

# **Undergraduate and Graduate Program Assessment Methodology, Department of Sociology, Oklahoma State University**

**Revised: August 2016**

## **Mission Statement**

The Department of Sociology creates, disseminates and utilizes sociology knowledge through high quality teaching, research and service of Oklahoma. Specifically, the sociology program at Oklahoma State University has the following goals:

- Facilitate student learning and use of the discipline and craft of sociology;
- Enhance student ability to think critically about social issues and the social world;
- Prepare students for future work and educational environments;
- Advance sociological and social science knowledge through original research; and
- Employ sociological expertise through service to the university, community, and state of Oklahoma.

## **BA/BS Undergraduate Assessment Methodology**

### *Assessment of Effective Written Communication Skills*

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from sections of SOC 3113 (Theoretical Thinking in Sociology) and SOC 4133 (Social Research Methods). Written communication skills are evaluated by two members of the Undergraduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized assessment rubric developed for this purpose. Each faculty member rates each sample individually. Both members then collectively discuss scoring in order to agree upon a score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### *Assessment of Effective Critical Thinking Skills*

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from sections of SOC 3113 (Theoretical Thinking in Sociology) and SOC 4133 (Social Research Methods). Critical thinking skills are evaluated by two members of the Undergraduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized assessment rubric developed for this purpose. Each faculty member rates each sample individually. Both members then collectively discuss scoring in order to agree upon a score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### *Assessment of Understanding Core Concepts and Theories in Sociology*

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from sections of SOC 3113 (Theoretical Thinking in Sociology). Two members of the Undergraduate Committee evaluate student understanding of core concepts and theories in Sociology. Scoring was based on a standardized assessment rubric developed for this purpose. Each faculty member rates each sample individually. Both members then collectively discuss scoring in order to agree upon a score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### Assessment of Competency in Social Methods and Research in Sociology

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from sections of SOC 4133 (Social Research Methods). Two members of the Undergraduate Committee evaluate student understanding of social methods and research in Sociology. Scoring was based on a standardized assessment rubric developed for this purpose. Each faculty member rates each sample individually. Both members then collectively discuss scoring in order to agree upon a score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

## **MS Graduate Program Assessment Methodology**

The goal of the M.S. program in Sociology at OSU is to prepare graduates who have the capacity to develop and communicate original scholarly contributions to sociology. This goal emphasizes the belief that sociological perspectives are necessary for understanding all areas of modern life. A series of graded experiences including required seminars, directed studies and exams, culminating in a thesis are provided to assist students in developing this goal. Upon graduation, students will have completed an original contribution to the discipline in the form of their thesis and be ready to start a career of scholarly research, publication, and teaching.

### Assessment of Effective Written Communication Skills

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from the final assignment submitted to SOC 5263 (Quantitative Methods of Social Research) and SOC 5273 (Qualitative Research Methods) courses. Writing skills are then evaluated by three members of the Graduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized rubric developed for this purpose. Faculty members rate each sample individually, and then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### Assessment of Effective Critical Thinking Skills

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from the final assignment submitted to SOC 5263 (Quantitative Methods of Social Research) and SOC 5113 (Classical Sociological Theory) courses. Critical thinking skills are then evaluated by three members of the Graduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized rubric developed for this purpose. Faculty members rate each sample individually, and then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### Assessment of Competence in Social Methods and Research

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from the final assignment submitted to SOC 5263 (Quantitative Methods of Social Research) and SOC 5273 (Qualitative Research Methods) courses. Competency in social methods and research are then evaluated by three members of the Graduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized rubric developed for this purpose. Faculty members rate each sample individually, and then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### Assessment of Understanding of Core Concepts and Theory in Sociology

Each semester, samples of student writing are collected from the final assignment submitted to the SOC 5113 (Classical Sociological Theory) course. Student understanding of core concepts and sociological theory are then evaluated by three members of the Graduate Committee. Scoring is based on a standardized rubric developed for this purpose. Faculty members rate each sample individually, and then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

## **PhD Graduate Program Assessment Methodology**

The goal of the Ph.D. program in Sociology at OSU is to prepare graduates with the capacity to be effective in the classroom, but also to develop and communicate original scholarly contributions to sociology. These goals emphasize the belief that sociological perspectives are necessary for understanding all areas of modern life. A series of graded experiences including required seminars, directed studies and exams, culminating in a dissertation, assist students in achieving these goals. Upon graduation, students will have created and submitted an original contribution to the discipline in the form of their dissertation. They will be deemed ready to begin a career of scholarly research, publication, and teaching.

### *Assessment of Effective Written Communication Skills*

Each year, four separate “Methods Preliminary Exams” are administered over a six-hour exam period to Ph.D. students completing their first year of study. The exams are then collected for assessment of effective written communication skills. Exams are reviewed by pertinent committees and assessment rubrics developed for this purpose are applied. Each faculty participant rates each response individually then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### *Assessment of Effective Critical Thinking Skills*

Each year, four separate “Methods Preliminary Exams” are administered over a six-hour exam period to Ph.D. students completing their first year of study. The exams are then collected for assessment of critical thinking skills. Exams are reviewed by pertinent committees and assessment rubrics developed for this purpose are applied. Each faculty participant rates each response individually then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### *Assessment of Competence in Social Methods and Research*

Each year, four separate “Methods Preliminary Exams” are administered over a six-hour exam period to Ph.D. students completing their first year of study. The exams are then collected for assessment of social methods and research skills. Exams are reviewed by pertinent committees and assessment rubrics developed for this purpose are applied. Each faculty participant rates each response individually then meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.

### *Assessment of Understanding of Core Concepts and Theory in Sociology*

Upon completion of their course work, each Ph.D. student must successfully complete a series of “Comprehensive Exams.” The exams are then collected for assessment of their understanding of core concepts and theory in sociology. Exams are reviewed by pertinent committee members using assessment rubrics developed for this purpose. Each faculty participant rates each exam question individually then participating faculty meet together to discuss and reach a consensus score for each sample. All identifying information is removed from the writing samples before faculty review.