

# Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

## B.A./B.S.

### *Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

#### **Institutional Mission Reference**

The Department of Sociology/Criminal Justice offers undergraduate degrees in Sociology (with emphases in Anthropology, Welfare and General Sociology) and Criminal Justice. Our primary goal is to offer quality instruction and career preparation to our diverse student body. To that end we rotate our courses through all time frames (including Weekend College), and we offer our Criminal Justice degree on Teletechnet.

#### **Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

: The Department's B.A. and B.S. Programs support the University goals of (a) quality undergraduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of new knowledge, (d) lifelong learning, and (e) distance education. (See pages 3-4 of the 2000-2002 Old Dominion University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan.) The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice B.A. and B.S. Programs also supports Strategic Initiatives 1 (High Quality, Distinctive Undergraduate Programs) and Strategic Initiative 5 (Distance Education). (See the Old Dominion University Strategic Plan.)

### *Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results*

#### **Intended Outcome 1**

Students will be prepared to seek employment in areas related to their undergraduate degree program.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** Alumni surveys to determine the number of students finding employment related to their undergraduate education and the role of their undergraduate courses and curriculum in meeting this goal.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** Alumni Surveys indicate that approximately 60 percent of our criminal justice graduates find employment in areas related to their undergraduate degree. Alumni CDRom has been ordered to further evaluate this issue.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program:** Continue to implement academic and "applied" courses in curricula.

#### **Intended Outcome 2**

Students will communicate effectively in writing.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students (including Weekend College and TELETECHNET students) will earn scores of Satisfactory or higher on senior capstone projects (as judged by a team of three faculty), and 85% will earn scores of Good or Excellent. (Comparisons will be made among traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students, and TELETECHNET students.) Every third year an external reviewer will participate in the scoring of the capstone projects.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:** Student projects have exceeded our expectations in creativity, content and quality. Working with students on projects is universally a pleasant task and a humorous study in interpersonal relations. The only problems we have had are the harsh judgement of students on each other. The quality of the projects remain high. About half the projects use existing data, gathered from the Bureau of Justice Statistics consortium, the FBI or by writing faculty at other institution and asking for permission to have access to their data. The remaining projects collected primary data for their projects. All who collected primary data had to have their projects approved by the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. Because the course is taught on Teletechnet we have a videotape record of all of these projects (some are now appearing on CD format as MS

Powerpoint presentations. I am in the process of trying to find someone with who we can exchange external review services or funding to pay for external review services. We will use the videotaped/CD/DVD versions to send out for external review.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success** All students will pass the Exit Exam of Writing Proficiency, and 85% will pass on the first attempt. (Comparisons will be made between traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students, and TELETECHNET students.)

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2:** Data on first attempt pass rates are not currently available from the writing center.

### **Intended Outcome 3**

Students will give clear and effective oral presentations.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** All students will earn scores of Satisfactory or higher on capstone oral presentations, and 85% will earn scores of Good or Excellent (as biannually judged by a team of three faculty from videotaped capstone oral presentations). (Comparisons will be made among traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students, and TELETECHNET students.)

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** Students are required to submit videotapes of their presentations in many classes and they are "reviewed" by faculty for presentation skills. This includes the correct and appropriate use of language and the presentation of self. Many faculty have made these presentations formal "dress up" events where we often do not recognize our students!! This year we had several faculty provide food and have attempted to make the presentations an "event".

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program:** Continue to modify and fine tune Capstone courses to meet assessment goals.

### **Intended Outcome 4**

Students will use computers effectively to present information.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** All students will use computers to analyze data and present computer graphics (e.g., PowerPoint) in conjunction with the capstone oral presentation; 90% will earn a score of Good or Excellent on the Graphics sub-score of the capstone oral presentation. (Comparisons will be made among traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students, and TELETECHNET students.)

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:** Teletechnet Students must complete approximately 60 percent of the assignments in the Berk and Carey book "Data Analysis Using Microsoft Excel". And all of the graphs, charts, and analysis of their project data is done using Microsoft Excel. On campus classes may use SPSS, SAS or Excel depending upon the faculty member. Currently 100 percent of the Teletechnet projects are presented using Microsoft Power Point. The students have learned to use these various software packages and their performance has been astounding. Virtually all of the communication with faculty and between group members in the Teletechnet classes is done via email. In the current Teletechnet Capstone class I have students in one group who are in Arizona, Virginia, Washington and on shipboard. They communicate with each other several times a day and copy me with all of their emails that are project related.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 4 to Improve Academic Program:** Continue to integrate the latest technology into courses so that students graduate with minimum competency in hardware and software applicable in their professions.

**Intended Outcome 5**

Students will use research methods and designs to effectively test hypotheses and draw conclusions in their Capstone projects.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** All students will earn scores of Satisfactory or higher on the Research Methods and Conclusions sub-scores of the senior capstone project; 85% will earn scores of Good or Excellent. (Comparisons will be made among traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students, and TELETECHNET students.)

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5:** Student use of research methods has been excellent. They regularly make use of the SOC337 Research Methods course that is on line. The use this course, slides and lectures as their consultant.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 5 to Improve Academic Program:** Continue to monitor projects for quality and use of latest technology.

**Intended Outcome 6**

Students who set goals of proceeding to graduate programs in sociology, criminal justice or law will be successful in gaining admission and in graduating from these programs.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success:** Student aggregate scores on LSATs, and GREs; comparison with national norms.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 6:** Request that students send copies of their scores to the department for analysis and comparison to national norms. ETS and LSAT have provided national norms but do not provide institutional averages.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success:** Proportion of those gaining admission to programs and graduating.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 6:** Waiting for arrival of Alumni CDROM that will allow complete analysis of these questions. CDROM should have arrived in May but has not yet appeared. Students in Grad School four persons in Wake Forest Law school.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success:** Alumni survey querying students' impressions of the adequacy of their preparation for these advanced educational programs.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 6 to Improve Academic Program:** Review courses, and curricula periodically by comparing them to national norms and by providing external review from other institutions.

**Intended Outcome 7**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major theories, research methodology, and empirical findings in Sociology and/or Criminal Justice.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 7 and Criterion for Success:** It is the Capstone Project that provides the best opportunity for students to demonstrate these skills and knowledge. Evaluation of Capstone projects will be completed by a group of faculty. Capstone projects are presented via videotape, CDROMs, and live presentations. We would be pleased to submit the projects for external review if we can find someone to take the burden of the volume of students we have completing these projects.

**Intended Outcome 8**

: Students' experience with the department, faculty, curriculum, advising, internship program, and scheduling is satisfactory and meets their expectations.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success:** We currently give students an "expectation questionnaire" when they declare their major and an exit questionnaire when they apply for graduation. The purpose of the exit questionnaire is to determine the students' satisfaction with each of the elements listed above. Student satisfaction levels are tracked annually so that we get a visual picture of student satisfaction with curriculum, faculty, advising, and the internship program.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 8:** Data indicate that students are satisfied and that we have made improvements in a variety of areas of evaluation. Summary analysis package is available from the department chair. Because it is about fifty pages in length it has not been appended to this report.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success:** Students are given opportunities to state what they like/dislike about the department and its programs. They are also given the opportunity to recommend changes that they feel would improve the programs.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 8:** Assessment report available in department.

**Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 8 to Improve Academic Program:** We continue to monitor student satisfaction and attempt to respond to areas of student concern.