

# Degree Program Student Learning Report

Revised June 2017

## Department of Psychology and Sociology

### AA in Social Science

For 2018-2019 Academic Year

#### PART 1

#### Degree Program Mission and Student Learning Outcomes

A. State the school, department and degree program missions.

| University Mission  | School Mission  | Department Mission  | Degree Program Mission  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our mission is to ensure students develop the skills and knowledge required to achieve professional and personal goals in dynamic local and global communities. | The mission of the School of Arts and Sciences is the preparation of students to achieve professional and personal goals in their respective disciplines and to enable their success in dynamic local and global communities. | The mission of the Department of Psychology and Sociology is to assist students in developing knowledge and understanding of social, legal, and psychological issues and to operate effectively in today's legal, social, and culturally diverse community. | The Associates in Arts in Social Science degree is designed for students interested in entry-level jobs in social services. The degree provides a broad introduction to the social sciences disciplines as a core, and then allows the student to select an additional nine hours in psychology or sociology. |

**B. Align each of the program student learning outcomes with the institutional purposes and commitments.**

| University Commitments  | School Purposes   | Department Purposes   | Student Learning Outcomes   |
|---|---|---|---|
| To provide quality associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree opportunities and educational experiences which foster student excellence in oral and written communications, scientific reasoning and critical and creative thinking. | The School will offer innovative degrees, which focus upon developing skills in oral and written communication, critical thinking, creativity, empirical and evidence-based inquiry, experimental investigation and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena and innovative technology. | Foster skills of critical thinking, writing, research, and oral communication and provide traditional and nontraditional students duality associate and baccalaureate degrees.          |   |
| To promote an atmosphere of academic and intellectual freedom and respect for diverse expression in an environment of physical safety that is supportive of teaching and learning.  | The School will educate its majors to think independently and have the knowledge, skills, and vision to work in all types of situations and careers and communicate with all types of people.   | The Department will promote and foster skills to think critically, creatively, and skills to work in social situations as well as the ability to communicate with a diverse population. | Students will demonstrate knowledge about issues related to diverse concepts and explanations about human behavior. |
| To provide a general liberal arts education that supports specialized academic program sand prepares students for lifelong learning and service in a diverse society.   | The School will offer general education courses of high quality and purpose that provide a foundation for life-long learning.   | Serve the University and the community through the provision of quality general education courses which promote lifelong learning and services to a diverse society.                    |   |
| To provide students with a diverse, innovative faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarly pursuits and continuous improvement of programs.  | The School will foster a community of scholars among the faculty and students of the institution.   | Promote a community of scholars among faculty and students through research and scholarly experiences.  |   |
| To provide university-wide student services, activities and resources that complement academic programs.  | The School will offer and promote artistic, scientific, cultural, and public affairs events on the campus and in the region.  |   |   |

| <b>University Commitments</b>   | <b>School Purposes</b>   | <b>Department Purposes</b>   | <b>Student Learning Outcomes</b> |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| To support and strengthen student, faculty and administrative structures that promote shared governance of the institution.   | The School will foster a community of scholars among the faculty and students of the institution.                            |  |                                  |
| To promote and encourage student, faculty, staff and community interaction in a positive academic climate that creates opportunities for cultural, intellectual and personal enrichment for the University and the communities it serves. | The School will offer and promote artistic, scientific, cultural, and public affairs events on the campus and in the region. | Offer and promote student and community interaction to create opportunities for cultural, intellectual, and personal enrichment. |                                  |

## PART 2

### Follow-Up on Proposed Changes Made in Previous Assessment Cycle

Follow up on each instructional/assessment change proposed in Part 5 of the degree program SLR for the preceding year. Any changes the department implemented for this academic year, but which were not specifically proposed in the preceding report, should also be reported here. Indicate whether the proposed change was implemented and comment accordingly. Please note if no changes were either proposed or implemented or this academic year.

| Proposed Change   | Implemented?<br>(Y/N) | Comments  |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Unanimous decision was made to remove the Perspectives course from the rotation and to replace the requirement with Social Psychology beginning spring 2019. The final offering will be in fall 2018. | Y                     | The final Perspectives course was taught in fall 2018.    |
| Omit the satisfaction survey and coordinating SLO.  | Y                     | The satisfaction survey and coordinating SLO was omitted. |

## PART 3

### Response to University Assessment Committee Feedback

The University Assessment Committee provides written feedback on departmental assessment plans through a regular peer review process. This faculty-led oversight is integral to RSU's commitment to the continuous improvement of student learning and institutional effectiveness. UAC recommendations are not compulsory and departments may implement them at their discretion. Respond below to each UAC recommendation from last year's peer review report. Indicate whether the recommendation was implemented and comment accordingly. Please indicate either if the UAC had no recommendations or if the program was not subject to review in the previous cycle.

| Peer Review Feedback  | Implemented<br>(Y/N) | Comment  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>1:</b> You appear to have reduced your 2 SLOs in 2016-17 to just 1 SLO in 2017-18; please clarify. | Y                    | 1: Yes, the SLO #2 (survey) was omitted. The number of AA in SS students is very small and, in the past, not all students have completed this measure. Because of the small number of students (coupled with the low survey completion rate) we do |

|  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>2.</b> Under “proposed change,” you report plans regarding the “Perspectives” course, and under “comments,” you report a decision to remove the course from rotation and replace it. Do you have any further comments or conclusions regarding the outcome (success?) of this change?</p> <p><b>3.</b> Under “proposed change,” you state, “Omit the satisfaction survey . . .,” but under “comments,” you offer no explanation or clarification; please clarify.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Is only one SLO sufficient to collect meaningful data and to draw meaningful conclusions regarding the strengths/weaknesses or overall success of the AA in SS? Please clarify.</p> <p><b>5.</b> The UAC has determined a best practice of analyzing and reporting sample sizes and results (as well as conclusions) by distinguishing between “on-ground,” “online,” and “blended” courses. Do you intend to start distinguishing and analyzing your data, results, and conclusions thus? Peer Review Questions for Psych-Soc 2017-2018 SLRs in light of Reviewing 2016-2017 SLRs 2 of 6 6. Part 4, SLO #1</p> | <p>N</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> | <p>not feel that the survey information would be meaningful to include in terms of program review.</p> <p>2: It is hard to report on the success of this change, as we have such a small number of AA in SS students (N=3). However, anecdotal evidence from professors indicates that Social Psychology appears to be a successful replacement for Perspectives.</p> <p>3: Please see comment addressing feedback (#1).</p> <p>4. Yes, we believe that (once again, due to the very low number of AA in SS students) one SLO is sufficient.</p> <p>5. In the future we will report results “by section”: ground, blended, and online.</p> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 6. Will you please clarify your assessment measure; what are “cumulative course grades”?            | Y | 6. Cumulative course grades refer to the final grades students receive (semester mean). This is explained in the Assessment #1 SLO box. |
| 7. Do you have any further, deeper, or more meaningful conclusion regarding SLO #1? Please clarify. | N | 7. We are unable to provide a “deeper” conclusion regarding SLO #1.   |

**PART 4**  
**Evidence of Student Learning**

Provide evidence of student progress for each of the student learning outcomes associated with the degree program. See the *Appendix* for a detailed description of each component. Note: The table below is for the first program learning outcome. A copy of the table should be inserted below for each additional outcome. SLO numbers should be updated accordingly.

| A.<br>Student Learning Outcome   |   |  |   |   |                          |
|--|---|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| SLO #1: Students will demonstrate knowledge about issues related to diverse concepts and explanations of human behavior. |   |  |   |   |                          |
| A.<br>Assessment Measure   | B.<br>Performance Standard                                  | C.<br>Sampling Method  | D.<br>Sample Size (n)   | E.<br>Results   | F.<br>Standard Met (Y/N) |
| Cumulative course grades refer to the student’s final grade at the end of the semester (mean).                           | 80% of students will meet or exceed an 80% competence level | Degree students in SBS 3033, Perspectives in Human Behavior, and Degree students in PSY 3023, Social Psychology. | <b>Fall 2018</b><br>Perspectives<br>N= 1<br>Total sample size: 15<br><b>Spring 2019</b><br>Social Psychology<br>N= 2<br>Total sample size: 27 | Perspectives: One students exceeded the performance standard.<br><br>Social Psychology: One student fell in the 80% range; one student fell in the 70% range. | N                        |

| <b>A.<br/>Student Learning Outcome</b>  |  |                                   |                                   |                       |                                      |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SLO #1: Students will demonstrate knowledge about issues related to diverse concepts and explanations of human behavior.  |  |                                   |                                   |                       |                                      |
| <b>A.<br/>Assessment<br/>Measure</b>  | <b>B.<br/>Performance<br/>Standard</b> | <b>C.<br/>Sampling<br/>Method</b> | <b>D.<br/>Sample<br/>Size (n)</b> | <b>E.<br/>Results</b> | <b>F.<br/>Standard<br/>Met (Y/N)</b> |
| <b>G.<br/>Conclusions</b>   |  |                                   |                                   |                       |                                      |
| This report focuses on only those students pursuing an AASS major; this small group of students performed well in the class despite not reaching the performance standard. It appears that the overall result of not meeting the standard is, at least partially, due to the very small number of students in the sample. |  |                                   |                                   |                       |                                      |

## PART 5

### Proposed Instructional or Assessment Changes

Learning outcomes assessment can generate actionable evidence of student performance that can be used to improve student success and institutional effectiveness. Knowledge of student strengths and weakness gained through assessment can inform faculty efforts to improving course instruction and program curriculum. Below discuss potential changes the department is considering aimed at improving student learning or the assessment process. These proposals will be revisited in next assessment cycle.

| <b>Proposed Change</b>  | <b>Rationale</b>   |
|---|--|
| We propose reporting exam grades in addition to final grades. | This is still in the same realm in terms of our current assessment measure (grades) but might possibly provide more insight regarding student success. |

| <b>Proposed Change</b>  | <b>Rationale</b>   |
|---|--|
| We propose reporting data by class “type”: online, blended, face to face. | This change would support best practices as per the UAC. |

## **PART 6**

### **Assessment Measures and Faculty Participation**


#### **A. Summary of assessment measures:**

- 1) How many different assessment measures were used? **ONE** measure was used.
- 2) List the direct measures (see appendix): Course grades




3) List the indirect measures (see appendix):

B. Provide the names and signatures of all full time and adjunct faculty who contributed to this report.

| Faculty Name  | Assessment Role                        | Signature   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Sonya Munsell | Report writer                          |  |
| Brian Andrews | Data provider <del>Not Available</del> |   |
| Kevin Woller  | Data provider Not Available            |   |

Reviewed by:

| Titles          | Name         | Signature   | Date      |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-----------|
| Department Head | A. Maresio   |  | 2019 0531 |
| Dean            | Keith Martin |   | 6/10/19   |

## Appendix

### Student Learning Outcome

Student learning outcomes are the observable or measurable results that are expected of a student following a learning experience. Learning outcomes may address knowledge, skills, attitudes, or values that provide evidence that learning has occurred. They can apply to a specific course, a program of study, or an institution. Outcomes should be worded in language that clearly implies a measurable behavior or quality of student work. Outcomes should also include Bloom's action verbs appropriate to the skill level of learning expected of students.

#### Examples:

*Students will be able to apply principles of evidence-based medicine to determine clinical diagnoses and implement acceptable treatment modalities.*

*Students will be able to articulate cultural and socioeconomic differences and the significance of these differences for instructional planning.*

### Assessment Measure

An assessment measure is a tool or instrument used to gather evidence of student progress toward an established learning outcome. Every program learning outcome should have at least one appropriate assessment measure. Learning outcomes are frequently complex, however, and may require multiple measures to accurately assess student performance. Assessment plans should try to incorporate a combination of direct and indirect assessment measures. Direct provide concrete evidence of whether a student has command of a specific subject or content area, can perform a certain task, exhibits a particular skill, demonstrates a certain quality in their work, or holds a particular value. Because direct measures tap into actual student learning, it is often viewed as the preferred measure type. Indirect measures assess opinions or thoughts about the extent of a student's knowledge, skills, or attitudes. They reveal characteristics associated with learning, but they only imply that learning has occurred. Both types of measures can provide useful insight into student learning and experiences in a program. Each also has unique advantages and disadvantages in terms of the type of data and information it can provide. Examples of common direct and indirect measures are listed below.

#### Direct Measures

- Comprehensive exams
- Class assignments
- Juried review of performances and exhibitions
- Internship or clinical evaluations
- Portfolio evaluation
- Pre/post exams
- Third-party exams such as field tests, certification exams, or licensure exams
- Senior thesis or capstone projects

#### Indirect Measures

- Graduate exit interviews
- Focus group responses
- Job placement statistics
- Graduate school placement statistics
- Graduation and retention rates
- Student and alumni surveys that assess perceptions of the program
- Employer surveys that assess perceptions of graduates
- Honors and awards earned by students and alumni.