

**Institutional Effectiveness Report
2021-22**

Program: Sociology BS

College and Department: College of Arts & Sciences – Department of Sociology and Political Science

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Mission: Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work and political science. It provides students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and postgraduate educational possibilities. Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover. Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The Department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.

Program Goals:

- PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan (Strategic Goal Two: Tactics www.tntech.edu/strategic) .
- PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)s

- SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school. (See Strategic Plan Education for Life/ Tactics B ii: "...promote analytical thinking and problem solving in every discipline." www.tntech.edu/strategic)
- SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their discipline by their senior year.

Assessment Methods With Thresholds Of Acceptability:

Program Goals

- PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan (Strategic Goal Two: Tactics www.tntech.edu/strategic) .
1. The Program will monitor enrollment and graduation rates:

Enrollment By Year	SOC General Track Majors	SOC-CRCJ Majors	SOC-SW Majors	Total Majors
2021	27	127	62	216
2020	20	144	70	234
2019	18	142	70	230
2018	35	132	73	240
2017	57	100	87	244
2016	50	112	92	254

Graduation: Fall 2014 cohort: 42.9% graduated within 6 years from Tennessee Tech.

Threshold of Acceptability: The enrollment threshold for Sociology is 215 students; if majors fall below that threshold, SOC will increase recruitment initiatives.

- 2. The Program is dedicated to remaining involved in recruitment initiatives including TTU Fall Preview Day and Spring Showcase during which we give out TTU “swag” to prospective students.

PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

- 1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=33)

	2020-2021 SOC Major Survey					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of sociology.	0 0%	0 0%	2 6.06%	3 9.09%	16 48.48%	12 36.36%

Threshold of Acceptability: The threshold of acceptability for the Qualtrics Student Survey is that the majority of students are on the positive side of the Likert responses (indicated in purple). In the event this does not happen faculty will assess possible solutions.

- 2. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness: Completed by student majors (See Appendix 1).

Threshold of Acceptability: The threshold of acceptability for the student-evaluated curriculum map is that the students determine a majority of the courses prepare them for written and oral communication as well as prepare them for proficiency in their concentration. Absent this, a re-evaluation of the curriculum would be undertaken.

3. Co-Curricular Options (“Expand and improve academic and co-curricular programs to enhance global understanding, experience, and education” www.tntech.edu/strategic):

- 1) Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society
- 2) Women and Gender Studies Course Options
- 3) Sociology/CJ Club
- 4) Sociology Social Work Credit-Based Clinical Internships with Community Partners
- 5) QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Grant-Based Active Learning Classes
- 6) One World
- 7) Conference travel with faculty
- 8) Publications with faculty
- 9) Working as a Teaching Assistant
- 10) Criminology/Criminal Justice Guest Speakers and Field Trips

Threshold of Acceptability: The threshold of acceptability is to offer co-curricular options in political science “to enhance global understanding, experience, and education” www.tntech.edu/strategic. Absent this, a re-evaluation of the faculty service options would be undertaken.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)s

SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.

1. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech University. Sociology majors will average 90% of the TTU average on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).

2021 CCTST Scores	Mean	N
SOC	71	16
TTU	74.4	1445
TTU CAS	74.5	105
CCTST National	74	n/a

Threshold of Acceptability: Faculty seek to emphasize student critical thinking gains through use of the California Critical Thinking Test as a component of SLO 1. Specifically, students must score 90% of TTU’s mean score on the CCTST.

2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam measures Core Sociology Knowledge and Critical Thinking.

ETS Sub-Score: Critical Thinking

	Fall 2020		Spring 2021		Fall 2021		Spring 2022	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
TTU Data	39.0	9.00	42.0	8.00	41	9.00	41	12.0
National Data	47.5	11.9	47.5	11.9	*	*	*	*

Threshold of Acceptability: Performance at a level within 10% of a mean of 50 on the ETS Major Field Examination Analytical and Critical Thinking Score is expected. If this mean drops, faculty will re-evaluate. An institutional code is currently required to access the National Data.

3. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=33) 2020-2021 SOC Major Survey

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum has improved my ability to think critically.	0 0%	0 0%	1 3.03%	6 18.18%	14 42.42%	12 36.36%
The sociology curriculum is preparing me well for graduate school.	0 0%	0 0%	2 6.06%	11 33.33%	10 30.30%	10 30.30%

Threshold of Acceptability: The threshold of acceptability for the Qualtrics Student Survey is that the majority of students self-select on the positive side of the Likert responses (indicated in purple). In the event this does not happen, faculty will assess possible solutions.

SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their discipline by their senior year.

1. Students in the Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology course will demonstrate improvement in the post-test score mean from the pre-test mean.

2021-22 SOC 1010 Pre-Test Class Average	2021-22 SOC 1010 Post-Test Class Average	Post-Test gains
69.81	93.17	23.26

62.24	92.86	30.62
65.83	98.49	32.66
67.86	87.05	12.0
79	91	15.96
65.27	93.7	28.43
70.97	92.86	17.64
75.22	88.56	13.34
79.66	93.51	13.85
65.68	84.87	19.19

Threshold of Acceptability: Students should demonstrate at least ten point gains each semester on the General Education POLS 1030 Pre/Post. If this rate of gain drops, review sessions will be offered.

1. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam measures Core Sociology Knowledge.

ETS: Sociology Knowledge

	Fall 2020		Spring 2021		Fall 2021		Spring 2022	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
TTU Data	143	10.0	140.0	9.0	141	9	141	10
National Data	148.1	12.4	148.1	12.4	*	*	*	*

Threshold of Acceptability: Performance at a level within 10% of the national mean on the ETS Major Field Examination Sociology content areas is expected. If scores are below the national mean, faculty will re-evaluate.*ETS institutional username and password is now required to obtain comparative data for institutions for annual information.

Modifications for Improvement:

1. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) was added as a new measure of critical thinking in 2020-2021 and Sociology continues to meet its threshold of acceptability. The CCTST is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech University. The University expects program scores to be above a 90% threshold in comparison to the TTU institutional score with the goal of 100%.
2. To expand curricular options, Sociology and Political Science now house the NSF-grant funded “Cyber Crime, Law and Society Minor” in collaboration with the College of Engineering. See Appendix 2 for Curriculum. **Threshold of Acceptability:** Political Science and Sociology anticipated 5-10 students to be interested in the grant-funded minor three years ago when first writing the NSP application with PI Dr. Ambareen Siraj. Ten students in the POLS 1030-777 CYBER sections remains the acceptable limit. This fall the section had to be opened from an initial enrollment of 25 to a double section.

Appendix 1: Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS Curriculum Analysis

Sociology Courses Listed Below:

		Is Learning Outcome Goal Met?								
		Learning Outcome Goal 1			Learning Outcome Goal 2			Learning Outcome Goal 3		
		YES	NO		YES	NO		YES	NO	
SOC 1010	Introduction to Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 1020	An Orientation to Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 1650	Social Problems	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 2100	Cultural Ecology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 2110	Social Class and Inequality in America	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 2630	Marriage and Family Relations	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 2660	Criminology	✓				✓		✓		
SOC 2840	The Aged in American Society	✓				✓		✓		
SOC 3100	Sociological Theory	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3150	Social Psychology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3200	Sociology of Sex and Gender	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3300	Occupational Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3550	Applied Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3600	Environmental Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3620	Victimology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3640	Cybercrime	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3650	Juvenile Delinquency	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3710	Urban Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3720	Rural Sociology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3730	Technology and Society	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3900	Introduction to Social Research	✓				✓		✓		
SOC 3910	Social Science Statistical Analysis	✓				✓			✓	
SOC 3911	Introduction to Crime Analysis	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3920	Sociological Applications Using SPSS	✓				✓		✓		
SOC 4010	Organized Crime	✓			✓			✓		

SOC 4040	Law and Culture	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4050	Crime and Media	✓				✓	✓			✓	
SOC 4080	Sociology of Appalachia	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4090	Cross Cultural Communications and Cultural Diversity	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4120	Sociology of Death and Dying	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4120	Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4220	Sociology of Mass Communication	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4320	Sociology of Religion	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4330	Population and Social Process	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4430	People in Organizations	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4500	Sociology of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4510	Social Deviance	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4515	Sexual Offenses and Offenders	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4520	Domestic Violence	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4530	Sociology of Murder	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4610	Contemporary American Family	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4660	Corrections	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4810	Concepts of Gerontology	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4830	Medical Sociology	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4860	Social Movements and Social Change	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4911	Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4920	Data Analysis and Management	✓				✓				✓	
SOC 4930	Field Research Methods	✓					✓			✓	
Criminal Justice Courses Listed Below:											
CJ 2660	Criminology	✓						✓		✓	
CJ 2700	Introduction of Law Enforcement	✓						✓		✓	
CJ 2850	Criminal Law and Procedure	✓				✓				✓	
CJ 3000	Rules of Evidence	✓					✓			✓	✓

CJ 3500 Wildlife Law Enforcement
 CJ 3610 Advanced Criminal Procedure
 CJ 3620 Victimology
 CJ 3640 Cybercrime
 CJ 3650 Juvenile Delinquency
 CJ 3911 Introduction to Crime Analysis
 CJ 4010 Organized Crime
 CJ 4040 Law and Culture
 CJ 4050 Crime and Medica
 CJ 4100 Probation and Parole
 CJ 4120 Case Management
 CJ 4250 Drugs and Behavioral Pharmacology
 CJ 4515 Sexual Offenses and Offenders
 CJ 4520 Patterns of Domestic Violence
 CJ 4530 Sociology of Murder
 CJ 4540 Women and Crime
 CJ 4660 Corrections
 CJ 4911 Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences

	✓				✓				✓
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Appendix 2: Cyber Crime, Law and Society Minor



Cyber Minor
Curriculum.pdf

