

Program Review for Sociology

Development of Action Steps

General Comment:

The reviewers expressed a “largely positive view.” However, they added that the department will need “significant help in fully realizing its vision.”

Commendations:

1. Sociology Program’s “unique approach” that “emphasizes real world application of concepts concerning issues of social justice, diversity, inequality, and draws from Urban Studies, among other topics.”
2. Curriculum based on the American Sociological Association’s *The Sociology Major in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education*.
3. Productive culture that includes collegiality among faculty and students, strong collaboration and support among tenure-track faculty, and “deep commitment, caring, and thoughtfulness” in the student learning experience.
4. Faculty are excellent researchers and the department’s research profile matches the productivity of many R1 institutions.
5. Excellent and caring administrator and adviser.
6. Program has undertaken “serious” program assessment and made changes to its curriculum based on “extensive data collection and analysis.”

Identified Issues:

1. Lack of space for offices, classrooms, and research
2. Research support is limited
3. Ratio of majors-to-fulltime faculty is higher than at most Sociology departments
4. Undergraduate students were not confident about their academic skills and they were unsure of how they compared to graduates of other institutions (possible cultural capital issue)

Recommendations:

Recommendation	Strengths Leveraged/Issues Addressed	Notes	Responsible Party	Actions Taken
1. Provision of space for department faculty offices and communal space for events	Issue 1	Specific items were outlined	Dean Program	
2. Support from the Upper Administration concerning funding deadlines, non-tax levy startup funds for faculty who intend to write books, etc.	Issue 2	Specific items were outlined	Provost Dean Program	

3. Hire new faculty with research interests in Latino/a/x communities, race/ethnicity, and/or immigration	Issue 3		Provost Dean Program	
4. Create Honors options, interdisciplinary courses and minors, and other supplementary supports within the Major	Opportunity to enhance quality, Issue 4	Specific items were outlined	Dean Program	
5. Create and expand internship and other experiential learning options	Opportunity to enhance quality, Issue 4	Specific items were outlined	Dean Program	
6. Enrich community for students, and part-time and full-time faculty e.g., through resources for colloquia with in-house and outside speakers of interest to faculty and students	Opportunity to enhance quality, Issue 4	Specific items were outlined	Program	