation of concentration courses.
Introduction to Sociology	SOC 1010	x	x	x
An Orientation to Sociology	SOC 1020			
Social Problems	SOC 1650	x	x	x
Introduction to Social Work	SW 1800	x	x	x
Cultural Ecology	SOC 2100			
Social Class and Inequality in America	SOC 2110	x	x	x
Marriage and Family Relations	SOC 2630			
Criminology	SOC/CJ 2660	x	x	x
Police and Society	CJ 2700	x	x	x

The Aged in American Society	SOC 2840	x	x	x
Criminal Law and Procedure	CJ 2850	x	x	x
Rules of Evidence	CJ 3000	x	x	x
Sociological Theory	SOC 3100	x	x	x
Social Psychology	SOC 3150			
Sociology of Sex and Gender	SOC 3200	x	x	x
Occupational Sociology	SOC 3300			
Wildlife Law Enforcement	CJ/WFS 3500			
Applied Sociology	SOC 3550			
Environmental Sociology	SOC 3600	x	x	x
Advanced Criminal Procedure	CJ 3610	x	x	x
Victimology	SOC/CJ 3620	x	x	x
Cybercrime	SOC/CJ 3640	x	x	x
Youth and Society	SOC/CJ 3650			
Urban Sociology	SOC 3710			
Rural Sociology	SOC 3720	x	x	x
Technology and Society	SOC 3730			

Introduction to Social Research	SOC/SW 3900	x	x	x
Social Science Statistical Analysis	SOC 3910	x	x	x
Introduction to Crime Analysis	SOC/CJ 3911			
Sociological Applications Using SPSS	SOC 3920			
Organized Crime	SOC/CJ 4010			
Law and Culture	SOC/CJ 4040			
Crime and Media	SOC/CJ 4050			
Sociology of Appalachia	SOC 4080	x	x	x
Cross Cultural Communications and Cultural Diversity	SOC 4090			
Probation and Parole	SW/CJ 4100	x	x	x
Sociology of Death and Dying	SOC 4120	x	x	x
Case Management	SW/CJ 4120	x	x	x
Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism	SOC 4210			
Drugs and Behavioral Pharmacology	CJ 4250			
Sociology of Religion	SOC 4320			

Population and Social Process	SOC 4330			
White Collar Crime	SOC/CJ 4350			
People in Organizations	SOC 4430			
Sociology of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	SOC 4500			
Social Deviance	SOC 4510			
Sexual Offenses and Offenders	SOC/CJ 4515	x	x	x
Patterns of Domestic Violence	SOC/CJ 4520	x	x	x
Sociology of Murder	SOC/CJ 4530	x	x	x
Women and Crime	CJ 4540	x	x	x
Contemporary American Family	SOC 4610			
Corrections	SOC/CJ 4660	x	x	x
Independent Study	CJ 4700			
Concepts of Gerontology	SOC 4810			
Medical Sociology	SOC 4830			
Social Movements and Social Change	SOC 4860			
Internship 1	SOC/CJ/SW 4900	x	x	x

Internship 2	SOC/CJ/SW 4901	x	x	
Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences	SOC/CJ 4911			
Internship (6 crhr.)	SOC/CJ/SW 4915	x	x	x
Data Analysis and Management	SOC 4920	x	x	x
Internship (9 crhr.)	SOC/CJ 4925			
Field Research Methods	SOC 4930	x	x	x
Cyberlaw	SOC/CJ 4960	x	x	x
Senior Seminar	SOC 4999			