

# Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice BA, BS

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## *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 Genral 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 BA and BS Programs support the University goals of (a) quality undergraduate acedemic programs, (b) quality teaching (c) discovery of new knowledge, (d) lifelong learning and (e) distance education. (See pages 3-4 Old Dominion University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan.) The department of Sociology and Criminal Justice BA and BS Programs also support Strategic Initiatives 1. (High Quality, Distinctive Undergraduate Programs) and Strategic Initiative 5 (Distance Education). (See the Old Dominion Univeersity 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 undergraduatge education and the role of their undergraduate courses and curriculum in meeting this goal. Alumni Surveys will be done every six years and the first since the implementation of this plan will be mailed duirng January of of 2004.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** To be collected in January 2004.

### **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:** All grades were examined and the evaluation criteria have been exceeded.

**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 the Teletechnet students).

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2:** All students who graduate from our programs have successfully passed the Exit Exam of Writing. Latest data show that our students are falling below the 85% standard for passing the exam on the first try. We have discussed this at faculty meetings and will address ameliorative steps.

**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 faculty from videotaped capstone oral presentations, CD Presentations or live presentations. Comparisons will be made among the traditional on-campus students, Weekend College students and Teletechnet students.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** Over 95 percent of students earned scores of Good or excellent on their Capstone Presentations, the written, statistical, theoretical and oral presentations. There is no statistically significant difference in the performance of Teletechnet students and on campus students. Weekend College students have not yet entered the distinctive category to date.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success :** All Capstone presentations are viewed by at least three different faculty. Faculty are asked to review the performance of specific presentations. All of the Teletechnet presentations are archived as tapes or CDs and will be submitted for external review every three years on a random basis. The first group will be reviewed this year by faculty from different institutions.

**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 Power Point) in conjunction with the capstone oral presentation, 90% will earn a score of Good or Excellent on 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:** 95% of students earned scores of Good or Excellent in their presentations using computer generated statistics, graphics and presentations. There are no differences between on campus and Teletechnet students in performance. Teletechnet students are more likely than on campus students to submit final projects and a CD Power Point presentation with voice included.

**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:** 95% of students have earned scores of Good or Excellent on their capstone methods. All students who have taken the course to the end have earned satisfactory scores. Each semester there are one to three students who have been divorced by their project groups for non-performance. These persons have had to take the course a second time.

**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. Requests have been made for National norms and departmental norms.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 6:** Proportion of those gaining admission to programs graduating.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success:** Alumni survey querying students impressions of adequacy of their preparation for these advanced educational programs. The definitive answer these issues is very difficult to track. Many alumni go on to graduate programs and do not inform the department of their plans and or graduation dates. Each year above 95% of those who seek recommendations from existing faculty are admitted to the programs they seek and graduate within 4-6 years. As an example we have four graduates who are completing their fourth year at Wake Forrester University Law School.

**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**

Student's 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's 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:** 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 will improve the program.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 8:** Data summary printouts and all student written comments are available in the Department office. We have been tracking these data annually for about two decades. On a five point scale faculty have always earned a mean rating of over four. Students regularly state that the thing they like best about our department are the faculty and they consistently complain that we do not offer enough courses in the right time slots.