Template

Program: undergraduate minor

Department: sociology

Number of students enrolled in the program in Fall, 2011: 90 to 100 declared minors

Faculty member completing template: Jud Landis (Date February 3, 2012)

Period of reference in the template: 2006-07 to present

1. Please describe your program’s learning-outcomes trajectory since 2006-07: Has there been a transformation of organizational culture regarding the establishment of learning outcomes and the capacity to assess progress toward their achievement? If so, during which academic year would you say the transformation became noticeable? What lies ahead; what is the next likely step in developing a learning-outcomes organizational culture within the program?

[Please limit your response to 200 words or less]

The minor in sociology is made up of seven courses, two lower division including Introductory Sociology, and five upper division from either core or elective sociology courses. The minor has not been changed in many years and was not a focus of the previous program review. The sociology minor takes predominantly elective sociology courses as the core courses are difficult to get into. We have a number of Criminal Justice majors who are minoring in sociology. In my opinion, this is due in large part to the fact that up to 12 units of sociology courses taken for the Criminal Justice major may be “double counted” toward the minor.

2. Please list in prioritized order (or indicate no prioritization regarding) up to four desired learning outcomes (“takeaways” concerning such elements of curriculum as perspectives, specific content knowledge, skill sets, confidence levels) for students completing the program. For each stated outcome, please provide the reason that it was designated as desired by the faculty associated with the program.

a) The minor would mirror the major in having it’s major learning outcome being obtaining knowledge in and of the field contributing to an understanding of social reality.

b) Thinking critically is a second learning objective that should be obtained by a sociology minor even though the pattern of courses is loosely defined. Critical thinking is an aspect of all sociology courses.

c)

d)

[Please limit your response per outcome to 300 words or less]
3. *For undergraduate programs only*, in what ways are the set of desired learning outcomes described above aligned with the University’s Baccalaureate Learning Goals? Please be as specific as possible.

   [Please limit your response to 400 words or less]

The two University Baccalaureate Goals, *Competency in the Discipline* and *Knowledge of Human Cultures* are directly aligned with our learning outcome “knowledge in the field contributing to understanding of social reality.” *Intellectual and Practical Skills* aligns with “thinking critically.”

4. For each desired outcome indicated in item 2 above, please:
   a) Describe the method(s) by which its ongoing pursuit is monitored and measured.
   b) Include a description of the sample of students (e.g., random sample of transfer students declaring the major; graduating seniors) from whom data were/will be collected and the frequency and schedule with which the data in question were/will be collected.
   c) Describe and append a sample (or samples) of the “instrument” (e.g., survey or test), “artifact” (e.g., writing sample and evaluative protocol, performance review sheet), or other device used to assess the status of the learning outcomes desired by the program.
   d) Explain how the program faculty analyzed and evaluated (will analyze and evaluate) the data to reach conclusions about each desired student learning outcome.

   [Please limit your response to 200 words or less per learning outcome]

There has been no monitoring or measuring of the minor separately from the major.

*(If the requested data and/or analysis are not yet available for any of the learning outcomes, please explain why and describe the plan by which these will occur. Please limit your response to 500 words or less.)*

5. Regarding each outcome and method discussed in items 2 and 4 above, please provide examples of how findings from the learning outcomes process have been utilized to address decisions to revise or maintain elements of the curriculum (including decisions to alter the program’s desired outcomes). If such decision-making has not yet occurred, please describe the plan by which it will occur.

   [Please limit your response to 200 words or less per item]

Data solely from the minor has been neither collected nor analyzed. We are currently involved in a program review. One of the topics we may address is closer attention to the minor. Should it be more tightly defined, should at least one core course be included—these are questions we might address.

   a) 
   b) 

6. Has the program systematically sought data from alumni to measure the longer-term effects of accomplishment of the program’s learning outcomes? If so, please describe the approach to this
information-gathering and the ways in which the information will be applied to the program’s curriculum. If such activity has not yet occurred, please describe the plan by which it will occur.

[Please limit your response to 300 words or less]
There has been no separate approach to alumni regarding questions or opinions about the minor that we know of.

7. Does the program pursue learning outcomes identified by an accrediting or other professional discipline-related organization as important? Does the set of outcomes pursued by your program exceed those identified as important by your accrediting or other professional discipline-related organization?

[Please limit your response to 300 words or less]
There is no accrediting body for the sociology major or minor and the American Sociological Association has been silent on recommendations for the minor to our knowledge.

8. Finally, what additional information would you like to share with the Senate Committee on Instructional Program Priorities regarding the program’s desired learning outcomes and assessment of their accomplishment?

[Please limit your response to 200 words or less]
We have a lot of students taking a minor in sociology---I was surprised at the number. This reflects the current overall interest in sociology, apparently. We have traditionally focused our attention on the graduate and undergraduate majors, and have given little attention to the minor. Given the numbers, we need to review what we’re doing in the minor. During our current program review, we will do so.