

**Sociology Department Annual Report  
June 2013**

1. An update on progress on the initiatives you were funded for in your May 2012 budget letter as well as other initiatives you may have put in your plan but did not need extra funding for.

We received funding for a graduate school event, and the event was held on 2/20/13. It was attended by over 40 students. We plan to offer this event on an annual basis (Respond to Labor Market Trends in Academic Program and Center Development).

We received funding to develop a global studies interdisciplinary major. Two members of our department convened a global studies working group to design the major collaboratively with all involved departments. They invited a consultant to campus to discuss program design and invited faculty members to a presentation given by the consultant, who heads a global studies program at Providence College. The program design was completed in fall 2012 and was approved by CCC and ACC in May 2013. We plan to bring it to the Board of Higher Education for approval in fall 2013 (Prepare Students for Global Citizenship and Competitiveness).

We were able to take students on various small-group field trips throughout the year, expanding our sense of departmental community and providing our students with experiential learning opportunities. Some of this was funded by the department budget and some by Academic Affairs. Daisy Ball took several small groups of students on tours of local correctional facilities, Ira Silver took students to Boston to visit non-profit organizations as part of his Charitable Giving course, and Ben Alberti took students on an archaeological dig in New Mexico (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

2. An update on your assessment process (what learning outcomes did you assess this year, what did you find out from the assessment, what changes did you make this year, if any, in response to last year's results and what changes you plan to make in response to this year's results. (For Centers, this will be more in terms of goals you set for this past year, progress in meeting those goals, and how you measured that progress.)

In terms of last year's assessment results, we created logs that now require a minimum grade of C in Investigating Social Forces to enroll in Sociological Methods I: Research Design and a minimum grade of C in Sociological Methods I: Research Design to enroll in Sociological Methods II: Data Collection and Analysis. These logs were passed by CCC (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

We also add several new courses to our curriculum, Global Criminology, Intimate Partner Violence, Forensic Anthropology, Victimization and Justice, Charitable Giving, and Environmental Sociology (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

We had an information session for faculty and staff on the Inside Out program, and several faculty members expressed interest in participating in the program. We hope to offer our first Inside Out course in Spring 2014 (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

We did not review our learning outcomes this year as planned. In anticipation of the roll-out of the new general education model in fall 2013, departments were asked to align their general education course offerings with the new subdomains. Because we have so many general education courses in our department, this was a time-consuming process.

In terms of a learning outcome for assessment this year, we settled on writing in the discipline. We worked on a pilot project with Patricia Lynne of the English department. We submitted student writing artifacts to Patricia, and she provided us with a write-up of the patterns that she noticed in the artifacts and helped us develop a set of writing goals for the discipline. She then asked us to map the writing goals through our curriculum. She tabulated the results and presented them to the department at our May retreat. She found that we were strong in terms of emphasizing writing about key concepts and theories but that we could try to improve our teaching in terms of writing genres and consistency in introductory courses. In the fall semester of 2013, we will work in teams to develop writing goals for specific course levels (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

We agreed to formalize a mentoring program for new faculty in our department for next year. The features of the program will be developed over the summer (Priority: Develop and Retain Quality Faculty and Staff).

We also plan to work on revising our learning outcomes next year (Pursue Excellence and Engagement in the Academic Experience).

3. An update on any changes you may have made in response to what you learned from your five-year self-study/program review.

We conducted our five-year self-study/program review this year and have not received the report back from our external reviewer yet. We will meet to discuss the report's findings in September 2013 and will discuss any changes recommended at that point.

4. An update on any unmet departmental/unit needs you may have identified over the course of this year with suggestions for meeting those needs where possible.

In our self-study we noted that we are understaffed in terms of faculty and administrative support. We plan to work with the Academic Affairs office during the course of the year to address our staffing needs (Develop and Retain Quality Faculty and Staff).