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Review of Major Field Assessment Results  
B.A. Sociology  
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

A review of the results of assessment activities for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology indicates areas which are strong and areas which need improvement. The faculty have discussed the progress of B.A. students in Sociology, reviewed the curriculum, studied the exit survey information and assessed the Major Field Assessment Test results.

**To provide students with a strong knowledge of the field of sociology.** Fifteen hours of sociology courses: 101, 234, 310, 430 and 471 make up the core curriculum. The strength of these courses is in the breadth of fundamental concepts, theoretical perspectives and statistical applications. Assessment is curriculum-embedded in all of the courses above the 100-level require demonstrated competency in library research and oral communication. Two years ago, faculty proposed making SOC 234, our social statistics course, a prerequisite of our research methods course. This has been implemented as well, and has resulted in students being much better prepared for 400-level sociology courses. MFAT results indicate however, that more work is needed. In 2002 students scored an average of 50.6 on core sociology. While this meets the assessment goal of scoring in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, we would like to see improvement. The faculty is now considering ways to strengthen the upper-level courses such as including more prerequisites and offering more 200- and 300-level courses.

**Satisfaction with curriculum.** To assess satisfaction with the program and the curriculum students are asked questions on the exit survey. Only 62% of the students ranked the effectiveness of beginning courses in preparation for advance courses at the level four or five, with five being very satisfied. The changes in statistics and research methods now in effect may positively address this. When asked about the quality of the instruction in advanced courses, 86% responded at level four or five. About 75% responded at levels four and five when asked about the quality of the degree program. These results lend support to the strength of the program but also indicate improvement is needed. The curriculum committee is now examining the availability of upper-level courses and is developing new courses at the 200- and 300-level.

**To provide students with a cultural or global perspective.** A very strong cultural and global perspective is embedded in the sociology curriculum. These concepts are integral in all sociology courses, and all students take Anthropology and twelve hours of a foreign language.