

**Sociology and Social Work  
Assessment Report  
2014-2015**

**I. Academic Overview of Assessment**

Sociology has been taught at PLNU for more than 100 years. The first classes in sociology were offered in 1914. Courses evolved into a major in sociology with two concentrations, general sociology and criminal justice, and birthed the social work program. Departmental alumni serve the church and society around the globe. Recently, we have shaped and sent professors, pastors, doctors, peace officers, social workers, and a wide array of other alumni with careers with which they are actively serving their communities. As we look to the future, there are opportunities to grow and evolve with the goal of increasing access to a PLNU education developing servant scholars in San Diego, California, and around the globe.

We assess all of our programs annually for each of the learning outcomes and use the information to modify and develop the curriculum as necessary.

**II. Assessment Plan**

The department of Sociology and Social Work has annually assessed all of their program outcomes for well over a decade. Nationally normed standardized tests, course assignments, and internship evaluations have been used. Additionally, the plan is assessed regularly and modified as necessary. The findings are used to adapt curriculum as needed.

<b>Sociology General Program Learning Outcomes and Assessment Plan</b>		
<i>Program Learning Outcome</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Criteria for Success</i>
Sociology majors will be able to analyze society, social structures, and patterns of human thought and behavior.	EST	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the general theory measure of the EST.
Students will be able to navigate a world of rich cultural diversity.	EST – Multiculturalism Measure	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the multiculturalism measure of the EST.
Sociology majors will be able to conduct social research.	Successful Completion of the Senior Thesis	Eighty percent of students will successfully complete their senior thesis in sociology.
Students will be prepared to serve Christianly and competently in diverse vocational or social settings	Alumni Survey	The majority of alumni will report being satisfied with their preparation on a semi-annual alumni survey.

<b>Sociology Criminal Justice Program Learning Outcomes and Assessment Plan</b>		
<i>Program Learning Outcome</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Criteria for Success</i>
Demonstrate comprehension of the theoretical and legal foundations of criminal justice.	ACAT Standardize Test	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the general theory measure of the EST.
Demonstrate knowledge of each of the components of the criminal justice system: the historical background, structure, function, and purpose. Demonstrate comprehension of the theoretical and legal foundations of criminal justice.	ACAT Standardize Test	
Demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the social realities, discrimination, and conflicts in the criminal justice system resulting from racial, socio-economic, and cultural inequities.	EST Diversity Measure	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the multiculturalism measure of the EST.
Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior, and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills, in an approved internship setting.	Internship Evaluation	The majority of will successfully complete their internship.

Five Core Competency Assessments (undergraduate, graduate is intellectual competencies)

The department began assessing core competencies in 2014. Students are required to write a senior thesis in SOC 476 Senior Seminar. The thesis is assessed for four of the five competencies using a rubric developed from AAC&U core competencies rubrics (see attached). Verbal competency is assessed through formal presentation of the each student's thesis is assessed using the AAC&U at the end of the fall semester of their senior year.

(See Attachment titled: SOC\_SW Dept Core Competencies Rubric.docx)

### III. Evidence of Student Learning

<b>2014-15 Sociology General Assessment Findings</b>			
<i>Program Learning Outcome</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Criteria for Success</i>	<i>Finding(s)</i>
Sociology majors will be able to analyze society, social structures, and patterns of human thought and behavior.	EST	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the general theory measure of the EST.	The class of 2015 ranked in the 55th percentile in general theory on the ETS major field test in Sociology, meeting the departmental goal.
Students will be able to navigate a world of rich cultural diversity.	EST – Multiculturalism Measure	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the multiculturalism measure of the EST.	Goal achieved. The class of 2015 ranked in the 60th percentile of students taking the ETS major field test in Sociology on the multiculturalism measure.
Sociology majors will be able to conduct social research.	Successful Completion of the Senior Thesis	Eighty percent of students will successfully complete their senior thesis in sociology.	The majority 88.89% successfully completed there senior thesis and oral presentation. Meeting this objective and the departmental goals for the Core Competencies.
Students will be prepared to serve Christianly and competently in diverse vocational or social settings	Alumni Survey	The majority of alumni will report being satisfied with their preparation on a semi-annual alumni survey.	The vast majority 81% of alumni indicated their education in the department prepared them for their career. The students who attended graduated school reported an even higher level of satisfaction with their education. A greater proportion, 93%, said their degree prepared them for graduate education.

<b>2014-15 Sociology Criminal Justice Assessment Findings</b>			
<i>Program Learning Outcome</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Criteria for Success</i>	<i>Finding(s)</i>
Demonstrate comprehension of the theoretical and legal foundations of criminal justice.	ACAT Standardize Test	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the criminal law section of the ACAT.	One student scored in the 58 <sup>th</sup> percentile. One student fell below the criteria for success.
Demonstrate knowledge of each of the components of the criminal justice system: the historical background, structure, function, and purpose. Demonstrate comprehension of the theoretical and legal foundations of criminal justice.	ACAT Standardize Test	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the criminal justice systems section of the ACAT.	Both students scored above the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on the ACAT.
Demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the social realities, discrimination, and conflicts in the criminal justice system resulting from racial, socio-economic, and cultural inequities.	EST Diversity Measure	The majority of students will score at or above the 50 percentile on the multiculturalism measure of the EST.	Both students scored at or above the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on the multiculturalism measure.
Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior, and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills, in an approved internship setting.	Internship Evaluation	The majority of will successfully complete their internship.	Both students successfully completed their internship in Criminal Justice.

#### **IV. Use of Evidence of Student Learning**

The majority of students meet the necessary and required learning objectives set forth by the department. Additionally, the majority of alumni indicate their education at PLNU prepared them for entry into the workforce or graduate school. However, things continue to develop. Our students regularly find work in their desired vocational setting or are admitted to graduate school. Our students score well on the ETS's major field test in sociology in areas where we offer courses; however, our scaled scores have slipped in reference to the other institutions in the comparison pool. We have modify assignments to strengthen students overall performance. Significant curricular revisions are under discussion, but few have been finalized at this date.

Overall our students have proven themselves in their chosen vocations and we are proud of their accomplishments.

## **V. Syllabi**

The course syllabi are to conform to APC and GESC guidelines for syllabi (see Faculty FAQ in [my.pointloma.edu](http://my.pointloma.edu)) and are to be available for review by the Educational Effectiveness Committee during the in-depth three-year cycle review and to the Program Review Committee. Courses with multiple sections will have a master syllabus approved by the program faculty. PLNU course syllabi are available on the web in the academic unit's assessment wheel. The syllabi will be eventually linked to the catalog course description allowing students to be fully informed of the course learning outcomes, assessment assignments, learning modules, etc.

For assessment purposes, the assessment wheel webpage includes: 1) syllabi aligned to the curriculum map and program learning outcomes, 2) syllabi with program faculty approved course learning outcomes and PLOs assessed in the course, and 3) a description of the assignments and rubrics to be used for the assessment of the program learning outcomes (assignments and rubrics also included in the Assessment Plan section of the wheel). Course faculty will also want to ensure that all assignments are aligned to the course learning outcomes and that this alignment is clear to students. During the course of the Educational Effectiveness Committee's three-year cycle review the Committee will review the syllabi and look for examples that can serve as models and make recommendations where appropriate.