Report:	Assessment Plan Details for: Department Of Sociology
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Workspace:	Operational Plan & Assessment Report - OPAR
Assessment Plan:	2010-11Cycle: Assessment Plan and Assessment Findings
Assessment Plan Template:	OPAR Assessment Plan
Report Generated:	Wednesday, March 09, 2011

Measures and Findings

Department Of Sociology
Unit Goals

1. Increase graduation rates

The Department of Sociology will increase graduation rates of students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, especially male students.

Retention rate for all Sociology students will increase

At least 80% of undergraduate and graduate students, especially undergraduate and graduate males, enrolled in fall 2009 and spring 2010 will re-enroll in fall 2010 and spring 2011.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.1.2., 1.1.5.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.2

Measures & Findings

Retention Data for 2010/2011 Academic Year
Program level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: Retention will be measured by the non-standard method which will consider all students enrolled in spring 2010 who did not complete a degree in the academic year and determine the percentage of these students who re-enroll in spring 2011. The method will also be applied to subgroups of students, including undergraduate and graduate students, transfer students, male and female students, and adult learners.

Acceptable Target: The retention rate based on the non-standard method will be at least 80% for all majors.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Retention data will be obtained during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair and department assessment coordinator will obtain data.

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Retention Data for 2010/2011 Academic Year

Summary of Findings: Midyear findings show that 77.9% of all Sociology students were retained during Fall 2010 (out of students enrolled in Fall 2009).
Target was not met. Spring 2011 will be obtained in May, 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Retention Data for Fall 2010 (Microsoft Excel)

2. Student Engagement

The Department of Sociology will increase level of student academic engagement.

Increased study time outside of class; academic satisfaction

Measures & Findings

With students' increased engagement in homework and other course-related assignments, there will be at least 50% increase in the proportion of sociology majors who report spending at least 12 hours per week outside of class preparing for class from 33% (in 2009-10) to at least 50% in 2010-11.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.2.4., 1.4.2., 1.5.1.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.3

NSSE Senior Survey

Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The NSSE senior survey administered in the spring semester asks students to rate the department on their satisfaction with the academic program in general.

Acceptable Target: The criteria for success will be that Sociology seniors' average rating of overall satisfation in the major will increase from 3.21 in 2009-2010 to at least 3.55 (on a 4-point scale; 4= excellent).

Implementation Plan (timeline): The results of the NSSE senior survey will be compiled by the FSU Office of Institutional Research in spring 2011.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/Assessment Cordinator

Supporting Attachments:

NSSE 2010 Senior Survey Results - Sociology.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for NSSE Senior Survey

Summary of Findings: The NSSE Senior Survey wil be administered in Spring 2011 semester. Findings will be reported by May 2011 when the results are available.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Graduating Senior Survey

Program level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The graduating senior survey asks students the question: "All things considered, how would you evaluate the quality of instruction in your major?" Students' responses are averaged on a 4-point scale.

Acceptable Target: At least 3.30 rating on the 4-point scale. (2009-10 rating was 3.19).

Implementation Plan (timeline): The Senior Survey will be administered in spring 2011.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Graduating Senior Survey May 2010.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

Findings for Graduating Senior Survey

Summary of Findings: The Graduating Senior Survey wil be administered in Spring 2011 semester. Findings will be reported by may 2011 when the results are available.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Senior Survey data for 2010-2011

Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: In spring 2011, the University's Office of Institutional Research will supply the department with the results of the graduating senior survey which asked students about the number of hours they spend outside of class each week preparing for class.

Acceptable Target: At least 50% increase in the percentage of students who indicate that they spend at least 12 hours outside preparing for class each week (Base date for 2009-10 was 33%).

Implementation Plan (timeline): The department chair and assessment coordinator will obtain the survey data when available in spring 2011 and extract the relevant data for analysis.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Senior Survey data for 2010-2011

Summary of Findings: The Graduating Senior Survey wil be administered in Spring 2011 semester. Findings are scheduled to be reported by May 2011 when the results are available.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

3. Student Satisfaction with Academic Advisement

The Department of Sociology will increase level of student satisfaction with academic advising.

Increase in measures of satisfaction with advisement.

In the 2010-11 advisement surveys, at least 90% of sociology majors will "agree" or "strongly agree" with the statement that the department provides quality academic adisement to students.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.5.1., 1.5.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.3

Measures & Findings

Advising Survey Results for 2010-11
Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The advising survey which is administered by the Office of Institutional Research asks students to indicate their level of agreement with the quality of academic advising in their major.

Acceptable Target: At least 90% of sociology majors completing the survey will indicate that they either "agree" or "strongly agree" with the is quality academic advisement in their major. (Base data: 89.80% for 2009-2010).

Implementation Plan (timeline): The Advising Survey is administered by the Office of Institutional Research in fall and spring semesters and provides data to the department.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assesment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Advising Survey Results for 2010-11

Summary of Findings: The mid-year data (from the fall 2010 senester) indicate that 85.2% of the 115 majors (undergraduate and graduate) "agreed or strongly agreed" that they received quality advisement in the major.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations : Continuous reminder to the faculty about the pre-eminence of student advisement among their professional chores.

Reflections/Notes : Throughout the spring 2011, student advisement has been included in the agenda for every department meeting. Various strategies for meeting the 90% targwt have been discussed.

Substantiating Evidence:

~$Advisement Survey Results Fall '08-Fall'10.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

Problems with matters relating to academic advisement .
Program level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The student advisement survey contains items related to students' experiences in their encounters with with advisors, including advisor's availability, promptness in responding to emails and telephone calls, frquency of contacts, knowledge of the curriculum and degree program, and assistance with career planning. In the spring 2011 survey, we expect improvement in students' opinion on all items in the spring 2010 dashboard (attached).

Acceptable Target: At least a 3-point improvement on all items in the the 2010 dashboard.

Implementation Plan (timeline): The advisement survey will be administered by the FSU Office of Institutional Research by April 2011 and distribute the results to the various units of the University.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordination

Supporting Attachments:

Student Opinion on Advising Issues-Spring 2010.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Findings for Problems with matters relating to academic advisement .

Summary of Findings: The Advising Survey data will become available after the administration of the survey in spring 2011. Findings are scheduled to be reported by May 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes : Although the department's ratings in 2010 were generally better that the University averages, our goal is to further improve our performance with the 3-point target increase.

Substantiating Evidence:

4. Assess Student Learning Outcomes

The Department of Sociology will evaluate student learning outcomes in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Increased comprehensive knowledge and view of Sociology

Measures & Findings

There will be at least a 5-point increase in the average score of the Major Field Test (MFT) that is completed by seniors enrolled in the capstone course (SOCI 480) in the spring 2011 semester. The MFT is dersigned to test students' comprehensive knowledge in the 10 subfields of Sociology. The average score on the MFT was 43.4 in spring 2010.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.2.2., 1.2.3., 1.4.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Comparing Pre-test and Post-test Scores in SOCI 480

Course level; Direct - Exam

Details/Description: Students enrolled in the capstone course (SOCI 480) in fall 2010 and spring 2011 will complete a pre-test (at the beginning of the class) and post-test (at the end of the class) on key sociological concepts, principles and theories. The results on the pre-test and post-test will be compared for improvement in students' learning in the class.

Acceptable Target: The average post-test scores should exceed the average pre-test scores by at least 5 points and the difference between the set of scores being statistically significant at the .05 level.

Implementation Plan (timeline): The course instructor will administer the tests to all students enrolled in the class as described above and perform the necessary statistical analysis on the data at the end of the semester

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator/ Lecture Series Committee Chair

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Comparing Pre-test and Post-test Scores in SOCI 480

Summary of Findings: In the fall 2010, the average post-test score (78.48) exceeded the pre-test score (70.67) by about 7.81. The t-test analysis indicates that the mean post-test scores is significantly greater than the mean pre-test score, meaning that students' learning was significantly enhanced in the course.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

SOCI 480 pre post assessment data for fall 2010 (2).doc (Microsoft Word)

Scores from the Major Field Test in Sociology

Program level; Indirect - Other

Details/Description: The Major Field Test (MFT) will be administered to graduating students enrolled in SOCI 480 Sociological Seminar in spring 2011. The MFT is a nationally designed standardized test designed to examine students' knowledge of the subareas of Sociology. The test has been administered to graduating seniors at Fayetteville State for more than a decade.

Acceptable Target: The average score on the Major Field Test reported in the 2009-2010 dashboard (43.4) will increase at least 5 points.

Implementation Plan (timeline): The MFT will be administered by course instructor in April to students enrolled in the capstone course (SOCI 480) in spring 2011. The results will be available from ETS by May.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator/ SOCI Instructor

Supporting Attachments:

Major Field Test in Sociology - Spring 2010.doc (Microsoft Word)

Findings for Scores from the Major Field Test in Sociology

Summary of Findings: The MFT is administered in the spring semester. The findings are scheduled to be reported by May 2011 when the results are available.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Increased understanding of the role of research methods.

Measures & Findings

At least 80% of students completing the research class (SOCI 335) can complete sociological research papers applying the appropriate research design, analytical techniques, and citations.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.2.3., 1.4.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Student performance in Research Methods class.

Course level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: Students will complete exams on concepts and research procedures, and written assignments that will culminate in a single paper that demonstrate students' comprehension and proficiency in sociological research.

Acceptable Target: At least 80% of students will complete the Research Methods class with average to above average (C, B, & A) performance.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Course instructor will monitor and record students performance based on the course grading rubric.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Course Instructor/ Assessment Coordinator.

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Student performance in Research Methods class.

Summary of Findings: In spring 2010, 75% of students attained the desired competency. Data from spring 2011 will be available by May and new findings will be reported by that time.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Demonstrate knowledge of advanced sociological concepts.

Graduate students must pass the graduate comprehensive examinations with a minimum score of 75% before they can graduate from the MA program in Sociology. The comprehensive examinztions which test students' comprehension and application of advanced sociological methodologies, principles, and concepts, are independently evaluated by the gradute faculty who certify that students meet the minumum competence for graduation.

Mapped to:

- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Measures & Findings

MA Comprehensive Examination

Program level; Direct - Exam

Details/Description: Graduate students in the MA Sociology program must pass the Comprehensive Examinations as one of the requirements for graduation. The examinations are designed to test students' mastery of advanced sociological theories, concepts and principles, research and statistical methods. The examinations are administered on set dates in the fall and spring semesters and are independently graded by selected graduaate faculty in two areas: 1) Sociological Principles, and 2) Statistics and Methods.

Acceptable Target: 100% of students who take examinations must attain the minimum passing score of 75%.

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/Graduate Coordinator/ Assessment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for MA Comprehensive Examination

Summary of Findings: The MA Comprehensive Examinations were not offered in the fall 2010 semester. The spring 2011 semester examinations will be administered in by mid-March. Findings are scheduled to be reported when the results are available by April 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

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5. Enhancement of cultural climate

Through its curricular and extra-curricular program offerings, the Department of Sociology will contribute to the enhancement of racial and gender relations and the general cultural climate of the university.

At least 3.40 rating each on racial and gender equity.

Measures & Findings

In the 2010-2011 senior survey, Sociology majors will give at least a 3.40 rating (on a 4-point scale) to the department and university for promoting racial and gender equity, respectively. (The respective ratings 2009-2010 were 3.36, respectively).

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 3.4.1., 3.4.2., 4.2.3.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.5

Student opinion in Graduating Senior Survey

Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The university will administer the graduating senior survey in spring 2011 and provide the results to the department.

Acceptable Target: At least 88% of Sociology graduating seniors will rate the department and university as promoting understanding of people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds, and that their experience at FSU has helped them develop a positive global perspective (84% for 2009-2010).

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Student opinion in Graduating Senior Survey

Summary of Findings: The Graduating Senior Survey will be administered in the spring 2011 semester. The findings are scheduled to be reported by May 2011 when the results are available.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

6. Enhancing global understanding

The Department of Sociology will offer programs and activities that increase students' understanding of global cultures, history, and people.

Improvement in students' perceived global understanding.

In 2010-11, there will be at least 5% icrease in the percentage of seniors competing the senior survey who who indicate that the department and university have enhanced their global understanding (84% rating for 2009-2010).

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.4.1., 3.4.1., 3.4.2., 4.1.1., 4.1.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Measures & Findings

Graduating Senior Survey

Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: In spring 2011, the University will administer the graduating student survey that will ask whether their experiences at Fayetteville has contributed to their understanding of global issues.

Acceptable Target: At least 88% of Sociology graduating seniors will indicate that their experience at FSU has helped them to develop a positive global perspective (84% for 2009-2010).

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel: Department Chair/ Assessment coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

SOCIOLOGY GRADUATING SENIOR SURVEY - Spring 2010 Dashboard.doc (Microsoft Word)

Findings for Graduating Senior Survey

Summary of Findings: The Graduating Senior Survey will be conducted by April 2011. Findings are sheduled to be reported when the results are available in May 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Student Survey in Global Sociology Course

Program level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: Students completing SOCI 150 Global Sociology will complete a survey about their experience with the course, in terms of its contribution to their understanding of global issues.

Acceptable Target: Approximately 88% of students enrolled in the course will indicate that the course increased their awareness on globalization and global issues.

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel: Chair/ Assessment Coordinator

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Student Survey in Global Sociology Course

Summary of Findings: Data collection and analysis from in the Global Sociology class will be completed by April 2011. Findings are scheduled to be reported by May 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement:

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

7. Faculty contributions to grant proposals and publications

The Faculty in the Department of Sociology will engage in grant proposal writing, research and publications that enhance the scholarly and intellectual climate of the university and its service region.

Faculty will increase number of grant proposals submitted.

In 2010-11, the department faculty will submit at least three grant proposals for funding by external agencies.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 5.2.1., 6.2.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.4

Measures & Findings

Proposal submission records from Office of Sponsored research.
Institution level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: The University's Office of Sponsored Research compiles and disseminates information on grant proposal submissions by the faculty and various units. Data for the department will be reviewed to determine the level of performance.

Acceptable Target: At least three proposals submitted for funding by the end of the spring 2011 semester.

Implementation Plan (timeline):

Key/Responsible Personnel: Department Chair

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Proposal submission records from Office of Sponsored research.

Summary of Findings: There were no grant proposal submissions from the department in spring 2010.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations : Form a department task force for proposal writing and encourage the faculty to use course reassignment for proposal writing.

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

Proposal-Awards-Submissions-Active-as of 7-10.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Increase of faculty submissions for publication.

In 2010-11, the number of articles sumitted to peer-reviewed journals for publication will increase over the previous year's by at least 10%.

Mapped to:

- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.7.2

Measures & Findings

Faculty annual activities in Digital Measures
Institution level; Direct - Portfolio

Details/Description: A summary of faculty records of research paper submissions will be summarized and tabulated from Digital Measures. The data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be compared by the end of the spring 2011 semester.

Acceptable Target: Faculty subssions for publication to peer-reviewed journals in 2010-11 exceed 2009-10 submissions by 10%.

Implementation Plan (timeline): A departmental report will be run from Digital Measures after the faculty have updated their records by the end of the academic year in May 2011.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Department Chair and Assessment Coordinator.

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Faculty annual activities in Digital Measures

Summary of Findings: There were no submissions to peer-reviewed journals by the faculty in fall 2010, comapred to 6 submissions in fall 2009. As of mid-year, faculty performance in this area is lagging behind the acceptable target.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes : The findings at the end of spring 2011 may provided a better picture of faculty performance for the entire academic year.

Substantiating Evidence:

Sociology Scholarly Activities- Fall '09 & Fall '10.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)