FOR GRADUATE AND CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS: THIS TEMPLATE REFERS TO SAC STATE BACCALAUREATE LEARNING GOALS. PLEASE IGNORE

THESE REFERENCES IN YOUR REPORT.	ENS TO SAC STATE DACCALAUNEATE LEARNING GOALS. FLEASE IGNORE
	am Learning Outcomes
Q1.1. Which of the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Sac State Baccalaureate Learning Goals (BLGs) did you assess in 2014-2015? [Check all that apply]  1. Critical thinking 2. Information literacy 3. Written communication 4. Oral communication 5. Quantitative literacy X 6. Inquiry and analysis 7. Creative thinking 8. Reading 9. Team work 10. Problem solving 11. Civic knowledge and engagement 12. Intercultural knowledge and competency 13. Ethical reasoning 14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning 15. Global learning 16. Integrative and applied learning 17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge 18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline 19. Other, specify any PLOs that were assessed in 2014-2015 but not included above: a. b. c.	Q1.3. Are your PLOs closely aligned with the mission of the university?    X
<b>Q1.2.</b> Please provide more detailed background information ab above and other information such as how your specific PLOs we State BLGs:	ere <b>explicitly</b> linked to the Sac your PLOs?
The Sociology Graduate Program has eight program learning outcomes academic year we assessed the Program Learning Outcome #8 (PLO): Inquiry and Analysis involve "a systematic process of exploring through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in injudgments. Analysis is the process of breaking complex topics of better understanding of them." This PLO was measured along to significant yet previously less-explored aspects of an is 2) Synthesize in-depth information from relevant sources views/approaches.  3) Skillfully develop all elements of a methodology or the synthesize appropriate methodology or theoretical fram 4) Organize and synthesize evidence to reveal insightful process.	Inquiry and Analysis.  In it is issues, objects or works formed conclusions or rissues into parts to gain a the following dimensions: chaddresses potentially issue.  The inquiry and Analysis.  3. No rubrics for PLOs N/A, other (please specify):  The inquiry and Analysis.  3. No rubrics for PLOs N/A, other (please specify):  The inquiry and Analysis.  The inquiry and Ana

similarities.

5) State conclusion that is a logical extrapolation from the inquiry or similarities.6) Insightfully discuss limitations and implications of the study.

In questions 2 through 5, report in detail on ONE PLO the	AT YOU ASSESSED IN 2014-2015
Question 2: Standard of Performance for	the selected PLO
Q 2.1. Specify one PLO here as an example to illustrate how you conducted assessment (be sure you checked the correct box for this PLO in Q1.1):  See Appendix II	Q2.2. Has the program developed or adopted explicit standards of performance for this PLO?  X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know 4. N/A

Q2.3. <u>Please provide the rubric(s)</u> and standard of performance that you have developed for this PLO here or in the appendix: [Word limit: 300]

See Appendix II.

For the Academic Year 2014/2015, the Graduate Program Committee of Sociology assessed the Program Learning Objective of Inquiry and Analysis (PLO #8). A graduate student cohort was selected for this assessment: once while enrolled in SOC 214 and one semester later while enrolled in SOC 215. For each class (15-18 students enrolled), five student papers were randomly selected to assess the PLO. Students from SOC214 were given a pre-test at the beginning of the semester; and then at the beginning of SOC215, a post-test. The test consisted of an in-class writing assignment where students were asked to explain how they would research the effectiveness of a new teaching method in a biology class and also whether the new method affected students' identity as scientists. The rubric used to measure the standard of performance covered various central components of inquiry and analysis, and included the following operationalized categories: ability to do a comprehensive scholarly literature review, clearly state a research question, relate theory to their research question and/or hypotheses, develop a research design that best addresses their research question, conceptualize/operationalize variables, and analyze findings in relation to the theoretical framework/existing research (see PLO matrix). Each PLO dimension above was measured with 1-4 scale with scores ranging from low performance (1) to high performance (4). Every paper, both pre and post tests, were evaluated by five faculty. Scores that differed beyond 2 points were discussed. Average scores on each rubric area were used for each student.

Every category measured saw an improvement: stating clear hypothesis went from 2 to 2.5, justifying appropriate methods from 2.5 to 2.7, describing data from 2.6 to 2.7, and conceptualizing variables from 2.1 to 2.7. In short, students improved their performance in the area of inquiry and analysis, and the largest improvement was observed in conceptualizing/operationalizing the variables and the least in elaborating the source of data.

Q2.4	I. Please indicate the category in which the selected PLO falls into.			
	1. Critical thinking			
	2. Information literacy			
	3. Written communication			
	4. Oral communication			
	5. Quantitative literacy			
Χ	6. Inquiry and analysis			
	7. Creative thinking			
	8. Reading			
	9. Team work			
	10. Problem solving			
	11. Civic knowledge and engagement			
	12. Intercultural knowledge and competency			
	13. Ethical reasoning			
	14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning			
	15. Global learning			
	16. Integrative and applied learning			
	17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge			
	18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline			
	19. Other:			
Plea	se indicate where you have published the PLO, the standard of performance, and	Q2.5	Q2.6	Q2.7

the rubric that measures the PLO:		(1) PLO	(2) Standards of Performance	(3) Rubrics
1. In <b>SOME</b> course syllabi/assignments in the program that addres	s the PLO	Х	Х	Х
2. In ALL course syllabi/assignments in the program that address t	Χ			
3. In the student handbook/advising handbook				
4. In the university catalogue				<u> </u>
5. On the academic unit website or in newsletters		Χ	Х	Х
6. In the assessment or program review reports, plans, resources of		Χ	Х	Х
7. In new course proposal forms in the department/college/univer	•	Х		<u> </u>
8. In the department/college/university's strategic plans and other				<u> </u>
9. In the department/college/university's budget plans and other	resource allocation documents			
10. Other, specify:				
Question 3: Data Collection	Methods and Evaluation	of		
Data Quality for	the <u>Selected</u> PLO			
Q3.1. Was assessment data/evidence collected for the selected PLO in 2014-2015?    X	Q3.2. If yes, was the data scored/evaluations of the selected PLO. For example, in with means were data collected (see Attach Committee of Sociology assessed the PObjective of Inquiry and Analysis (PLC cohort was selected for this assessment: SOC 214 (Research Methods) and later Analysis). For each class (15-18 studer papers were randomly selected to asses SOC214 were given a pre-test; and late The test consisted of an in-class writing students were asked to explain how the effectiveness of a new teaching method also whether the new method affected scientists.	ed the as that cour ment II)?  Graduate rogram I D #8). As once who in SOC at the PLC r in SOC grassignmy would to in a biol	rsessment se(s) or by Word lim e Program earning graduate abile enrolle 215 (Data ed), five st D. Student 215, a pos ent where research th ogy class a	data what it: 300] student ed in tudent ts from t-test.
Q3A: Direct Measures (key ass	signments, projects, portfolic	s)		
Q3.3. Were direct measures [key assignments, projects, portfolios, etc.] used to assess this PLO?  X 1. Yes	Q3.3.1. Which of the following direct n [Check all that apply]  1. Capstone projects (including the			

2. No (Go to Q3.7) 3. Don't know (Go to Q3.7)  Q3.3.2. Please attach the direct measure yo data. The measure consisted of an in-class writing students were asked to explain how they woo	g assignment where uld research the	3. Key assignmen 4. Classroom bas simulations, con 5. External perfo	eriences onts from required classes in the program onts from elective classes sed performance assessments such as onprehensive exams, critiques ormance assessments such as internships unity based projects
effectiveness of a new teaching method in a also whether the new method affected studer scientists.		6. E-Portfolios 7. Other portfoli 8. Other measur	
Q3.4. How was the data evaluated? [Select of the color of	dence (Go to <b>Q3.5</b> ) he faculty who teached group of faculty	s the class	
Q3.4.1. Was the direct measure (e.g. assignment, thesis, etc.) aligned directly and explicitly with the PLO?  X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know 4. N/A	Q3.4.2. Was the direct assignment, thesis, et and explicitly with the X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know 4. N/A	tc.) aligned directly	Q3.4.3. Was the rubric aligned directly and explicitly with the PLO?  X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know 4. N/A
Q3.5. How many faculty members participat assessment data collection of the selected P			as evaluated by multiple scorers, was there procedure to make sure everyone was
Four.		X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know	
Q3.6. How did you select the sample of students, portfolios, etc.]?  The sample was drawn from classes (SOC 214 and sequential and enroll a cohort of students. From students, five papers were randomly selected from 10 papers.	d 215) that are a cohort of 15-18	to review?  We needed a coh these two courses prov	decide how many samples of student work nort of students that take the same classes, and rided us with a sample of students whose analysis could be measured.
Q3.6.2. How many students were in the class or program? There are fifteen students in each class.	Q3.6.3. How many sa work did you evaluat 10		Q3.6.4. Was the sample size of student work for the direct measure adequate?  X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know

Q3B: Indirect Measures (survey	s, focus groups, interviews, etc.)					
Q3.7. Were indirect measures used to assess the PLO?  1. Yes x 2. No (Skip to Q3.8) 3. Don't know  Q3.7.2 If surveys were used, how was the sample size decided?  Q3.7.3. If surveys were used, briefly specify how you selected your sample.	Q3.7.1. Which of the following indirect measures were used?  [Check all that apply]  1. National student surveys (e.g., NSSE) 2. University conducted student surveys (e.g. OIR) 3. College/Department/program student surveys 4. Alumni surveys, focus groups, or interviews 5. Employer surveys, focus groups, or interviews 6. Advisory board surveys, focus groups, or interviews 7. Other, specify:  Q3.7.4. If surveys were used, what was the response rate?					
•	benchmarking, licensing exams, ed tests, etc.)					
Q3.8. Were external benchmarking data such as licensing exams or standardized tests used to assess the PLO?  1. Yes 2. No (Go to Q3.8.2) 3. Don't know  Q3.8.1. Which of the following measures were used?  1. National disciplinary exams or state/professional licensure exams 2. General knowledge and skills measures (e.g., CLA, CAAP, ETS PP, etc.) 3. Other standardized knowledge and skill exams (e.g., ETS, GRE, etc.) 4. Other, specify:						
Q3.8.2. Were other measures used to assess the PLO?  1. Yes  2. No (Go to Q3.9)  3. Don't know (Go to Q3.9)	Q3.8.3. If other measures were used, please specify:					
Q3D: Alignme	ent and Quality					
Q3.9. Did the data, including the direct measures, from all the different assessment tools/measures/methods directly align with PLO?  X 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know	the Q3.9.1. Were ALL the assessment tools/measures/methods that were used good measures for the PLO?    X   1. Yes					
Question 4: Data, Fin	dings and Conclusions					

**Q4.1.** Please provide simple tables and/or graphs to summarize the assessment data, findings, and conclusions: (see Attachment III) [Word limit: 600 for selected PLO] See below.

Inquiry &	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3	Reviewer 4	Average Score
Analysis Skills					Scale 1-4, high
(PLO #8)					score excels
Reviews scholarly	NA				
literature to					
research question					
Informs research	NA				
question with					
theoretical					
framework					
States clear	1.8	3	1.4	1.8	2
hypothesis or					
research question					
Chooses	2.2	3	2.8	2.1	2.5
appropriate					
methods and/or					
statistical					
techniques					
Describes Data	2	3.2	3	2.3	2.6
Set/Source of Data		1			
Explains Variables	1.4	3	2.4	1.8	2.1
Interprets results	NA				
Analyzes in	2.5				
Discussion					
AVERAGE	2	3	2.4	2	2.3
TOTAL	Davisson I	D	D	Davisson 4	A
Research/Inquiry	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3	Reviewer 4	Average Score
Writing Skills					Scale 1-4, high score excels
(PLO #8) Reviews scholarly	NA				score excers
literature to	NA				
research question	1				
Informs research					
	NIA				
	NA				
question with	NA				
question with theoretical	NA				
question with theoretical framework		3.8	2.5	1.6	2.5
question with theoretical framework States clear	NA 1.9	3.8	2.5	1.6	2.5
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or		3.8	2.5	1.6	2.5
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question	1.9				
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses		3.8	2.5	2.2	2.5
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate	1.9				
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or	1.9				
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical	1.9				
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or	1.9				
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques Describes Data Set/Source of Data	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques Describes Data Set/Source of Data Explains Variables	2.7 2.6 2.6	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques Describes Data Set/Source of Data Explains Variables Interprets results	2.7	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques Describes Data Set/Source of Data Explains Variables Interprets results Analyzes in	2.7 2.6 2.6 NA	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7
question with theoretical framework States clear hypothesis or research question Chooses appropriate methods and/or statistical techniques Describes Data Set/Source of Data Explains Variables Interprets results	2.7 2.6 2.6 NA	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.7

For the Academic Year 2015/2016, the Graduate Program Committee of Sociology assessed the Program Learning Objective of Inquiry and Analysis (PLO #8). A graduate student cohort was selected for this assessment: once while enrolled in SOC 214 and later while enrolled in SOC 215. For each class (15 students enrolled), five student papers were randomly selected to assess the PLO. Students from SOC214 were given a pre-test; and later in SOC215, a post-test. The test consisted of an in-class writing assignment where students were asked to explain how they would research the effectiveness of a new teaching method in a biology class and also whether the new method affected students' identity as scientists. The rubric used to measure the standard of performance covered 8 central components of inquiry and analysis, including ability to do a comprehensive scholarly literature review, clearly state a research question, relate theory to their research question and/or hypotheses, develop a research design that best addresses their research question, conceptualize/operationalize variables, and analyze findings in relation to the theoretical framework/existing research (see PLO #8 rubrics). Each PLO dimension above was measured with 1-4 scale with scores ranging from low performance (1) to high performance (4).

The reliability of measurement was sought by a panel of four faculty reviewers, who teach for the graduate program. They each scored the random papers in the pre- and post-tests, and their scores were averaged for each category in the matrix of inquiry and analysis (see Appendix II).

## Findings:

Because the pre- and post-test was an in-class written assignment, student s were not able cover three of the seven categories that measure inquiry and analysis (i.e., literature review, citations, interpretation of data). These were marked as not applicable (NA). Therefore, in the categories analyzed there was a significant improvement in the overall performance of the students from SOC214 to SOC215: the overall mean score of 2.3 increased to 2.7.

Every category saw an improvement: stating clear hypothesis went from 2 to 2.5, justifying appropriate methods from 2.5 to 2.7, describing data from 2.6 to 2.7, and explaining variables from 2.1 to 2.7.

## Conclusion:

There is improvement in student performance in the area of inquiry and analysis, and the great improvement was observed in conceptualizing the variables and the least in elaborating the source of data. This information will be valuable in informing faculty in what areas they can focus on in future classes. The focus in the research methods course is appropriate, because there is evidence that these skills are among the most marketable for graduate students, helping them get into Ph.D. programs or professional employment. Student success in acquiring these skills correlates significantly with success in employment and job satisfaction (Vooren, Nicole Van, and Spalter-Roth, Roberta. 2011. Sociology Master's Graduates Join the Workforce. Research Brief for American Sociological Association, Department of Research Development, July).

<b>Q4.2.</b> Are students doing well and meeting program standard? If not, how will the program work to improve student performance of the selected PLO?
This report clearly shows significant improvement within a cohort of graduate students in improving their inquiry and analytical skills ( $PLO$ #8). Although the improvement from $2.3$ to $2.7$ mean score seems modest, the standard of performance across time is significantly improving, which is a very positive sign of change within a year. The program, however, seeks a more substantial improvement in performance among our students, and will work to align graduate courses with explicit, concrete goals in improving inquiry and analytical skills—particularly those categories with low scores—among our students to reach the highest levels possible. I recommend that we revisit these PLO #8 with a similar cohort in the following academic year to assess if our awareness and intentionality of improving our graduate program in this learning objective improves.
Q4.3. For selected PLO, the student performance:
1. Exceeded expectation/standard 2. Met expectation/standard
3. Partially met expectation/standard
4. <b>Did not meet</b> expectation/standard
5. No expectation or standard has been specified
6. Don't know

Question 5: Use of Assess	sment Da	ata (Clo:	sing the	Loop)	
Q5.1. As a result of the assessment effort in 2014-2015 and based on the prior feedback from OAPA, do you anticipate making any changes for your program (e.g., course structure, course content, or modification of PLOs)?    X	Q5.1.1. Ple your progra Include a d of these ch An important develop amond do a compressate a resequestion and best address operational the theoretic rubrics).  Courses SC the other or readings, do students endeveloping strength of operational arguments  More specion or	ase describe am as a result escription of anges. [Word of the change is the long students the chensive scharch question ad/or hypotheses their reservations are variables cal framework. C214 and Sines (i.e., core evelop assign gage conscite critical/effect theory and mizing valid mand findings. Cally courses and SOC20 and SOC	what change to of your assess how you plated the various skee olarly literated, relate theoeses, development, and analyzork/existing respectively. The various skeep to the vario	ges you plan to sessment of to an to assess tords]  e classes will active review, corry to their resord a research don, conceptual e findings in sesearch (see lamore explicites) can also in include exercite purpose in re reviews, as eptualizing/	his PLO. he impact ddress and nd analysis clearly search esign that lize/ relation to PLO  tly, but all ntegrate cises so ssessing /analyzing roject by s that s
Q5.2. How have the assessment data from last year (2	<b>2013 - 2014</b> ) b	een used so	far? [Check a	Ill that apply]	
	(1) Very Much	(2) Quite a Bit	(3) Some	(4) Not at all	(8) N/A
1. Improving specific courses	X	DIL			
Modifying curriculum	^	Х			
Improving advising and mentoring		X			
4. Revising learning outcomes/goals		X			
5. Revising rubrics and/or expectations	Х	^			
6. Developing/updating assessment plan	X				
7. Annual assessment reports		Х			
8. Program review	Х	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \			
Prospective student and family information	X				
10. Alumni communication	^		Х	+	
11. WASC accreditation (regional accreditation)		Х	^		
12. Program accreditation		X	+	+	
13. External accountability reporting requirement		X	+	+	
14. Trustee/Governing Board deliberations		^	+	+	Х
14. Hustee/ Joverning board deliberations					_ ^

15. Strategic planning		Х			
16. Institutional benchmarking			Х		
17. Academic policy development or modification		X			
18. Institutional Improvement	Х				
19. Resource allocation and budgeting				X	
20. New faculty hiring				X	
21. Professional development for faculty and staff				X	
22. Recruitment of new students		Х			

23. Other Specify:

**Q5.2.1.** Please provide a detailed example of how you used the assessment data above.

We have used the data to improve future assessment tools, and also to take a holistic approach in advancing the PLOs as a graduate program. The standards of performance for each PLO are stated and advanced more explicitly in the graduate program via curriculum maps and course teaching.

## **Additional Assessment Activities**

**Q6.** Many academic units have collected assessment data on aspects of a program that are not related to PLOs (i.e., impacts of an advising center, etc.). **If** your program/academic unit has collected data on the program elements, please briefly report your results here. **[Word limit: 300]** 

Our graduate program has begun an end-of-the-year Graduate Student Reflection Survey [GSRS] that seeks information to help students advance in the program and also helps the department make improvements. Among the areas examined include: contact information, academic standing, course work completed, thesis stage, committee members, goals/accomplishments (e.g., scholarly/professional activities), and general reflections.

We implemented it this past academic year (2014/2015), but had a small response rate (about 10%). We have assessed and reflected on ways of improving the response rates so that this can become an integral tool for student advising and informing our graduate program's objectives. [see Appendix III]

Q7. What PLO(s) do you plan to assess next year?							
X 1. Critical thinking							
2. Information literacy							
3. Written communication							
4. Oral communication							
5. Quantitative literacy							
X 6. Inquiry and analysis							
7. Creative thinking							
8. Reading							
9. Team work							
10. Problem solving							
11. Civic knowledge and engagement							
12. Intercultural knowledge and competency							
13. Ethical reasoning							
14. Foundations and skills for lifelong learning							
15. Global learning							
16. Integrative and applied learning							
17. Overall competencies for GE Knowledge							
18. Overall competencies in the major/discipline							
19. Other, specify any PLOs that were assessed in	2014-2015 but						
not included above:							
a.							
b.							
c.							
<b>Q8.</b> Have you attached any appendices? If yes, please li	ist them all here:						
Appendix I Program Learning Objectives							
Appendix II Rubrics for Assessing Inquiry & Analysis PLO							
Appendix III End of the Year Graduate Student Reflection Sur	vey						
<b>Око аком</b>	Information						
Program	Information						
P1. Program/Concentration Name(s):	P2. Program Director:						
MA Sociology	Manuel Barajas						
P1.1. Report Authors:	P2.1. Department Chair:						
Manuel Barajas, Aya Ida Kimura, Jacqueline Carrigan, and	Bohsiu Wu						
Todd Migliaccio							
<b>P3.</b> Academic unit: Department, Program, or College:	P4. College:						
Department of Sociology	SSIS						
<b>P5.</b> Fall 2014 enrollment for Academic unit (See	P6. Program Type: [Select only one]						
<u>Department Fact Book 2014</u> by the Office of	1. Undergraduate baccalaureate major						
Institutional Research for fall 2014 enrollment: 44  2. Credential							

		X 3. Master's degree 4. Doctorate (Ph.D./Ed.d) 5. Other. Please specify:										
Undergraduate Degree Program(s):				Master Degree Program(s):								
P7. Number of undergraduate degree programs the		P8. Number of Master's degree programs the academic unit has: 1										
<b>P7.1.</b> List all the name(s): BA in Sociology			P8.	<b>1.</b> List a	ll the na	ıme(s): 1	L					
P7.2. How many concentrations appear on the diploma for this undergraduate program?  P8.2. How many concentrations this master program?				ations a	ppear o	n the d	iploma for					
Credential Program(s):  P9. Number of credential programs the academic unit has: 0			Doctorate Program(s) P10. Number of doctorate degree programs the academic unit has: 0						academic			
<b>P9.1.</b> List all the names:				P10	<b>).1.</b> List	all the r	name(s):					
When was your assessment plan?	1. Before 2007-08	2. 2007-08	3. 2008-09				8. 2013-14	9. 2014-15	10. No formal			
P11. Developed										Х		
P12. Last updated												
						1. Yes	2. No	3. Don't Know				
P13. Have you developed a curriculum	map for tl	his progra	m?						Х			
<b>P14.</b> Has the program indicated explicitly where the assessment <b>of student learning</b> occurs in the curriculum?					Х							
<b>P15.</b> Does the program have any capsto	ne class?								Х			
P16. Does the program have ANY capst	one proje	ct?							Х			

## **Assessing Other Program Learning Outcomes (Optional)**

If your program assessed PLOs not reported above, please summarize your assessment activities in the table below. If you completed part of the assessment process, but not the full process (for example, you revised a PLO and developed a new rubric for measuring it), then put N/A in any boxes that do not apply.

**Report Assessment Activities on Additional PLOs Here**