Expected Outcomes: Duration of Study

Students will complete their degree in a timely manner.

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** Completion rate

Percentage of students who complete program within three years of starting the program.

**Findings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSOC</th>
<th>100% (1 of 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY</td>
<td>100% (4 OF 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Department faculty met to discuss assessment findings. Improved rate suggest that faculty are more proactive in thesis completion process with emphasis on assisting students develop a timeline to accomplish tasks in a timely manner. Also, funding limitations have in turn limited the number of graduate students in our program. To address this problem, several research proposals were developed by faculty and resulted in the award of $790,000 in grants from USDA-NIFA, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.

**Additional comments:**

None

Expected Outcomes: Use of sociological concepts

Students are expected to utilize in context the terms and concepts within the discipline of sociology.

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** Scores on oral presentation of thesis.

Oral presentation of thesis or Research Paper, average scores of at least 6 on 9-point scale on questions 1-3 of the Post-Oral Graduate Thesis/Research Paper Summary Evaluation Sheet. A high score indicates higher skill and preparation. 1. On the scale, rate the student from 'poorly prepared' to 'well prepared'. 2. The student was unfamiliar with basic concepts and principles vs. The student was able to articulate and apply concepts and principles 3. The student did not understand the research process vs. the student had a good understanding of the research.

**Findings:**

Mean = 8.41

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

The faculty has found that the Brown Bag series provided a good venue for students to rehearse and obtain constructive feedback on content of their work and presentation style. Several students participated. Also, students were encouraged and did participate in presenting their work at professional meetings and during Auburn University Research...
Week. Considering developing and requiring a pro-seminar that would include sections on conceptualizing sociological phenomena, developing research questions and writing a thesis.

Additional comments:
None

Expected Outcomes: Competency in writing.

Students are expected to demonstrate competency in written communication (uses of language, punctuation, grammar, clear conveyance of ideas, linkages between abstract concepts, etc.).

Assessment methods

Method: Competency in writing

Oral presentation of thesis or Research Paper, average scores of at least 6 on 9-point scale on questions 4-6 of the Post-Oral Graduate Thesis/Research Paper Summary Evaluation Sheet. A high score indicates higher skill and preparation. 4. On the scale, rate the student’s work as not readable vs. readable 5. Rate the student’s use of spelling and grammar 6. Rate the student’s Ideas, theory, conceptual development

Findings:
Mean = 8.02

How did you use findings for improvement?

Students were encouraged to present written papers at professional meetings. At least one student published a paper in a professional journal. The faculty was more proactive to state of writing and analytical skills. Considering developing and requiring a pro-seminar that would include sections on professional socialization, writing a thesis, technical writing and various audiences within the discipline.

Additional comments:
None

Expected Outcomes: Scientific Process

Students are expected to identify a sociological problem, an appropriate methodology to research the problem, carry out the research and write up and present research results.

Assessment methods

Method: Demonstrate competency in scientific method

Oral presentation of thesis or Research Paper, average scores of at least 6 on 9-point scale on questions 7-10 of the Post-Oral Graduate Thesis/Research Paper Summary Evaluation Sheet. A high score indicates higher skill and preparation. 7. Rate the student’s findings’ contribution to knowledge 8. Rate the student’s methods of analysis 9. Rate the student’s interpretation and generalization of results in terms of insightfulness and importance 10. To what extent is the work publishable?

Findings:
Mean = 8.23

How did you use findings for improvement?

Tuesday, February 05, 2013, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
During discussions of the findings, although faculty saw improvement in scores, faculty also agreed that student's research skills still need improvement. Considering developing and requiring a pro-seminar that would include sections on professional socialization, thesis writing, data management and analysis.

Additional comments:
None

Expected Outcomes: Post MA/MS experience

The program will be assessed by the experiences of students after completing the MA/MS program. The program is particularly interested in students accepted to PhD programs or find employment directly in the field.

Assessment methods

**Method**: Post-program experiences

Students completing the MA/MS program who were admitted to more advanced graduate work or who found employment in their fields of interest.

**Findings**:

- TOTAL = 80%
- RSOC = 100% (1 of 1)
- SOCY = 75% (3 of 4)

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Faculty met to discuss the findings which resulted in idea that faculty become more proactive about discussing with students Ph.D. programs and career options.

**Additional comments**:

None