FALL 2014 SLO/PLO ASSESSMENT REPORT
Sociology

Date: 12/20/2014

Name of Person Reporting: Myriam Levy/Jill Biondo
Name of Department and/or Discipline: Sociology

1. a. List the courses/certificates/programs your discipline/department assessed in the fall 2014 semester.
   b. For each one, indicate whether the benchmark (standard for student success) was reached.
      
      This Fall 2014 the following SLO course assessments were completed:
      Soc 1- SLO#1- benchmarked reached- 77%
      SLO #2 – benchmarked reached- 84%
      SLO #3 – benchmarked was not reached- 67% (online course)
      Soc 2- SLO# 3 – benchmarked was reached – 91%
      Soc 3- SLO #3 – follow up completed Fall 2014
      Soc 4- SLO#1 – follow up completed from Fall 2013
      SLO#3 – benchmarked reached- 71%
      Soc 28- SLO#3 — benchmarked was not reached – 52% (online course)

2. **Summarize the major assessment results for courses/programs in your area.**
   
   Overall, writing skills continue to hold our students back from being more successful in their classes, as does time management to allow more reading of content materials. LRC resources have been shared but are too often not utilized by our students. Online students do not have tutoring services available to them to help with their writing needs.
   
   The SLO findings in SOC 4 show that Sociology students need more research method preparation for success in transferring or completing AA degree requirements in statistics and research method courses. This was also found to be a weakness in the online Soc 28 course where students had to conduct interviews.

3. **Summarize what changes have been made or are planned to be made as a result of the assessments.**
   Discipline will continue to work with campus resources in providing online students with services such as writing tutoring services. Further, the online students will now be expected to complete outlines of large papers to discourage procrastination and to add support from instructor. Some prerequisites may also be added to the SOC 4 course outline of record to ensure that students are properly prepared for success in that course. Faculty members continue to edit/archive SLOs to fine tune each class
and its intended content goals for optimal student success. Further, a new Transfer Degree was approved through the Curriculum Committee and will provide more options for students to complete an AA degree in Sociology. Online students may also need to be assessed or oriented to improve their success rates.

4. **Follow up on previous assessments:**
   (1) If an SLO was assessed previously, compare the results with the earlier assessments:
   (a) Have the recommended changes been implemented?
      All SLOs have previously been assessed and nearly all changes have been implemented. One change that has not been implemented is in recording videos to assist online students for papers or other larger assignments.
   (b) Has the follow-up textbox been filled in on the SLO online system?
      Yes, many of these boxes have been completed for Soc 1, Soc 4, Soc 11

   (2) How have the findings led to improved student learning?
      Every SLO assessment has provided instructors with valuable information to steadily improve student learning. Further, instructors have added verbal presentations to some key assignments and that alone, has shown great results.

5. **Have the results of your assessments been shared and discussed among the members of your program?** *(Provide dates and any minutes of meetings as evidence. Please also post relevant minutes in the Department Notes section of the SLO Online system.)*
   - A discipline meeting occurred on Friday, Nov. 21 with 6 faculty members present. The SLO findings in SOC 4 show that Sociology students need more research method preparation for success in transferring or completing AA degree requirements in statistics and research method courses. Therefore, all courses in Sociology will now have SLOs that assess different types of research methods. This should ensure better preparation for students. *(Minutes were posted on SLO online system)*

6. **Have the results of your assessments been shared and discussed with members of your advisory committee (if vocational program)?** N/A

7. **What resource requests are planned as a result of the assessments?**
   Funds to provide ways to video tape instructions for online students or funds for online tutoring services will be requested in Program Review.

8. **Have the assessment results been posted on the online system?** YES
One hundred and thirty-four SLO assessments from Fall 2011 to Fall 2014 were utilized to evaluate the achievement of students' preparation for transfer to an undergraduate program at the university level in the field of business including the areas of Business Administration, Accounting, Finance, Marketing, and Management. The average rubric score was 72%, which met the minimum benchmark score for this PLO of 70%. It is evident from these assessments that the students are achieving this PLO.

More case studies could be utilized to help students develop their decision-making ability and to challenge them to think both creatively and critically. We will also encourage them to attend Transfer Center functions and seminars to become more familiar with the schools in the area.

Tutors are always helpful to our students in addition to guest speakers who have real world experience to share with them.