

Assessment Report for Student Learning  
In the Sociology Major  
2011-2012 Academic Year

June 15, 2012

**Executive Summary**

This Assessment Report for the Sociology major assesses student learning during the 2011-2012 Academic Year. **Assessment results indicate that students performed at an excellent level for one of the learning goals, and at an adequate level of the other two.**

**Student Learning Goals**

The learning goals for the Sociology major are:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze personal and social experiences by applying the sociological imagination.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to use sociological analysis to explain the structural inequalities of race, class, and gender.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to design a sociological research project, and communicate its findings in accordance with the professional standards of the discipline.

The sociology faculty is committed to the Millikin mission and has designed a

- a. analyze personal and social experiences by applying the sociological imagination, and
- b. use sociological analysis to explain the structural inequalities of race, class, and gender, and their interrelationships.

**Snapshot**

Given the relatively small number of sociology majors and minors, most sociology classes are providing service to the Human Services major and other University curriculum requirements, including US Studies, Global Studies, and Gender Studies. A relatively large number of students enrolled this year in SO250, Approaches to Sociological Theory, required for majors and minors, suggests that an increase in majors or minors may be developing.

The following table shows the classes taught in Sociology during the 2010-2011 Academic Year. Not included in this list are the Human Services classes taught by the Social Workers or the Statistics or Social Psychology classes taught by a Psychologist.

<b>Fall 2011</b>			<b>Spring 2012</b>		
<b>Course #</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Level</b>
SO10001	Laundra	30	SO10001	Laundra	45
SO10002	Laundra	32	SO12001	Rauff	30
SO232/IN251	Laundra	32	SO22101	Laundra	32
SO310/IN251	Fennessey	30	SO22401/IN251	Troy	27

As students proceed through their plan of study taking introductory, sociology fundamentals, and elective course work in specialty areas of the discipline, they are exposed to the theoretical explanations and empirical evidence regarding a variety of social arrangements and come to recognize that it is only possible to understand their own identities in the context of the social groups to which they belong. Majors learn that by examining the diversity of human experience we are ultimately able to locate and define ourselves. Sociology course work also helps majors develop strong analytical and quantitative reasoning skills from their required statistics and research

**3.**

students returned to the Excellent level for Learning Goal #1, and slipped back down to Adequate for Learning Goal #2 and, and remained at Adequate for Learning Goal #3.

### **Feedback Loop**

The sociologists will continue to discuss these results during the 2012-2013 academic year, especially with respect to the continuing development of the Methods of Sociological Research class for Learning Goal #3.

## Appendix 1 Sociology Assessment Rubric

Learning Objectives	Nominal (1 point)	Adequate (3 points)	Excellent (5 points)
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Goal 1: Ability to analyze