

Department of History and Sociology
Assessment Report, 2007-2008

<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>The Department of History and Sociology seeks to educate students about the history of past peoples and about the role of social organization on human interaction. Its faculty equips students with analytical and communicative skills which will enable them to investigate past and present human cultures and societies and to communicate their findings logically, scientifically and effectively.</p> <p>The Department of History and Sociology purposes to: 1) Provide expert classroom instruction from qualified instructors with terminal degrees. 2) Educate students with basic and advanced knowledge germane to their major and discipline. 3) Equip students with the skills to conduct original research and to express cogently the results of their researches. 4) Prepare students for a variety of employment opportunities and graduate studies. 5) Furnish opportunities for practical experience and experiential education within the respective disciplines.</p>	<p>Student Learning Outcomes for History:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize information about historical development and to communicate informed interpretations and conclusions about those changes over time. 2. Prepare History majors to succeed in secondary education by giving them appropriate content knowledge for teaching the Utah Core Curriculum and in graduate-level history programs and in history-related fields of endeavor such as library or archival administration, heritage tourism, or any other field that requires information retrieval and analysis skills. 3. Infuse cultural literacy by giving students a broad familiarity with the past. <p>Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes for Sociology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop effective communication skills. 2. Develop analytical and research skills which aid in the critical and logical examination of social issues and social problems. 3. Develop a strong understanding of key sociological theories and concepts, and how they can be applied to analyzing diverse social 	<p>The Department of History and Sociology relies on four methods of assessment: 1) All graduating majors are required to perform original research and writing in a capstone research-oriented course (HIST 4990 or SOC 4990) and receive a grade of C- or better in order to receive their degrees in their respective major. 2) At least five student papers are submitted from each capstone course to outside reviewers for their comments. With the feedback from outside reviewers, the department is in a better position to evaluate the knowledge and competencies our graduates have attained. 3) Information taken from student evaluations is used to evaluate faculty's teaching performance and considered in curricula development. And 4) The Department uses and analyzes information on surveys obtained from new, continuing and graduating students. The surveys indicate factors that influenced students' decision as to their choice of major, their principal areas of interest, their perceptions of how well the Department programs are meeting their stated</p>

<p>Mission statement of the History Program: The History program trains undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize, and communicate conclusions and interpretations about historical developments by using historical methods. The History faculty seek to infuse cultural literacy and provide the knowledge and skills necessary to equip students to become responsible citizens of Utah, the United States, and the world. Further, in cooperation with the College of Education, the department prepares students for teaching careers in elementary and secondary schools, and it works to qualify majors for graduate study and advanced administrative specialization. The faculty support other university- and department-level programs through General Education, general interest courses, and the Social Science Composite degree.</p>	<p>processes, cultures, structures, and conflicts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Apply the methods and concepts of sociology to the analysis of social issues, problems, and conflicts in preparation for participation as agents of creative social change. 5. Students will be able to identify and critically evaluate the forces and institutions that influence their lives as members of society. 6. Pursue careers in sociological areas, business, government, and/or graduate study. 	<p>missions and learning outcomes, and students' input about program's curricula. Additional information regarding these issues is drawn from comments on course evaluations and from informal sources such as discussions among students and faculty during office hours.</p>
<p>Mission statement of the Sociology Program: The Sociology program prepares students for life in a diverse society by introducing them to applied and conceptual tools that aid in a more thorough understanding of social structure, social processes, group values, attitudes and beliefs. Sociology supports the general education requirements, integrates service-learning in several courses, and prepares students for graduate degree programs in addition to careers in teaching, social work,</p>	<p>Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes for Anthropology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a general understanding of human biological and cultural differences and similarities across the world and through time. 2. Develop an understanding of the nature of Anthropology's sub-disciplines (archaeology, biological anthropology, and cultural anthropology) and how these interrelate to provide a holistic approach to the study of humankind. 3. Acquire a proficiency in basic anthropological concepts and terminology. 4. Understand how important anthropological theories have been developed, applied and evaluated throughout the history of Anthropology as a discipline. 5. Learn about, and then learn to apply, fundamental anthropological and archaeological research methods (e.g. participant observation, archaeological 	<p>Information from the surveys, informal discussions, and student evaluations is used to evaluate and revise as needed programs and curricula.</p>

and a variety of administrative and research occupations.

Mission statement of the Anthropology

Program: The Anthropology program has two principle goals: 1) to prepare students interested in pursuing graduate work in anthropology or professional degrees in the related fields of international business, criminology, education, medicine, and law; 2) to provide an interesting and rigorous course of study for students seeking to understand the human cultural and biological experience through time and space. Students pursuing the Anthropology minor at SUU will be exposed to a three field approach that emphasizes Anthropology's dominant sub-disciplines: archaeology, cultural anthropology, and biological anthropology. They will master a broad range of research, critical reasoning, and oral and written communication skills designed to prepare them for life and work in an increasingly multi-cultural world. Through courses dealing with human evolution, prehistoric culture change, and the cultural and biological diversity of contemporary humans, students will be taught to question and examine the significance of ethnocentric beliefs, attitudes, and prejudices and to understand the incredible biological and cultural diversity that characterizes the human species. A minor in Anthropology will

excavation) and analytical techniques (e.g. statistical data analysis).

6. Learn to apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to anthropological problems and issues.
7. Display a basic ability to write, speak, and communicate about anthropological issues.
8. Inculcate a fundamental awareness of the existence of human prejudice and discrimination (e.g. racism, ethnocentrism, sexism, etc.) and learn to value human diversity.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Social Science Composite Degree:

1. Train undergraduates to research, analyze, synthesize information about historical development, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology in broad terms and to communicate informed interpretations and conclusions about those subjects.
2. Prepare majors to succeed in secondary education in a broad range of fields, namely in History, Economics, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology.
3. Infuse cultural literacy by giving students a broad familiarity with the past.

<p>supplement existing SUU major programs in Biology, Criminal justice, Foreign languages, History, Geography, Outdoor Recreation, Psychology, and Sociology.</p> <p>Social Science Composite Mission Statement: The Department of History and Sociology administers a composite degree in social sciences for those who are seeking licensure in secondary education and choose the flexibility and advantage of a composite degree that secures a teaching license in several areas of the social sciences.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Data Collected</p> <p>Fall 2007 student evaluations of History, Sociology and Anthropology professors continue to demonstrate an extremely high level of satisfaction with the department's instruction and curricula. The Spring 2008 evaluations will also be used for FAAR reports in Fall 2009.</p> <p>Student surveys are still being collected; later this April the individual programs and the department as a whole will review the information. A preliminary investigation reveals continued satisfaction with the History and Sociology programs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of Results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to hire and retain terminally-qualified faculty. Improve efforts to evaluate teaching with peer and self-evaluations. 2. Continue the function and expand the responsibilities of the Department Curriculum Committee. We are gathering curriculum assessment surveys which will be used by the program advisory boards to evaluate department curricula. 3. Information from outside reviewers has not been reviewed as thoroughly as the department chair hoped. Faculty will be encouraged to utilize this important assessment tool. 4. Owing to budget constraints, the Sociology program lost a full-time position for the upcoming 2008-9 academic year. A temporary position with the possibility of renewal has been granted. A special committee of the Sociologists has met three 	

	<p>times in March and early April. Its goal is to extensively revise the Sociology program and to add two and possibly three new courses. This committee will continue to meet in this academic year and intends to submit its changes to the College Curriculum committee before May.</p>

