

**Texas A&M International University
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)
for Academic Programs**

Program: M.A. in Sociology

Assessment Period Covered: March 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009

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The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1: Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program Mission

The Master of Arts in Sociology is designed to support the mission of the university by 1) developing students' ability to communicate through the use of the written and spoken word 2) develop their appreciation of culture and social integration and 3) develop their sense of self-realization. This program addresses this mission through providing students the opportunity to obtain advanced knowledge in the core ideas of the field of Sociology. This carefully designed curriculum addresses the students' ability to secure employment.

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented

Program faculty should evaluate the former cycle. This statement should specify if the outcomes addressed were a continuation of previous ones, new outcomes, or modified versions of previous outcomes. In addition, the statement should include a concise analysis of the assessment data collected during the previous year, a brief explanation of actions taken to address specific outcomes, an evaluation of how these actions contributed to the improvement of the program, and any recommendations formulated. Assessment data—including actual samples of student work—must be viewed and discussed by program faculty during this process.

Selected list of program-level intended student learning outcomes: *It is recommended that programs rotate through their entire set of outcomes over a multi-year period. Programs may focus on one or two outcomes each year, as deemed appropriate.*

1. Students will identify underlying assumptions in theoretical orientations or arguments.
2. Students will describe the diversity of the United States and identify, analyze, and suggest solutions to social problems.
3. Students will explain how research methodology influences empirical findings.
- 4.
- 5.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Outcome(s): *Identify the outcome(s) that will be focused upon this year.*

Students will explain how research methodology influences empirical findings.

Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP). No

Methods of assessment to be used: *The explanation should identify and describe the type of assessment(s) that will be used (e.g., survey, questionnaire, observation instrument, test, rubric to evaluate performance, standardized examination, action research, interviews, etc.), who will provide the information, and how the data will be obtained.*

Presentations in SOCI 5302 (Research Methods) will require students to write a methodologically and ethically sound research proposal.

4= Students will demonstrate knowledge of sound measurement, sampling and research design as well as demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns and ability to apply all of these concepts to examining a research question. 3=While the paper demonstrates knowledge of sound measurement, sampling and research design as well as demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns, it fails to clearly demonstrates how this methodology can be applied to a theoretical question. 2=The paper does an adequate job of addressing sound measurement, sampling and research design as well as demonstrate sensitivity to ethical concerns but may have neglected some aspect of the study that would lead to a highly successful research project. 1= The paper fails to address one of the following issues: sound measurement, sampling and research design, or ethics. 0= The paper fails to address more than one of the following issues: sound measurement, sampling and research design, or ethics.

Indicate when assessment(s) will take place

December 2008

Criteria/Benchmark(s): *Specify, if deemed appropriate to assess outcome(s). Criteria/ benchmark(s) may be optional, especially if qualitative measures are used for data collection.*

All students will receive at least a 2 on the rubric score for their research proposal.

Section II: Analysis of Results

What were the results attained? *Describe the primary results or findings from your analysis of the information collected. This section should include an explanation of any strength(s) or weakness(es) of the program suggested by the results.*

There was only one Sociology student in the course. This student performed at a 3.0 on all measures. Good, but not great.

What were the conclusions reached? *Should include a brief description of the procedure used for reaching the conclusion(s) based on the evidence collected and describe the process used to disseminate the information to other individuals. For example, if the discussion took place during the annual spring retreat, include a summary from those deliberations using the Meeting Minutes template found at <http://www.tamtu.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to assessment@tamtu.edu.*

Our program is very small.

Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)

Based on the conclusion(s), describe the action plan to be implemented to improve or maintain student learning, including a timeline for implementation.

We are discussing a Sociology recruitment program. There is little action that will be taken when there is only one Sociology MA student.

Section III: Resources

Resource(s) to implement action plan: *Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.*

No new resources.

Funding

- New Resources Required
- Reallocation of current funds

Physical

- New or reallocated space

Other

- Primarily faculty/staff time
- University/rule procedure change only

Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)

N/A

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):

N/A

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

N/A

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):

N/A