

**Rose State College**

**Sociology Associates in Arts Degree (#0184)**

**Options:**

**Sociology (#0184-01)**

**Counseling/Social Work (#0184-02)**

**Gender Studies (#0184-03)**

**Date of Review: Fall 2017**

**Recommended Date of Next Review: Fall 2022**

**Program's Connection to the Institutional Mission and Goals:**

Sociology is the scientific study of social structure, group interactions, and the relationship between human interaction and human behavior. Courses within the sociology curriculum emphasize the study and application of scientific principles and research techniques, while promoting critical evaluation of major theories and research findings. The main focus of the sociology program is to ensure that upon completion of the Associates of Arts degree, the student has a foundation that prepares him/her to transfer to a four-year program and skills that prepare the student for a wide variety of career opportunities.

**Process (Internal/External Review):**

The Sociology program continues to produce a substantial number of majors and graduates. With the addition of two new program options since the last program review, the average number of majors for the five years covered by the current program review (2013-2017) is an almost three hundred percent increase over the five-year average covered by the previous review. The number of graduates has increased over five hundred percent, from an average of 5.6 to 29.6.

The program has implemented several changes since the last review to improve the overall strength and validity of the program. Faculty have been continually updating curriculum to reflect the latest trends in the field. Over the last several years, the program has undertaken the addition of the Gender Studies option, the updating of program goals and objectives, and the development of program and option requirements for degree completion.

Additionally, the program faculty have followed numerous recommendations made during the previous program review. Faculty have collaborated with the Learning Resources Center to update the audiovisual and reference materials for sociology, exchanging out-of-date materials for current ones. Several courses have been revised or removed from the course catalog as the needs of students and the community have changed. Faculty have also made strides in communicating with adjunct counterparts to improve collaboration and resource-sharing between colleagues through the creation of a digital communication and sharing course administered through the Rose State College learning management system (D2L). Excellence in teaching remains a primary goal of the adjunct and full-time faculty. As a result, adjunct and full-time faculty are constantly seeking ways to improve the on-ground and digital classroom experiences through pedagogical training available through conferences and workshops both on campus and off.

**A. Centrality of the Program to the Institution's Mission**

The Sociology program is a vital part of the college and contributes significantly to the college's mission. The academic study of society and the impacts that it has on the individual enriches students both personally and professionally. The general sociology course continues to be a useful and heavily attended course as a general education offering as well as a major requirement. Many sociology courses are required or suggested classes for degrees outside of the sociology area and the Social Sciences Division. Health Sciences, in particular, continues to find sociology courses essential to their majors' educational goals.

The Sociology program maintains an intellectual and physical environment that recognizes a diversity of learners that it serves in the following ways:

- The program offers three options for students to major in. While all require a strong foundation in the fundamentals of the field, the variety of options available allow students to specialize in areas of interest and prepare them to transfer to four-year institutions after completing their Associate in Arts.
- Required courses for the Sociology program are offered during both the day and evening, in 16-,

8-week, and 2-week formats during the fall, spring, and summer class sessions, to meet the needs of our diverse student population.

- All Sociology courses are centered around issues of diversity to include race, social class, gender, and educational levels.
- The Sociology program offers a mentorship program that is designed to help students navigate Rose State College and to aid in their preparation in transferring to a four-year institution.

## **B. Validity of the Program:**

### **B.1. Program Objectives and Goals:**

#### **Sociology- Sociology Option (0184-01)**

The goal of the Sociology Associate in Arts degree program, Sociology option, is to provide students with a strong foundation in the concepts, terminology, and current advances in the field of Sociology. This will prepare students to transfer to a baccalaureate program in Sociology and other Social Science programs. The program is also designed to provide students with skills that will prepare them for a wide range of career opportunities in corporate, non-profit, and government organizations. Students who complete the program will be able to:

- Describe the field of Sociology including its theoretical and scientific roots;
- Discuss the meaning of theory and/or theoretical orientations to social issues or the social world;
- Explain how the scientific method lends itself to the goals of sociological and statistical analysis of current social issues;
- Differentiate and appraise the basic methodological approaches for gathering sociological data;
- Distinguish between various components of our social structure and explain how those components affect various aspects of individuals' lives and life experiences;
- Recognize structural inequalities based on race, class, and gender;
- Appraise how structural inequalities affect human agency and life outcomes;
- Employ broad sociological theory to provide an original analysis of current circumstances in society; and,
- Discuss the ways in which social structure and culture vary across time and place, and the effect of such variations.

#### **Sociology- Counseling/Social Work Option (0184-02)**

The goal of the Sociology Associate in Arts degree program, Counseling/Social Work option, is to provide students with an introductory foundation to the role of Sociology in understanding individuals' and groups' life experiences. This will provide students with a firm foundation to transfer to baccalaureate programs in the field of Sociology, Social Work, Counseling, and other Social Science programs. It also prepares students for work in a myriad of other areas by teaching them ways to understand their environment. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between various components of our social structure and explain how those components affect various aspects of individuals' lives and life experiences;
- Recognize structural inequalities based on race, class, gender, and education;
- Appraise how structural inequalities affect human agency and life outcomes;
- Employ broad sociological theory to provide an original analysis of current circumstances in society;
- Discuss the ways in which social structure and culture vary across time and place, and the effect of such variations;
- Explain the history of social welfare and the development of the profession of social work;
- Apply the principles and techniques of social work theory in planning interventions with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;

- Recognize the unique characteristics, decisions, strengths, limitations, and resources of diverse populations;
- Apply various theoretical frameworks to evaluate social concerns and ethical issues surrounding vulnerable, impoverished and oppressed populations; and,
- Employ research methodology to analyze and evaluate the practitioner's own work, institution for which they are employed, and common practices within their field.

### **Sociology-Gender Studies Option (0184-03)**

The goal of the Sociology Associate in Arts Degree, Gender Studies Option, is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the social construction of gender, the history of and important literature in the study of gender, and current research in the field of women's and gender studies. This education will prepare students to transfer to a baccalaureate program in Sociology, Women's and Gender studies, and other Social Science programs. The program provides students with skills that will prepare them for a wide range of career opportunities in corporate, non-profit, academic, and government organizations, especially those fields in which gender issues are an integral component of their mission. Students who complete the program will be able to:

- Evaluate the social construction of gender and explore how it pertains to the particular inquiry or study undertaken (E.g. Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, Criminal Justice; History);
- Explain how class, ethnicity, gender, and racial constructs and perspectives not only shape our understanding of the past, but also influence how sociologists analyze and interpret current social issues;
- Interpret important trends in the experience of all genders as well as societal attitudes about sex and gender;
- Differentiate between sex and gender in the context of shifting definitions of femininity and masculinity, sexual orientation, and gender identity;
- Recognize the distinction between quantitative and qualitative research and the importance of both in understanding social issues of sex and gender;
- Think critically and analytically about gender and its intersections with race, class, and sexuality in a global context and its impact on all genders worldwide;
- Analyze and synthesize the historiography of women's history, gender history, and feminism; and
- Understand and critique feminist politics, which will help students find success in the complex contexts in which they will live and work.

### **B.II. Quality Indicators:**

Students in the Sociology area successfully complete their course requirements at Rose State College and transfer to local four-year institutions. The quality of instruction in the area is evinced in the success of students in their courses at the college as well as their success afterwards—both sociology majors and students majoring in other fields. Faculty in the area strive to keep the content of their courses current and aligned with local four-year institutions to streamline student transfers and minimize the number of courses that must be retaken or replaced post-transfer.

Faculty develop intellectually stimulating and demanding environments where students have the opportunity to explore the causes and effects of social behavior on the societal and individual levels. In order to maintain high-quality instruction, faculty participate in professional development opportunities through the campus and professional organizations.

**B. III. Minimum Productivity Indicators:**

Academic Year	Majors	Students Graduated
2013	132	32
2014	141	31
2015	123	35
2016	135	27
2017	138	23
5-year average	133.8	29.6

**B.IV. Other Quantitative Measures:**

- a. Number of courses taught exclusively for the major program for each of the last five years and the size of classes:

Course Number	Course Title	2013 1209 enrolled 52 sect.	2014 1131 enrolled 52 sect.	2015 1021 enrolled 47 sect.	2016 1037 enrolled 44 sect.	2017 1015 enrolled 47 sect.
SOC 1113	Introduction to Sociology	660 enrolled 28 sect.	618 enrolled 28 sect.	572 enrolled 27 sect.	594 enrolled 24 sect.	571 enrolled 26 sect.
SOC 2113	Introduction to Social Work	58 enrolled 3 sect.	52 enrolled 3 sect.	48 enrolled 3 sect.	42 enrolled 3 sect.	32 enrolled 1 sect.
SOC 2123	Sex and Gender	37 enrolled 1 sect.	22 enrolled 1 sect.	26 enrolled 1 sect.	9 enrolled 1 sect.	15 enrolled 1 sect.
SOC 2223	Social Problems	170 enrolled 8 sect.	126 enrolled 7 sect.	76 enrolled 4 sect.	88 enrolled 4 sect.	108 enrolled 6 sect.
SOC 2333	Families and Substance Abuse	5 enrolled 1 sect.	18 enrolled 1 sect.	12 enrolled 1 sect.	23 enrolled 1 sect.	24 enrolled 1 sect.
SOC 2403	Family and Society	171 enrolled 8 sect.	176 enrolled 8 sect.	165 enrolled 6 sect.	185 enrolled 6 sect.	145 enrolled 7 sect.
SOC 2463	Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect	0	0	0	24 enrolled 2 sect.	46 enrolled 2 sect.
SOC 2503	Crime and Delinquency	79 enrolled 3 sect.	99 enrolled 4 sect.	92 enrolled 4 sect.	70 enrolled 3 sect.	74 enrolled 3 sect.
SOC 2091-3	Special Topics	0	0	30 enrolled 2 sect.	0	0



Course Number	Course Title	2013 1,117 enrolled	2014 1,041 enrolled	2015 961 enrolled	2016 970 enrolled	2017 959 enrolled
SOC 1113	Introduction to Sociology	660 enrolled	618 enrolled	572 enrolled	594 enrolled	571 enrolled
SOC 2123	Sex and Gender	37 enrolled	22 enrolled	26 enrolled	9 enrolled	15 enrolled
SOC 2223	Social Problems	170 enrolled	126 enrolled	76 enrolled	88 enrolled	108 enrolled
SOC 2403	Family and Society	171 enrolled	176 enrolled	165 enrolled	185 enrolled	145 enrolled
SOC 2463	Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect	0	0	0	24 enrolled	46 enrolled
SOC 2503	Crime and Delinquency	79 enrolled	99 enrolled	92 enrolled	70 enrolled	74 enrolled
SOC 2091-3	Special Topics	0	0	30 enrolled	0	0
Total Credit Hours		3,351	3,123	2,883	2,910	2,877

- e. A roster of faculty members, faculty credentials, and faculty credential institution(s). Also include the number of full time equivalent faculty in the specialized courses within the curriculum:

Faculty are highly qualified by both education and teaching experience. All faculty hold either a masters or Ph.D. degree in Sociology or Social Work. All teaching faculty have at least 18 hours of graduate education in sociology. Preferred qualifications include 2 years of teaching experience.

Full-Time Faculty:

Tara Kay Hall  
Ph.D. A.B.D., University of Oklahoma  
B.A., University of Oklahoma  
M.A., University of Oklahoma

Adjunct Faculty for Review Period:

Loma Brannon, M.S.  
Stephanie Brill, M.S., University of Oklahoma, LCSW  
Adrienne Brune, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
John Carl, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma

Sharla Colbert, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Sue Durett, M.S., University of Oklahoma  
 Susan Hughes, M.S.  
 Michael Jenkins, Ph.D. A.B.D., Oklahoma State Univerisyt  
 Paul Ketchum, Ph.D., Texas A&M University  
 Howard Kurtz, M.S. and M.Ed., North Texas State University  
 Michael Males, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Megan McGhee, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Steven Melsh, M.A., University of Oklahoma; M.S. East Central State  
 Juanita Ortiz, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Shannon Rios, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Melissa Smith, M.Ed., University of Central Oklahoma; M. HR., University of  
 Oklahoma, Oklahoma Teaching Certificate  
 Nancy Sonleitner, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
 Marshall Vogts, M.S., Oklahoma State University

- g. If available, information about the success of students from this program who have transferred to another institution:

***RSC Majors FY 12 to FY 16 Sent to National Student Clearinghouse***

Majors sent to Clearing House	Sent	Found	Transferred/Sent	And Graduated from Transfer School
463	257	184	40%	57

**B.V. Duplication and Demand:**

Demand: Over the review period the number of sociology majors has remained relatively stable (2013-132, 2017, 138). This is regardless of an overall decrease in enrollment for the college as a whole during several of the review period years. The program produces an average of 29.6 graduates each year with a high of 35 graduates in 2015.

- a. Detail demand from students, taking into account the profiles of applicants, enrollment, competition data, and occupational data:

Rose State College is a public, open admissions, associate degree-granting institution and there is no admission process for the Sociology program. Our students mirror the overall student body. They are primarily first-time, first-generation students who have at least one academic deficiency. Our students are overwhelmingly female and many are non-traditional students that face the struggles of balancing work, college, and household/childcare responsibilities.

- b. Detail demand for students produced by the program, taking into account employer demands, demands for skills of graduates, and job placement data:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the future job outlook for the field of Sociology is going to remain fairly stable with a project 0-1% decrease in job positions. Sociologists are in high demand for federally funded and grant-funded social research, as well as private sector organizations that are looking to conduct some form of social research. As of May 2016, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the median annual wage for sociologists was \$79,750. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the job outlook for social workers will



increase at a rate of 12% (faster than average) between 2014 and 2024. While that prediction is an average for the field as a whole, some specializations such as Mental Health/Substance Abuse and Medical/Public health are both expected to grow at even faster rates (20% and 22%). Social workers earn a median pay of \$46,890.

- d. Detail indirect demands in the form of faculty and student contributions to the cultural life and well-being of the community:

Sociology area faculty participate in a number of activities that benefit the community, including speaking at conferences, hosting seminars, participating in campus events that raise awareness for social justice issues and issues of inequality, and volunteering with local civic and charity organizations. On campus, faculty advise student groups and organizations such as the Social Sciences Club and the TEACH Club. Both student organizations organize multiple service projects for the community each semester.

- e. The process of program review should address meeting demand for the program through alternative forms of delivery. Detail how the program has met these demands:

Classes taught in the Sociology area are offered in a wide variety of formats. Aside from the traditional on-campus, lecture format class (offered both during the day and evening hours), classes are offered online and in online-campus hybrid formats. A variety of classes are offered during the 16-week fall and spring semesters, eight-week semesters both during the fall and spring terms, as well as during the summer and interim classes (largely restricted to Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems). Some classes are also available at area high schools and correctional centers via distance learning. Our online offerings are extensive enough to allow students to complete all major course requirements online should they desire to do so.

#### **B.VI. Effective Use of Resources:**

The sociology faculty works with library staff to maintain an up-to-date, diverse collection of Sociology-relevant publications, including both books and periodicals. Sociology as a field publishes a great deal of its most important material via peer-reviewed publications. The availability of both paper and electronic journals (largely through JSTOR, EBSCOHost, and Academic Search Elite) has greatly increased student access to current and relevant materials within the field. Faculty make extensive use of streaming media made available through the library. The availability of streaming media via institutional subscriptions has streamlined the process of updating field-relevant video materials. Sociology as a field changes rapidly as new research is published. Video-based instructional materials must be updated frequently in order to reflect current trends within the science. The use of streaming media reduces the burden on faculty and library staff to maintain an up-to-date collection of materials.

The newly renovated Learning Resources Center (LRC) has provided a place for the faculty to provide a multitude of electronically based academic training programs, multiple study spaces, and a central location for students to locate resources to aid in their academic success at Rose State College. The \$21 million campus bond project has provided the faculty and students alike a more comfortable and positive learning environment.


Both the full-time and adjunct faculty in Sociology make extensive use of instructional design and course management resources. Desire to Learn (D2L) is used in both online and traditional courses to make materials available to students in a quick, efficient manner; to reduce the Social

Sciences Division's burden of copying course materials; and to streamline testing and other evaluation methods. Within D2L, Turnitin is used by the faculty to increase students' understanding of best writing practices.

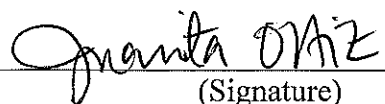
Recommendations	Implementation Plan	Target Date
Review media and reference materials for relevance and accuracy	Continuous process managed by the full-time faculty member.	Ongoing
Coordination with adjunct faculty	Continue to improve communication and cooperation between full-time and part-time faculty and instructors.	Ongoing
Evaluate program effectiveness	Design a process to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and its specific classes in meeting the needs of students transferring to area four-year institutions.	2019
Revise course offerings and content	Update course content and courses offered to stay aligned with area four-year institutions' expectations for Sociology majors.	Ongoing
Growth in overall enrollment and majors	Continue to encourage students to enroll in major and general education classes to increase graduation rates and maintain the number of majors.	Ongoing
Continuation and growth of mentorship program	Expect mentorship program to experience substantial growth. Success of program should be quantifiably measured by future transfer data.	2019

#### Summary of Recommendations:

At this time, I recommend that the Sociology program will be permitted to continue for a period of five years. During this time period, the program will continue to focus on expanding the program through attracting students, continuous revision of course offerings and content, and constant evaluation of overall program effectiveness.

Department/  
Program Head   
(Signature)

Date 11/28/17

Dean   
(Signature)

Date 11/28/17