

**GRADUATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**June 2006**

**(1) Direct Assessment of the MA Research Paper**

This part of the assessment is conducted every other year and was completed last year. It will be conducted again in May 2007.

**(2) Indirect Assessment through Student Surveys/focus Groups**

Last year, a focus group was conducted with students enrolled in SOC 651. This year a survey was sent to 35 students who were enrolled in SOC 650 Research Methods in fall 2003, 2004, or 2005. Five of the 17 surveys that were returned were completed by students who have finished the program. The distribution of their responses is presented below. No one strongly disagreed with any of the statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. If I were starting over, I would enroll in this master's program again.	2	3	0	0
2. I received adequate curricular and career advising in the program.	1	3	1	0
3. The degree requirements are consistent with the stated objectives of the program.	3	2	0	0
4. Library resources are adequate for completion of coursework.	1	3	1	0
5. The faculty with whom I had contact were scholarly and professional.	2	3	0	0
6. The evaluation procedures used in courses (papers, exams) were fair and appropriate.	2	2	0	1
7. The variety of master's level courses was acceptable.	2	2	0	1
8. The depth in subject matter of master's level courses was appropriate.	1	2	1	1
9. Faculty provided useful and appropriate feedback on my ongoing work in the program.	3	1	1	0
10. I knew what to expect as I progressed through the program.	2	2	1	0
11. The required courses I took were important in helping me complete my master's paper.	3	2	0	0
12. The elective courses I took were important in helping me complete my master's paper.	3	1	0	1
13. The amount of time it took me to complete the program was about what I expected.	2	1	1	1

In all categories most students agreed or strongly agreed with each of the 13 statements. Only for "depth in subject matter" and "amount of time" did more than one respondent feel neutral or disagree with the statement.

**ACTION:** Rather than mailing this questionnaire to students who have taken SOC 651, this questionnaire will be given to students immediately after they graduate so that a higher percentage of graduates will provide input.

## II. COURSE LEVEL ASSESSMENT

In addition to the program-level assessment outlined above, the Assessment Plan includes a set of common objectives for courses in each of the core areas of the program. These core areas include theory (Soc. 640); methods and statistics (Soc. 650/651); and the substantive areas of the discipline (600-level seminars). The plan was to phase in course level assessment within each of these areas over a two-year cycle beginning in fall 2005. Regrettably, this goal was not accomplished because it was not made clear whether the department chair or the graduate committee guided by the graduate director would be responsible for implementing the plan. This is an oversight that will be rectified beginning in fall 2006. However, the questionnaire sent to the 35 students who were enrolled in SOC 651 in 2003, 2004, and 2005 collected useful information about students' views of the courses from the 17 who responded.

<u>Required Courses:</u>	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree
<i>Soc 640 Sociological Theory</i>			
Learned new skills	65	12	23
Will be helpful in future work-related activities	41	18	30
Enjoyed course material and class experience	47	18	23
<i>Soc 650 Sociological Research Methods</i>			
Learned new skills	94	6	0
Will be helpful in future work-related activities	65	17	18
Enjoyed course material and class experience	59	18	23
<i>Soc 651 Sociological Statistics</i>			
Learned new skills	71	12	6
Will be helpful in future work-related activities	59	12	18
Enjoyed course material and class experience	35	36	18

NOTE: Totals of less than 100% are due to statements not being applicable to one or two respondents (e.g., student has not taken the specified course).

Except for Sociological Theory, for which 5 students indicated that they saw no relationship to future work-related activities, fewer than 25% of the 17 respondents indicated that they found any of the core courses unsatisfactory with respect to skills learned, potentially use for future work, or enjoyment.

**Seminars:**

	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree
<i>Soc 662 Deviance and Social Control (n = 11)</i>			
Learned new skills	6	5	0
Will be helpful in future work-related activities	5	3	3
Enjoyed course material and class experience	7	2	2
<i>Soc 663 Criminological Theory (n = 9)</i>			
Learned new skills	7	1	1
Will be helpful in future work-related activities	6	2	1
Enjoyed course material and class experience	8	1	0

The only other seminar which more than 2 students had taken was SOC 555 Ethnographic Research Methods. Of the 7 students who completed the questionnaire, all strongly agreed or agreed that they learned new skills and that the material would likely be useful in the future and all but agreed that the class was enjoyable.

**ACTIONS:** This report will be distributed at the beginning of fall semester at a faculty meeting. At that time, the results will be discussed to determine actions to take and assignments made so that a plan for doing assessment during the 2006-2007 can be accomplished.