

Assurance of Student Learning Reflection 2024-2025

<i>PCAL</i>	<i>Society, Culture, Crime and Justice Studies</i>
<i>Sociology 775</i>	
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Is this an online program? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf. Indicate verification here ☒ Yes, they match! (If they don't match, explain on this page under Evaluation)

Instructions: For the 2024-25 assessment, we are asking you to reflect on the last three-year cycle rather than collect data. It's important to take time to look over the results from the last assessment cycle and really focus on a data-informed direction going forward. In collaboration with your assessment team and program faculty, review each submitted template from 2021-2024 and consider the following for each Program Learning Outcome, add your narrative to the template, and submit the draft to your **ASL Rep** by **May 15, 2025**.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1

Program Student Learning Outcome	Apply the scientific method to social research design.
Evaluation	This learning outcome remains useful and relevant for the Sociology program.
Measurement Instruments	The measurement of this outcome during the past three years has been an exit exam. After completing all core courses, students enroll in a one hour "senior seminar course." During this course, an exam is administered that covers each of the four core areas of the program which parallel the SLOs (Introductory Concepts; Research Design; Theory; Data Analysis) The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four core courses.
Criteria & Targets	The target for this section of the exam is an average score of 70% or above.
Results & Conclusion	Results: In the previous three years, this goal was not met. Conclusions: The multiple choice exam is not an appropriate measure of the learning outcome. First, the students typically complete the exam several semesters after completing the research methods course. Second, students are aware that they need a passing score across all portions of the exam and may employ strategic study methods to achieve this goal (ie focusing on earning a high score on one section to offset a low score in a different section). Finally, the exam is multiple choice and while application questions can take the form of multiple choice questions, the questions on this exam lean heavily on "memory" and "understanding" rather than application.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The program has been aware of the deficiencies of the multiple choice exam as a measure of learning outcomes. Discussions began in 2023 to re-design the assessment of program SLOs. The new assessment plan will require faculty to develop an artifact for each course they teach which will measure the designated SLO per the course map. Faculty will assess the artifacts and submit a report to the program coordinator who will summarize the findings for each SLO for the annual ASL report. This new assessment plan was "piloted" during the 24/25 year. During the pilot year, both forms of assessment were used (the exam and the artifacts). The pilot taught us that greater education of faculty and streamlining the submission process will likely increase faculty participation. The new plan will be fully implemented in the 25/26 year. The multiple choice assessment exam will be conducted one final time in Fall of 2025.

Program Student Learning Outcome 2	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Evaluate how theories are used to explain both individual and collective behavior
Evaluation	This learning outcome remains useful and relevant for the Sociology program.
Measurement Instruments	The measurement of this outcome during the past three years has been an exit exam. After completing all core courses, students enroll in a one hour “senior seminar course.” During this course, an exam is administered that covers each of the four core areas of the program which parallel the SLOs (Introductory Concepts; Research Design; Theory; Data Analysis) The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four core courses.
Criteria & Targets	The target for this section of the exam is an average score of 70% or above.
Results & Conclusion	Results: In the previous three years, this goal was not met. Conclusions: The multiple choice exam is not an appropriate measure of the learning outcome. First, the students typically complete the exam several semesters after completing the Social Theory course. Second, students are aware that they need a passing score across all portions of the exam and may employ strategic study methods to achieve this goal. Finally, the exam is multiple choice and while “evaluation” assessment can take the form of multiple choice questions, the questions on this exam lean heavily on “memory” and “understanding” rather than evaluation.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The program has been aware of the deficiencies of the multiple choice exam as a measure of learning outcomes. Discussions began in 2023 to re-design the assessment of program SLOs. The new assessment plan will require faculty to develop an artifact for each course they teach which will measure the designated SLO per the course map. Faculty will assess the artifacts and submit a report to the program coordinator who will summarize the findings for each SLO for the annual ASL report. This new assessment plan was “piloted” during the 24/25 year. During the pilot year, both forms of assessment were used (the exam and the artifacts). The pilot taught us that greater education of faculty and streamlining submission process will likely increase faculty participation. The new plan will be fully implemented in the 25/26 year. The multiple choice assessment exam will be conducted one final time in Fall of 2025.

Program Student Learning Outcome 3	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Apply common techniques of data analysis.
Evaluation	This learning outcome remains useful and relevant for the Sociology program.
Measurement Instruments	The measurement of this outcome during the past three years has been an exit exam. After completing all core courses, students enroll in a one hour “senior seminar course.” During this course, an exam is administered that covers each of the four core areas of the program which parallel the SLOs (Introductory Concepts; Research Design; Theory; Data Analysis) The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four core courses.

Criteria & Targets	The target for this section of the exam is an average score of 70% or above.
Results & Conclusion	Results: In the previous three years, this goal was not met. Conclusions: The multiple choice exam is not an appropriate measure of the learning outcome. First, the students typically complete the exam several semesters after completing the statistics course. Second, students are aware that they need a passing score across all portions of the exam and may employ strategic study methods to achieve this goal. Finally, the exam is multiple choice and while application questions can take the form of multiple choice questions, the questions on this exam lean heavily on “memory” and “understanding” rather than application.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The program has been aware of the deficiencies of the multiple choice exam as a measure of learning outcomes. Discussions began in 2023 to re-design the assessment of program SLOs. The new assessment plan will require faculty to develop an artifact for each course they teach which will measure the designated SLO per the course map. Faculty will assess the artifacts and submit a report to the program coordinator who will summarize the findings for each SLO for the annual ASL report. This new assessment plan was “piloted” during the 24/25 year. During the pilot year, both forms of assessment were used (the exam and the artifacts). The pilot taught us that greater education of faculty and streamlining submission process will likely increase faculty participation. The new plan will be fully implemented in the 25/26 year. The multiple choice assessment exam will be conducted one final time in Fall of 2025.

Program Student Learning Outcome 4

Program Student Learning Outcome	All departmental majors will learn to communicate in written/oral/visual form in their major coursework.
Evaluation	This learning outcome has not yet been assessed.
Measurement Instruments	N/A
Criteria & Targets	N/A
Results & Conclusion	N/A
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The new assessment plan will require faculty to develop an artifact for each course they teach which will measure the designated SLO per the course map. Faculty will assess the artifacts and submit a report to the program coordinator who will summarize the findings for each SLO for the annual ASL report. This new assessment plan was “piloted” during the 24/25 year. During the pilot year, both forms of assessment were used (the exam and the artifacts). The pilot taught us that greater education of faculty and streamlining submission process will likely increase faculty participation. The new plan will be fully implemented in the 25/26 year.

Program Student Learning Outcome 5	
Program Student Learning Outcome	All departmental majors will link knowledge about theoretical applications with training in research
Evaluation	This learning outcome has not yet been assessed.
Measurement Instruments	N/A
Criteria & Targets	N/A
Results & Conclusion	N/A
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The new assessment plan will require faculty to develop an artifact for each course they teach which will measure the designated SLO per the course map. Faculty will assess the artifacts and submit a report to the program coordinator who will summarize the findings for each SLO for the annual ASL report. This new assessment plan was “piloted” during the 24/25 year. During the pilot year, both forms of assessment were used (the exam and the artifacts). The pilot taught us that greater education of faculty and streamlining submission process will likely increase faculty participation. The new plan will be fully implemented in the 25/26 year.

To add more outcomes, if needed, select the table above and copy & paste below.