Instructional Annual Program Review and Planning Update Form Fall 2024

## BACKGROUND:

**Program review is an integral part of the campus planning process. As programs and areas monitor their progress on the current comprehensive four-year program review, changes in need and scope can be expected. This Annual PR Update form is designed to outline and request modifications to the current program review that occur between comprehensive four-year review cycles, as needed.**

**Examples of a requested change include new information such as action plans, outcomes modifications, personnel changes, technology needs, and capital expenditures requirements. As programs and areas monitor their progress on the previous comprehensive four-year program review, the form provides the basis to suggest a change in plans and processes to improve student success and institutional effectiveness.**

## SUBMISSION:

**Program:**

Sociology

**Principal Author(s):**

Kelly Nelson-Wright

**Dean:**

Jorge Gamboa

**Submission Date:**

11/27/2024 4:46:47 AM

**Author Signature:**

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| Electronically signed by Kelly Nelson-Wright on 11/26/2024 10:32:42 PM |

**Manager Signature:**

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# Part 1: Review of Data

## Use the data provided by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE)--[available in August 2024](https://fullcolledu-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dberumen_fullcoll_edu/Ejn54PAVVhJLqimOjiLWBBYBPkPdoZEFZxZtScvvyibo6A)--to review your program completion and success rates and compare them to the Institution Set Standards for course completion and success rates. Then, answer these questions:

1. **Where your program meets or exceeds the college-wide standard for completion and success, to what do you attribute your success?**

The completion rate standard for Fullerton College is 74.0%, while the aspirational goal for completion is 86.7%. The success rate standard for the College is 62.0%, while the aspirational goal for this measure is 78.3%. Over the subject period, the completion rate for the Sociology Department was 84.7%, while the success rate was 65%. For both completion and success, the measures for the Department exceed the College's standards. During the subject period, the Department offered a variety of courses:

SOC 101 F Introduction to Sociology

SOC 101HF Honors Introduction to Sociology

SOC 102 F Social Problems

SOC 199 F Sociology Independent Study

SOC 201 F Dying and Death

SOC 230 F Sociology of Gender

SOC 250 F Sociology of Aging

SOC 275 F Marriage and Family

SOC 280 F Media, Culture and Society

SOC 285 F Drugs and Society

SOC 290 F Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

SOC 292 F Introduction to Criminology

SOC 299 F Sociology Independent Study - Advanced

SOSC 120 F Introduction to Probability and Statistics

SOSC 125 F Introduction to Research Methods

Of these 15 courses, 10 courses met or exceeded the college-wide standard for completion and success. This success can be attributed to the commitment of our faculty to help students succeed. All department members have extensive experience in the classroom and have acquired the discipline expertise to provide guidance and support to our diverse student body. Sociology faculty member regularly communicate and strategize to obtain optimal student resources and support on our campus.

Relative to success and retention rates by race/ethnicity, we continue to have work to do to support the efforts of specific groups; for example, Black/African American students have an average success rate of 51.6% in our program and for Native Americans it is even lower (40.0%). Although both groups have significantly higher average program completion rates than success rates (74.6% and 80.0%, respectively), we are still determined to address this issue. As a department we must collaborate and strategize to better support the efforts of marginalized students, as evidenced by the relatively low program success rate for these two racial/ethnic groups. While we are pleased to report the high program success and completion rates for all other racial/ethnic groups, it is our intention to closely analyze the possible reasons for two groups reflecting substantially lower rates, and to work collaboratively with sociology faculty with the goal of finding ways to address and improve these rates.

1. **Where your program does not meet this standard, please examine the possible reasons and note any actions that should be taken, if appropriate.**

While the Department meets or exceeds the college-wide standard for completion and success overall, there are some courses which have not met the designated course standards:

SOC 230 F

Average Success 61.3% (Below Standard)

Average Completion 87.1%

SOC 280 F

Average Success 54.7% (Below Standard)

Average Completion 71.7%

SOC 290 F

Average Success 56.2% (Below Standard)

Average Completion 91.4%

SOSC 120 F

Average Success 38.5% (Below Standard)

Average Completion 76.9% (Below Standard)

SOSC 125 F

Average Success 35.7% (Below Standard)

Average Completion 64.3% (Below Standard)

It is important to note our department’s approach to addressing possible reasons for failing to meet these standards. Each of the aforementioned "Below Standard" findings listed above have been or will be addressed in one of the following ways:

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Communication and collaboration with the instructor regarding strategies for improving course success and retention. For example, throughout the current semester the Department Chair has worked closely with SOSC 120 F instructors to ensure all students have ready access to statistical software and applications, since this was reportedly an issue during the previous semester.

COURSE MODALITY

A change in course delivery modality to improve course success and retention; for example, making a course more available to students via online delivery in addition to on-campus sections of the same class. Many sociology students must avail themselves of online classes due to childcare issues, employment demands, etc., and it our goal and intention to serve the diverse needs of our students via a variety of course modalities. SOC 280 F was previously offered on-campus and is currently being offered online to better serve students and improve course success.

ROTATING TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

While our department respects faculty experience and expertise, we also recognize it is sometimes necessary to take a fresh approach. To achieve this goal, we rotate teaching assignments; for example, SOC 290 F is currently assigned to an instructor who has not taught the class in some time and is excited to have the opportunity to do so. We hope this fresh approach will yield higher success rates for this class.

ENCOURAGING TUTORING

Some of our courses are more theoretically based than students may expect; for example, SOC 230 F, Sociology of Gender. It is the Department's intention to encourage instructors teaching this course to work closely with Hornets Tutoring to ensure students receive the support needed to achieve academic success in this class.

1. **Compare your data analysis in questions 1 and 2 to the review of data in your 2023 Annual Program Review update (available on the** [**Program Review and Planning Committee**](https://committees.fullcoll.edu/program-review/) **website). Are there significant changes? Do you notice any patterns from year to year?**

In the 2023 cycle, the completion and success rates for Sociology courses were 84.7% and 65.0%, respectively. For Social Science courses the average completion rate was 77.1% and the average success rate was 60.9%. We have opted not to combine the outcomes for both "programs" since the reporting of Social Science course data has been inconsistent; for example, while we currently oversee two Social Science courses (SOSC 120 F and SOSC 125 F), other SOSC courses have previously been included in our department data reports. We have discussed this issue with our Office of Institutional Research and anticipate a resolution to this issue moving forward. In the meantime, we are focusing primarily on Sociology course and program data.

In the current cycle, the overall completion rate for the Sociology Department was 88.4%, while the overall success rate was 72.1%. These rates represent improvement in both measures: 3.7% improvement in the completion rate and an impressive 11.2% improvement in the success rate. The Sociology Department completion rate of 88.4% exceeds the College rate of 74% by 14.4 percentage points, and the Department success rate (72.1%) exceeds the College success rate (62.0%) by 10.1 percentage points. Although we are encouraged by our department's high rate of completion, we intend to continue to focus on improving success rates by utilizing methods and strategies such as increasing student access to essential software programs and applications; changes in course modalities; rotating teaching assignments; and ensuring students have access to Hornet Tutoring.

Regarding racial/ethnic group outcomes, our department is pleased by the improvement in our overall completion and success rates when analyzed by racial/ethnic identity; however, we intend to focus on increasing success rates amongst marginalized students, particularly Black/African American and Native American groups. Sociology faculty will collaborate to devise strategies to ensure marginalized students have access to campus resources to continue to improve success and completion rates amongst all students.

# Part 2: Additional Resource Request Reasoning and Support

**We have reviewed our most recent self-study and have not identified any significant changes that necessitate resource requests for the upcoming academic year.**

**We have reviewed our most recent self-study and have identified significant changes that necessitate additional resource requests.**

**For programs that have identified significant changes that necessitate additional resource requests, answer the following questions for each separate resource request:**

1. **Briefly describe your resource request.**

The Sociology Department requests funding for the following:

A.) Materials to allow our department to participate in campus events. We need funding for current pamphlets, brochures, fliers and posters to advertise our program at campus events and whenever possible at various locations on campus.

B.) Materials for sociology students involved in two major campus clubs supported by sociology faculty and for which sociology faculty serve as advisors: the Sociology Club and the S.O.B.E.R. Club. Supporting these clubs requires on-going funding.

1. **Is this request related to an essential safety need?**

No

**Why must this resource request be processed now rather than during the Fall 2025 comprehensive self-study?**

Our department is consistently without funds for the aforementioned needs, and we seek a regular source of funding to meet these needs.

**How will this additional resource allocation specifically enhance your program’s services, activities, processes, etc. to continue or improve student learning and achievement?**

This resource allocation will help attract students to our program and to associated clubs. We need marketing materials, informational brochures, and pamphlets which include identification of essential local and national resources and organizations serving sociology majors. These materials must be purchased on an on-going basis to maintain relevance and currency.

**Is the resource request personnel-related? If so, please provide evidence to justify the requested positions such as retirements, program growth or curricular demands, full-time/adjunct ratios, etc.**

This resource request is not personnel-related.

**How will this additional resource allocation help you serve the college mission or strategic initiatives, and your program’s goals for improvement, as stated in your last self-study?**

This resource allocation will help bring students who are interested in majoring in sociology to our department/program, and will help sociology majors understand the pathway to earning a sociology degree and working in the field.

**For each separate resource request, complete this chart with details of the request:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of Resource** |  |
| Personnel |  |
| Facilities |  |
| Supplies | $1,000 annually, for marketing-related materials to promote our program/major. |
| Computer Hardware |  |
| Computer Software |  |
| Training |  |
| Other |  |
| **Total Requested Amount:** | $1,000 per year. |

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| --- |
| **Is the funding requested ongoing or one-time funding?**  Ongoing funds |
| **Is the funding requested for**[**enrollment and reengagement activities?**](https://ie.fullcoll.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2024/05/ER-2.0-Program-Review-Guide.pdf)  Yes |