

**Department of Social Sciences
Assessment Report, 2002-2003**

<u>Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose</u>	<u>Program Intended Educational Outcomes/Objectives</u>	<u>Means of Program Assessment and Criteria</u>
<p><u>Mission Statement</u></p> <p>It is the mission of the Department of Social Sciences to encourage a life-long passion for learning and a quest for knowledge by providing an environment that fosters academic excellence and unfettered inquiry. We encourage the development of ethics and values that recognize knowledge in all its diverse and creative forms. The Department of Social Sciences offers major and minor programs for the disciplines of History, Political Science, and Sociology, and it supports a Social Science Composite Degree for secondary teaching certification and a minor in Geography.</p> <p><u>Goals Statement</u></p> <p>Among its goals, the Department of Social Sciences will:</p> <p>1. Provide expert classroom instruction with opportunities for a variety of learning experiences, activities, research,</p>	<p>1.a. Social Sciences courses will be taught by qualified faculty members with expertise (and preferably, terminal degrees) in their teaching fields.</p> <p>1.b. Social Sciences courses will support the department's mission and the mission of the respective disciplines.</p> <p>2.a. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methodologies, concepts, and subject matter of the discipline of their major.</p> <p>2. b. Students will demonstrate ability to conduct original research in the discipline of their major by designing a research proposal, collecting data, analyzing the data and writing up the results of their research, data and analysis.</p> <p>2.c. Students will be satisfied with their preparation within their major, with their employment opportunities, and will be successful in attaining admission and performance in graduate and professional</p>	<p>1.a. The Social Sciences Department will hire, promote, and tenure qualified faculty members who excel in teaching.</p> <p>1.b. Faculty will work with the (newly-established) Department Curriculum Committee to ensure curricular coherence.</p> <p>2. a. Department majors and minors will pass all classes in their Social Science subject major and/or minor with a C-grade or better as assessed by the professors assigned to the respective classes.</p> <p>2.b. Graduating majors in the Social Science disciplines will complete at least one original piece of research using the acceptable style manual for the respective discipline. The minimum acceptable grade for this research is B.</p> <p>2.c. Postgraduate surveys of students and employers will determine satisfaction with preparation in the major, with employment, employer satisfaction with</p>

<p>and reporting.</p> <p>2. Prepare students for a more fulfilling life, for a variety of employment opportunities, and for graduate studies.</p> <p>3. Provide opportunities for practical experience and experiential education within the respective disciplines.</p>	<p>schools; employers will be satisfied with SUU graduate employees.</p> <p>3.a. Social Sciences students will have opportunities for internships, work studies, service learning, practicums, memberships in honorary societies, and other forms of practical experience.</p>	<p>discipline major employees, and success in admission to graduate school and levels of graduate school performance.</p> <p>2.d. When feasible, comprehensive pre- and post-assessment tests appropriate to the respective discipline will be administered to majors in each of the disciplines.</p> <p>3.a. Social Sciences faculty with expertise will oversee internship, practicum, work study, and service learning opportunities, and will sponsor and advise honorary societies and other club activities. Faculty will provide brief annual reports about relevant activities and accomplishments.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary of Data Collected</u></p> <p>1.a. 100% of departmental courses were taught by qualified faculty members in their areas of expertise. All faculty (100%) have terminal degrees and teaching experience in their fields. In Fall 2002, course evaluations (N=967) for the entire department resulted in a mean score of 4.272 and a median score of 4.545 in response to Question 25 about “teaching effectiveness.” In Spring 2003, 922 responses resulted in a mean score of 4.435 and a median score of 4.629 for “teaching effectiveness” for the Department.</p> <p>1.b. The (newly established) Department Curriculum Committee met several times during the year to review, approve, or reject curricular requests from faculty.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Use of Results</u></p> <p>1.a. Continue to hire and retain terminally-qualified faculty. Improve efforts to evaluate teaching with peer and self-evaluations.</p> <p>1.b. Continue to use the Department Curriculum Committee and improve their oversight and reporting functions. Encourage faculty to plan and develop curriculum in systematic and proactive manner in line with disciplines’ and department’s mission(s) and goals.</p> <p>2.a. Continue this process.</p> <p>2.b. Continue this process.</p>

2.a. Students receiving grades of C-or better demonstrated knowledge and understanding of their disciplines indicated by scores on their exams and assignments.

2.b. 100% of graduating majors completed original work in a capstone research-oriented course (e.g., HIST 4990, POSC 4990, SOC 4750).

2.c. Forty-one graduating seniors were surveyed and placed into a new department database. Their average gpa was 3.45. Of the respondents, 37% applied to graduate programs, and 100% were accepted into at least one program. Another 27% of graduates applied to law schools, and 100% were accepted into at least one law school, including one student accepted into Yale, Harvard, and Berkeley. Political Science faculty developed an “exit questionnaire” for use with majors.

3.a. 100% of students in internships, practica, work study, and service-learning projects were supervised by faculty with expertise. Faculty advisors assisted honorary societies and club activities in three disciplines of History, Political Science, and Sociology. At least two faculty members were nominated for “Thunderbird Advisor of the Year,” and one faculty person won the campus-wide award.

2.c. Continue and improve this process. Refine surveys of graduates and employers, and strengthen collection of data related to graduate school placement and performance.

3.a. Continue and improve this process, especially as it relates to annual reporting of activities.