

**Institutional Effectiveness**  
**2020-21**

**Program:** Sociology BS

**College and Department:** College of Arts & Sciences – Department of Sociology and Political Science

**Contact:** Loretta Maxwell

**Mission:** Within the context of the University's mission, the mission of the Department is to provide students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and post-graduate educational possibilities.

The Department of Sociology and Political Science has the primary mission of offering strong academic programs in sociology, criminology and criminal justice, social work and political science. It provides students with a quality liberal arts education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world and a variety of work environments and postgraduate educational possibilities. Students are educated to not only master a diverse body of knowledge but also to think critically, analyze data, and clearly communicate what they know and discover. Recognizing that we live in an increasingly technological and diverse world, we seek to incorporate technological expertise and appreciation of human diversity into our courses. The Department also strives to serve the wider university, the Upper Cumberland region, and the nation through research and public service.

**Program Goals:**

- PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan (Strategic Goal Two: Tactics [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)) .
- PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)s**

- SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school. (See Strategic Plan Education for Life/ Tactics B ii: "...promote analytical thinking and problem solving in every discipline." [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic))
- SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their concentration by their senior year.

A departmentally developed curriculum map can be found in Appendix 1 that shows the connections between courses and student learning outcomes.

**Assessment Methods:**

- PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan.*
1. The Program will monitor enrollment and graduation rates.

2. The Program is dedicated to remaining involved in recruitment initiatives including TTU Fall Preview Day and Spring Showcase during which we give out TTU “swag” to prospective students.

*PG 2: Students will judge that a sufficient number of curricular and co-curricular activities were offered by the program as reported by our students.*

1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.
2. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness: Completed by student majors
3. Co-Curricular Options (“Expand and improve academic and co-curricular programs to enhance global understanding, experience, and education” [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)):

*SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.*

1. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech University. Sociology majors will score within 10% of the TTU average on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).
2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam measures Core Sociology Knowledge and Critical Thinking.
3. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

*SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their concentration by their senior year.*

1. Students in the Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology course will demonstrate improvement in the post-test score mean from the pre-test mean.
2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination is administered each fall and spring semester to all enrolled majors with senior classification. The ETS exam measures Core Sociology Knowledge and Critical Thinking.
3. SOC-SW Internship Evaluation 2020: (Appendix 4)
4. SOC-CRCJ Exit Exam: (Revised for 2020).
5. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey.

**Results:**

PG 1: The Program of Sociology will recruit a sufficient number of students to sustain a strong educational program and promote lifelong learning in support of the strategic plan (Strategic Goal Two: Tactics [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)) .

1. The Program will monitor enrollment and graduation rates:

Enrollment By Year	SOC General Track Majors	SOC-CRCJ Majors	SOC-SW Majors	Total Majors
2020	20	144	70	234
2019	18	142	70	230
2018	35	132	73	240
2017	57	100	87	244
2016	50	112	92	254

Graduation: Fall 2014 cohort: 40% graduated within 6 years from Tennessee Tech in 2020.

**Threshold of Acceptability:** The enrollment threshold for Sociology is 215 students; if our number of majors fall below that threshold we will increase our recruitment initiatives.

PG 2: *Majors in Sociology will have sufficient curricular and co-curricular options.*

1. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey (Full results in Appendix 2).

**Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=56)** **2019-2020 SOC Major Survey**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of sociology.	1 1.79%	0 0%	0 0%	7 12.5%	19 33.93%	29 51.79%
The courses have been intellectually stimulating.	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 1.79%	7 12.50%	21 37.50%	27 48.21%
The courses have been academically rigorous.	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 3.57%	13 23.21%	26 46.43%	15 26.79%
The courses have utilized a variety of teaching methods to enhance my learning	0 0.0%	4 7.14%	4 7.14%	11 19.64%	17 30.36%	20 35.71%

2. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness: Completed by student majors, the full table provided in Appendix 3. Student evaluation of both required courses and criminal justice courses indicates strong student support that courses provide proficiency in the program

concentration knowledge, critical thinking, and the development of oral and written communication.

3. Co-Curricular Options (“Expand and improve academic and co-curricular programs to enhance global understanding, experience, and education” [www.tntech.edu/strategic](http://www.tntech.edu/strategic)):

- 1) Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society
- 2) Women and Gender Studies Course Options
- 3) Sociology/CJ Club
- 4) Sociology Social Work Credit-Based Clinical Internships with Community Partners
- 5) QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Grant-Based Active Learning Classes
- 6) One World
- 7) Conference travel with faculty
- 8) Publications with faculty
- 9) Working as a Teaching Assistant
- 10) Criminology/Criminal Justice Guest Speakers and Field Trips

**Threshold of Acceptability:**

1. Any question where the combined level of agreement is below 50% will initiate action by the program.
2. Any course where the combined level of agreement is below 50% will initiate action by the program.

*SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.*

1. Sociology majors will score within 10% of TTU’s mean on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).

2020 CCTST Scores	Mean	N
SOC	71	16
TTU	74.4	1445
TTU CAS	74.5	105
CCTST National	74	n/a

2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination

ETS Sub-Score: Critical Thinking

	Fall 2019		Spring 2020		Fall 2020		Spring 2021	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
TTU Data	42.4	9.84	42.8	9.73	39.0	9.00	42.0	8.00
National Data	47.5	11.9	47.5	11.9	47.5	11.9	47.5	11.9

3. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey (Full results in Appendix 2).

**Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=56) 2019-2020 SOC Major Survey**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum has improved my ability to think critically.	1 1.79%	0 0%	1 1.79%	6 10.71%	19 33.93%	29 51.79%
The sociology curriculum is preparing me well for graduate school.	1 1.79%	2 3.57%	2 3.57%	14 25.00%	21 37.50%	16 28.57%

**Threshold of Acceptability:**

1. SOC majors are expected to score within 10% of the TTU CCTST average. Scores below a 10% deviation from the TTU CCTST average will constitute an immediate action by the program.
2. Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the ETS Major Field Examination is defined as Tech students having a mean score no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level.
3. Any question where the combined level of agreement is below 50% will initiate action by the program.

*SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their concentration by their senior year.*

1. Students in the Sociology 1010: Introduction to Sociology course will demonstrate improvement in the post-test score mean from the pre-test mean.

Pre-Test N	2020 SOC 1010 Pre-Test Class Average	2020 SOC 1010 Post-Test Class Average	Post-Test N
143	70.62	97.23	71
143 (Sections combined)	70.62	96.18	72
25	71	91.43	25
25	67.86	87.05	16
24	76.34	90.6	24
25	75.43	90.53	23
29	72.66	87.37	28
167	71.67	93.26	168
50	70.31	89.36	48
24	72.7	85.25	23
51	73.56	91.61	43

2. Educational Testing Services (ETS) major field examination

ETS: Sociology Knowledge

	Fall 2019		Spring 2020		Fall 2020		Spring 2021	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
TTU Data	142.6	11.9	142.9	9.7	143.0	10.0	140.0	9.0
National Data	148.1	12.3	148.1	12.4	148.1	12.4	148.1	12.4

3. SOC-SW Internship Evaluation 2020

Term	Number Enrolled	Number of Outstanding or Good
Spring 2021	16	16
Fall 2020	11	10

4. SOC-CRCJ Exit Exam: (Revised for 2020).

SOC-CRCJ Exam Year	Mean	N
2020	70.5	10
2019	74.3	-
2018	77.7	-

5. Departmentally-designed Qualtrics student satisfaction survey (Full results in Appendix 2).

**Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=56) 2019-2020 SOC Major Survey**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of sociology.	1 1.79%	0 0%	0 0%	7 12.5%	19 33.93%	29 51.79%

**Threshold of Acceptability:**

1. Failure to achieve gains in the SOC 1010 course post-test would require a meeting with the Instructor to see if the General Education content is being taught.
2. Performance at a level above or comparable to the national mean on the ETS Major Field Examination is defined as Tech students having a mean score no lower than 1.644 standard errors below the national mean, the level at which a difference would become statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

3. SOC-SW Internships: 80% should receive an Outstanding or Good Evaluation. The Internship Coordinator will remove the Intern if they are not performing at this level.
4. SOC-CRCJ: the cohort should average 50% or higher on the Exit Exam.
5. Any question where the combined level of agreement is below 50% will initiate action by the program.

**Modifications for Improvement:**

SOC faculty met in 2020 to revise the program's Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Methods. More specifically, the faculty seek to reflect our program's rigor in three key areas as further discussed below:

1. Faculty seek to emphasize student critical thinking gains through use of the California Critical Thinking Test as a component of SLO 1 (see below). Specifically, students must score 90% of TTU's mean score on the CCTST.
2. Faculty seek to reflect student gains in their concentrations, as reflected in SLO 2 (See below). Thus, in both Sociology and Political Science, faculty asked Tennessee Tech's Office of the Provost to partner with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) in requesting permission to incorporate a pilot Local Field Test to accompany the ETS Major Field Tests in Sociology- Criminology Criminal Justice and Political Science- Legal Studies, respectively. We have begun developing these tests in a pre-Pilot. It is expected that the student cohorts will pass these tests each semester with a 75% passage rate. In the concentration of Sociology -Social Work, all students must complete an ePortfolio. The ePortfolio is assessed by a rubric designed by Tenured Senior Instructor Shelley Brown and is now a featured component of the TTU Strategic Plan. More specifically, it is featured under Strategic Goal One: Education For Life; Priority Action A: "Incorporate multiple experiential learning opportunities in all undergraduate programs." <https://www.tntech.edu/strategic>. The overall evaluations of the interns reflect their evaluations by the placement agency and their ePortfolio assessments combined.
3. Faculty seek to reflect the required methodological rigor of both Sociology and Political Science as both programs require a minimum of three statistics courses. As a result, both programs now require all students to pass at the 80% rate the CITI Research Ethics Training and CITI PI/Co-PI Research Ethics Training Certification in coordination with the Office of Research (See SLO 2 below).

*SLO 1: Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.*

The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) was added as a new measure of critical thinking. The CCTST is a senior exit exam taken by all graduate seniors at Tennessee Tech University. Sociology expects program scores to be above a 90% threshold in comparison to the TTU institutional score with the goal of 100%.

*SLO 2: Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their concentration by their senior year.*

SOC faculty met in 2020 and decided to begin requiring in 2021 of all student majors (in partnership with the Office of Research):

1. CITI Research Ethics Training: Responsible Conduct in Research Module for Social/Behavioral Researchers for Undergraduates.
2. CITI PI/Co-PI Research Ethics Training.

CITI Research Ethics Training and CITI PI/Co-PI Training: SOC Majors are required to pass at 80% or higher and receive Certification. They may re-take the test until they achieve this score.

### **Appendices**

1. Curriculum Map
2. SOC Major Survey
3. Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness
4. SOC Internship Evaluation Form



**Appendix 1: Curriculum Map**

REQUIRED COURSES AND EXPERIENCES	LEARNING OUTCOMES - Sociology Majors	
	1-Students will acquire the critical thinking skills to be prepared for employment and graduate/law school.	2-Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of their concentration by their senior year.
SOC 1010		X
SOC 1020		
SOC 1650		
SW 1800		
SOC 2100		
SOC2630		
SOC/CJ 2660		
CJ 2700		
SOC 2840		
CJ 2850		
CJ 3000	X	
SOC 3100	X	X
SOC 3150	X	
SOC 3200	X	
SOC 3300	X	
SOC 3600	X	
CJ 3610	X	X
SOC/CJ 3620	X	
SOC/CJ 3640	X	
SOC/CJ 3650	X	X
SOC 3710	X	
SOC 3720	X	
SOC 3730	X	

SOC/SW 3900	X	X
SOC 3910	X	X
SOC/CJ 3911	X	
SOC 3920	X	
SOC/CJ 4010	X	
SOC/CJ 4040	X	
SOC/CJ 4050	X	
SOC 4080	X	
SOC 4090	X	
SW/CJ 4100	X	X
SOC 4120	X	
SW/CJ 4120	X	X
SOC 4210	X	
SOC 4220	X	
CJ 4250	X	
SOC 4320	X	
SOC 4330	X	
SOC/CJ 4350	X	
SOC 4430	X	
SOC 4500	X	
SOC 4510	X	
SOC/CJ 4515	X	
SOC/CJ 4520	X	
SOC/CJ 4530	X	
CJ 4540	X	
SOC 4610	X	
SOC/CJ 4660	X	X
CJ 4700	X	
SOC 4810	X	

SOC 4830	X	
SOC 4860	X	
SOC/CJ/SW 4900	X	X
SOC/CJ 4911	X	
SOC/CJ 4915	X	
SOC 4920	X	X
SOC/CJ 4925	X	
SOC 4930	X	X
SOC/CJ/SW 4940		
SOC/CJ 4948		
SOC/CJ/SW 4950		
SOC/CJ/SW 4970	X	
SOC/CJ/SW 4980	X	
SOC/CJ/SW 4990	X	
SOC 4999	X	

## Appendix 2: SOC Major Survey

**Thinking about the entire sociology curriculum, please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements: (N=56)**

	<b>2019-2020 SOC Major Survey</b>					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The sociology curriculum exposes me to a broad range of content in the field of sociology.	1 1.79%	0 0%	0 0%	7 12.5%	19 33.93%	29 51.79%
The sociology curriculum has improved my ability to think critically.	1 1.79%	0 0%	1 1.79%	6 10.71%	19 33.93%	29 51.79%
The sociology curriculum has improved my oral and written skills.	1 1.79%	2 3.57%	4 7.14%	12 21.43%	18 32.14%	19 33.93%
The sociology curriculum is preparing me well for graduate school.	1 1.79%	2 3.57%	2 3.57%	14 25.00%	21 37.50%	16 28.57%
The courses have been intellectually stimulating.	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 1.79%	7 12.50%	21 37.50%	27 48.21%
The courses have been academically rigorous.	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 3.57%	13 23.21%	26 46.43%	15 26.79%
The courses have utilized a variety of teaching methods to enhance my learning	0 0.0%	4 7.14%	4 7.14%	11 19.64%	17 30.36%	20 35.71%

### Appendix 3: Student Assessment of Curricular Effectiveness

#### SOCIOLOGY MAJOR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS Curriculum Analysis

Sociology Courses Listed Below:

		Is Learning Outcome Goal Met?								
		Learning Outcome Goal 1			Learning Outcome Goal 2			Learning Outcome Goal 3		
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	
SOC 1010	Introduction to Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 1020	An Orientation to Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 1650	Social Problems	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 2100	Cultural Ecology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 2110	Social Class and Inequality in America	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 2630	Marriage and Family Relations	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 2660	Criminology	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 2840	The Aged in American Society	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3100	Sociological Theory	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3150	Social Psychology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3200	Sociology of Sex and Gender	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3300	Occupational Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3550	Applied Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3600	Environmental Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3620	Victimology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3640	Cybercrime	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3650	Juvenile Delinquency	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3710	Urban Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3720	Rural Sociology	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3730	Technology and Society	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3900	Introduction to Social Research	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 3910	Social Science Statistical Analysis	✓			✓				✓	
SOC 3911	Introduction to Crime Analysis	✓		✓				✓		
SOC 3920	Sociological Applications Using SPSS	✓			✓			✓		
SOC 4010	Organized Crime	✓		✓				✓		

SOC 4040	Law and Culture	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4050	Crime and Media	✓		✓	✓	✓	
SOC 4080	Sociology of Appalachia	✓		✓		✓	
	Cross Cultural Communications and Cultural Diversity	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4090	Cultural Diversity	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4120	Sociology of Death and Dying	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4120	Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4220	Sociology of Mass Communication	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4320	Sociology of Religion	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4330	Population and Social Process	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4430	People in Organizations	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4500	Sociology of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4510	Social Deviance	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4515	Sexual Offenses and Offenders	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4520	Domestic Violence	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4530	Sociology of Murder	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4610	Contemporary American Family	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4660	Corrections	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4810	Concepts of Gerontology	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4830	Medical Sociology	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4860	Social Movements and Social Change	✓		✓		✓	
	Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4911	Social Sciences	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4920	Data Analysis and Management	✓		✓		✓	
SOC 4930	Field Research Methods	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Criminal Justice Courses Listed Below:							
CJ 2660	Criminology	✓		✓	✓	✓	
CJ 2700	Introduction of Law Enforcement	✓		✓	✓	✓	
CJ 2850	Criminal Law and Procedure	✓		✓		✓	
CJ 3000	Rules of Evidence	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

CJ 3500 Wildlife Law Enforcement  
 CJ 3610 Advanced Criminal Procedure  
 CJ 3620 Victimology  
 CJ 3640 Cybercrime  
 CJ 3650 Juvenile Delinquency  
 CJ 3911 Introduction to Crime Analysis  
 CJ 4010 Organized Crime  
 CJ 4040 Law and Culture  
 CJ 4050 Crime and Medica  
 CJ 4100 Probation and Parole  
 CJ 4120 Case Management  
 CJ 4250 Drugs and Behavioral Pharmacology  
 CJ 4515 Sexual Offenses and Offenders  
 CJ 4520 Patterns of Domestic Violence  
 CJ 4530 Sociology of Murder  
 CJ 4540 Women and Crime  
 CJ 4660 Corrections  
 CJ 4911 Geographic Information Applications in the Social Sciences

	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓	✓	✓
	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
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	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
	✓			✓		✓
		✓		✓		✓

## Appendix 4: SOC Internship Evaluation Form

# TTU SOC Internship Evaluation Form

*Please remember that this is a learning experience for the student. Evaluation should reflect the quality of their work at your agency and also include areas needed for improvement. This evaluation is worth 50 points (½ of student final grade)*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person evaluating student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Organization/Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

### EVALUATION OF STUDENT - STUDENT WILL EARN 8 POINTS FOR EACH YES IN THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE GRADE

Student was punctual in arriving for assignment?

No     Yes    Explain:

Student was dependable in carrying out assignments and demonstrated professionalism at all times?

No     Yes    Explain:

Student was courteous and respectful to staff and clients?

No     Yes    Explain:

Student was inquisitive and showed initiative.

No     Yes    Explain:

Student seemed genuinely interested in learning?

No     Yes    Explain:

### OVERALL PERFORMANCE - STUDENT WILL EARN UP TO 10 POINTS FOR THIS QUESTION TO DETERMINE GRADE

Please rate the student on his or her overall performance. Circle one:

(10) Excellent    (8) Good    (6) Average    (4) Below Average    (2) Poor

Comments:

### OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

Is there anything additional you would like to tell me about this student? ( you may use additional pages if needed)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Updated 12/10/19