Fall 2013 SLO/PLO ASSESSMENT REPORT - Sociology

Date: 1/20/2014

Name of Person Reporting: Myriam Levy

Name of Department and/or Discipline: Sociology

1. What courses/certificates/programs have you assessed this past semester?
   SOC 1- SLO #1 and #2
   SOC 2- SLO #3
   SOC 4- SLO# 1,2,3,
   SOC 22- all 3 course SLO’s were assessed for the first time since the course had not been offered in quite some time.
   SOC 28- SLO#1, #4
   The PLO’s were assessed in Spring 2013 and completed in Summer 2013.

2. Summarize the analysis of your assessment results for the fall semester course assessments in your area. Did the students achieve the established benchmarks (standards for student success)?
   Twelve (12) assessments were completed between Summer 2013 and Fall 2013. Out of 12, 10 of the assessments were above their benchmarks. Two course SLO’s revealed some inadequacies in Sociology 22, Sociology of Women. Further, some changes were made in Soc 4 to more accurately assess necessary content knowledge in that course.

3. Based on the discussion and analysis of your assessment results, what changes have you made or do you plan to make?
   SOC 4- So we have edited SLO#1 to be more representative of what is important for a student’s long term use of research methods. Rather than focusing on minor information that was not useful for them at the university level.

   SOC 22- For SLO#1 Students need to be able to critically think and the low scores on compare and contrast suggest that more activities related to developing critical thinking capacity need to be included. Additionally students had a mediocre grasp of the use and application of research and need to work on skills related to appropriate citation. Written communication was surprising high, while critical thinking was quite low. For SLO #3- Only about 1/2 of students were able to access and watch the videos on work/life balance. Many students were able to articulate based on their own experiences and the video some of the solutions that could be used to address the challenges posed. Experiential activities and guest speakers may also help more
students who don’t have their own personal experience with work/family balance to conceptualize this issue.

4. **Follow up on previous assessments:**
   
   (1) If this SLO was assessed previously, compare the results with the earlier assessments. Have the recommended changes been implemented?
   
   SOC 1- SLO #1 assessed an average of 76% of students successfully knew the main sociological theories. Additional lecture time was spent in the classroom to review these theories, plus students worked in groups to discuss how to use those theories in sociological research and a chart was also created.
   
   SOC 1- SLO #2- Instructor changed observational research project to survey research to ensure students in this course could learn a different method.
   
   SOC 2- SLO #3- In the past, this assessment showed 82% of students being able to identify the three main sociological approaches to social problems. We assessed this one again on the online class to ensure similar results were present. This assessment results at 88%.
   
   SOC 4- SLO #1, #2, #3 were followed up from Fall 2010 where assessment showed an average 70%.

   (2) How have the findings led to improved student learning and the achievement of the college mission?
   
   SOC 1- SLO #1- The students were assessed online and the results increased to 84%. Other instructors will adopt this new chart, take the time to review and assess again in the future to ensure students really learn these important theories.
   
   SOC 1- SLO #2- Assessments showed results at 84%.
   
   SOC 2- SLO #3- Assessments showed results at 88%.
   
   SOC 4- SLO #1 assessment improved from 70 to 76%, #2- improved from 70% to 83% and #3 improved from 70% to 80%.

5. **How 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)**

   Friday, Oct. 11, 2013- Student Learning Outcome Symposium- LAMC

   Prof Biondo and Prof Levy present.

   SLO #1 for SOC 1 for theories assessed in one section. One instructor experimented by reviewing the 3 theories by using a blank chart for students, covering the material briefly again, than assigning the students a social problem to study from each theoretical perspective. Students worked in groups of 2 to complete that part of the
review. Then the students completed an online assessment by multiple choice exams to see if their knowledge of those specific 3 theories.

**December 13, 2013**- After completing assessments of SLO's for Sociology 4, several of them were edited to represent more accurately what is necessary for students to learn in the class. An additional SLO was also added to ensure that the topic of sampling is well covered every semester. Discussed with Dominic Little who also teaches this course.

**December 18, 2013**- A meeting took place with full time faculty members to complete assessments, discuss changes and to edit several course SLOs for more clarity. Another discussion took place with adjunct Denise Labertew in regards to assessments for SOC 22 on December 19, 2013 and plans for altering instruction and assessment in the future. Due to budget cuts, we are not sure when that course can be offered again so planning is on hold for now.

6. **How 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?**
   Overall, all students in sociology would benefit by having access to more LRC Support services at more convenient times to them.

8. **Have the assessment results been posted on the online system?** Yes