

**Assurance of Student Learning
2019-2020**

Potter College of Arts and Letters

Department of Sociology and Criminology

Criminology, AB, 627

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Use this page to list learning outcomes, measurements, and summarize results for your program. Detailed information must be completed in the subsequent pages.

Student Learning Outcome 1: Undergraduates completing the B.A. will define general criminological concepts and describe processes within the American Criminal Justice system.

Instrument 1 Direct: Scores on the “general” section of the Senior Seminar exam.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 2: Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative techniques used to analyze the social problem of crime.

Instrument 1 Direct: Scores on the “Social Statistics” section of the Senior Seminar exam.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 3: Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of research methodologies used by criminologists to examine the complexities of the social problem of crime.

Instrument 1 Direct: Scores on the “Research Methods” section of the Senior Seminar exam.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 4: Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of criminological theories used to explain the social problem of crime.

Instrument 1 Direct: Scores on the “Criminological Theory” section of the Senior Seminar exam.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.

Met

Not Met

Program Summary (Briefly summarize the action and follow up items from your detailed responses on subsequent pages.)

Overall, the results from this assessment indicate that some aspects of our program are performing well while other areas need additional development. The following recommendations came out of this year's assessment:

- Examination of student learning outcomes (SLOs) for the core courses and program:
 - Are the SLOs across multiple instructors consistent? While consistent, is there a need to update some SLOs?
 - Are the SLOs measurable?
 - Is there alignment between the SLOs, course materials, and performance measures?
 - Are the performance measures well formulated?
 - After engaging in this curriculum mapping, determine which course SLOs best measure overall program success.
- Program changes:
 - Selecting one SLO from each core course, explore the potential for changing some the SLOs for the program to reflect learning beyond “basic demonstration.”
 - Explore the option of changing the capstone course to one which further develops, while still assessing, skills begun in core courses.

The above work began in Feb 2020 and continues. It has led to the identification of an Assessment Committee, chaired by Dr. Molly Kerby working with Dr. Doug Smith, Dr. Carrie Trojan, and Dr. Pavel Vasliev. This committee is operational as of Fall 2020

A thoughtful and sustainable Assessment plan is a primary goal for the department during the 20/21 academic year.

Student Learning Outcome 1

Student Learning Outcome	Undergraduates completing the B.A. will define general criminological concepts and describe processes within the American Criminal Justice system.		
Measurement Instrument 1	<p>DIRECT measure of student learning: Students complete a 1 hour senior seminar, CRIM 499, after completing all core courses (i.e., CRIM 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice; SOCL 300: Social Statistics; SOCL 302: Strategies of Research Methods; CRIM 330: Criminology). At the start of the senior seminar, they are provided a study guide and instructed to prepare for an exit exam which covers each of the four core areas. The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four areas. The questions for this SLO cover material learned in the boldfaced course.</p> <p>In short, the exit exam includes 25 questions which assess students' understanding of general criminological concepts.</p>		
Criteria for Student Success	Success is defined as a score of 80% or higher.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	Average score 80% or above; 80% of students score 80% or above	Percent of Program Achieving Target	Benchmark: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2019, the average score for this assessment was 80% and in spring 2020 it was an 88%. In Fall 2019, 60% of students scored 80% or better while in spring 2020 87.8% of students did so.
Methods	Direct: Score on a multiple choice exam which included 25 questions (randomly distributed among 100 total) which assessed understanding of general criminological concepts and processes within the American Criminal Justice system.		
Based on your results, highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.		Met	Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
<p>While we intend to examine the extent to which SLOs from CRIM 101 contribute to the SLOs of the program, and in that process determine whether:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The course SLOs across multiple instructors are consistent. There a need to update some SLOs. The SLOs are measurable. There alignment between the SLOs, course materials, and performance measures. The performance measures are well formulated. <p>We are also generally pleased with the results from this portion of the program and do not intend to modify the metric by which it is assessed.</p>			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
We are working on curriculum mapping during AY 2020/2021 and will implement changes to core courses and program assessment in the 2021/22 AY.			
Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)			
We assess this program component each semester, and will continue to do so until the work of this year's Assessment Committee suggests we change the style or frequency of such an assessment.			

Student Learning Outcome 2

Student Learning Outcome	Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative techniques used to analyze
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	the social problem of crime.		
Measurement Instrument 1	<p>DIRECT measure of student learning: Students complete a 1 hour senior seminar, CRIM 499, after completing all core courses (i.e., CRIM 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice; SOCL 300: Social Statistics; SOCL 302: Strategies of Research Methods; CRIM 330: Criminology). At the start of the senior seminar, they are provided a study guide and instructed to prepare for an exit exam which covers each of the four core areas. The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four areas. The questions for this SLO cover material learned in the boldfaced course.</p> <p>In short, the exit exam includes 25 questions which assess students' understanding of quantitative techniques used to analyze the social problem of crime. .</p>		
Criteria for Student Success	Success is defined as a score of 70% or higher .		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	Average score 70% or above; 70% of students score 70% or above	Percent of Program Achieving Target	Below Benchmark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2019, 17% scored a 70 or better and in Spring 2020, 46% a scored 70 or better. In Fall 2019, the average score for this assessment was 52% and in spring 2020 it was a 64%. No remarkable change from 2018-2019 assessment.
Methods	Direct: Score on a multiple choice exam which included 25 questions (randomly distributed among 100 total) which assessed understanding of quantitative techniques used to analyze the social problem of crime.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.		Met	Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
<p>To start we examined the extent to which (SLOs) for the SOCL 300 contribute to the SLOs of the program, and in that process determine whether:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The course SLOs across multiple instructors are consistent. There a need to update some SLOs. The SLOs are measurable. There alignment between the SLOs, course materials, and performance measures. The performance measures are well formulated. <p>We also intend to explore the option of modifying the senior seminar to further develop, while still assessing, skills begun in the SOCL 300 course.</p>			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
<p>We actually began a thorough examination of the effectiveness of SOCL 300 in Fall 2019. The three current faculty who offer SOCL 300 prepared a proposal to create a 1 hour statistics lab which would be required for all SOCL/CRIM majors. Unfortunately, the following challenges forced us to table the proposal for now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fact that our SOCL 300 course is taken by multiple majors (from Fall 2016-Spring 2016, only 40% of enrolled students were SOCL majors or minors or CRIM majors—all internal departmental programs which require the course). As such, it was difficult to imagine requiring an experience we believe beneficial to only a portion of students enrolled in the lecture course, especially as the lecture and lab would best deliever as a fluid/concurrent discussion. It was impossible to work out staffing details as both our sociology and criminology programs would be impaired by the drain of faculty resources required to implement up to 3 one-hour statistics labs (the minimum number we estimated based on internal enrollments). 			

However, the course is part of our ongoing curriculum mapping work begun spring of 2020, and the SOCL 300 committee has developed 6 standard SLOs to be used across all SOCL 300 sections. Based on this alignment, there is little doubt that changes will be made to our program assessment in the 2020/21 AY.

Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)

We assess this program component each semester, and will continue to do so until the work of this year's Assessment Committee suggests we change the style or frequency of such an assessment.

Student Learning Outcome 3

Student Learning Outcome Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of research methodologies used by criminologists to examine the complexities of the social problem of crime.

Measurement Instrument 1 DIRECT measure of student learning: Students complete a 1 hour senior seminar, CRIM 499, after completing all core courses (i.e., **CRIM 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice** ; SOCL 300: Social Statistics; **SOCL 302: Strategies of Research Methods**; CRIM 330: Criminology). At the start of the senior seminar, they are provided a study guide and instructed to prepare for an exit exam which covers each of the four core areas. The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four areas. The questions for this SLO cover material learned in the boldfaced course.

In short, the exit exam includes 25 questions which assess students' understanding of **research methods used by criminologists to examine the complexities of the social problem of crime.**

Criteria for Student Success Success is defined as a score of 70% or higher

Program Success Target for this Measurement	Average score 70% or above; 70% of students score 70% or above	Percent of Program Achieving Target	Below Benchmark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2019, 66% of students scored 70% or better. In Spring of 2020 73% scored 70% or better. In Fall 2019, the average score for this assessment was 67% and in spring 2020 it was a 72%. Considerable improvement on % scoring 70% or better from 2018/2019 (55% & 49% scored 70% or better during 2018-2019)
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Methods Direct: Score on a multiple choice exam which included 25 questions (randomly distributed among 100 total) assessing understanding of research methods used by sociologists to examine the complexities of social life and social problems.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.	Met	Not Met But much closer in comparison to previous year
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Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)

- To start we examined the extent to which (SLOs) for the SOCL 302 contribute to the SLOs of the program, and in that process determine whether:
- The course SLOs across multiple instructors are consistent.
 - There a need to update some SLOs.
 - The SLOs are measurable.
 - There alignment between the SLOs, course materials, and performance measures.
 - The performance measures are well formulated.

We also intend to explore the option of modifying the senior seminar to further develop, while still assessing, skills begun in the SOCL 302 course.

Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)

The three faculty who offer SOCL 302 have begun a thorough examination of the purpose, consistency, and effectiveness of SOCL 302 visa vie discussions of a Data Literacy certificate within PCAL.

Internally, this course is both necessary and ideal for the curriculum mapping work which began during the spring of 2020 when the SOCL 302 committee established 4 common SLOs to be used across all SOCL 302 sections. Based on their work, and the work accomplished by the Departmental Assessment Committee during AY 20/21, there is little doubt that we will implement changes to our program assessment in subsequent years.

Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)

We assess this program component each semester, and will continue to do so until the work of this year's Assessment Committee suggests we change the style or frequency of such an assessment.

Student Learning Outcome 4

Student Learning Outcome **Undergraduates completing the B.A. will demonstrate knowledge of criminological theories used to explain the social problem of crime.**

Measurement Instrument 1 DIRECT measure of student learning: Students complete a 1 hour senior seminar, CRIM 499, after completing all core courses (i.e CRIM 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice; SOCL 300: Social Statistics; SOCL 302: Strategies of Research Methods; **CRIM 330: Criminology**). At the start of the senior seminar, they are provided a study guide and instructed to prepare for an exit exam which covers each of the four core areas. The exam is a 100 question multiple choice exam with questions evenly drawn from the four areas. The questions for this SLO cover material learned in the boldfaced course.

In short, the exit exam includes 25 questions which assess students' understanding of **criminological theories used to explain social the social problem of crime.**

Criteria for Student Success Success is defined as a score of 70% or higher

Program Success Target for this Measurement	Average score 70% or above; 70% of students score 70% or above	Percent of Program Achieving Target	Below Benchmark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2019, the average score for this assessment was 66% and in spring 2020 it was a 76%. 54% of students in Fall 2019 and 78% of students in Spring 2020 scored 70% or better.
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Methods Direct: Score on a multiple choice exam which included 25 questions (randomly distributed among 100 total) assessing understanding of criminological theories used to explain the social problem of crime.

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 4.

Met

Not Met

Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)

To start we will examine the extent to which (SLOs) for the CRIM 330 contribute to the SLOs of the program, and in that process determine whether:

1. The course SLOs across multiple instructors are consistent.
2. There a need to update some SLOs.
3. The SLOs are measurable.
4. There alignment between the SLOs, course materials, and performance measures.
5. The performance measures are well formulated.

We also intend to explore the option of modifying the senior seminar to further develop, while still assessing, skills begun in the CRIM 330 course.

Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)

We are working on curriculum mapping during AY 2020/2021 and will implement changes to core courses and program assessment in the 2021/22 AY.

Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)

We assess this program component each semester, and will continue to do so until the work of this year's Assessment Committee suggests we change the style or frequency of such an assessment.