

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Sociology

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2004 – May 2005

*Student Learning Outcomes for this department are available at
<http://ie.panam.edu/CoSBSLearningOutcomes.htm>



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit: Department of Sociology

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Dr. Guang-zhen Wang

Unit Mission: Our mission is to teach the body of knowledge and the critical-thinking skills of the social sciences; to add to this base of knowledge and skills through high-quality research; and to utilize the knowledge and skills in service to our local and professional communities. We will accomplish this mission with:

- A. Excellence of **teaching** that utilizes pedagogically sound teaching techniques, that is based on the principles of academic freedom, and that helps our students to become committed to life-long learning, critical thinking, social involvement, and dealing ethically and empathetically with others.
- B. **Scholarship** that promotes collaboration in the discovery, testing, and dissemination of knowledge in our profession and that can improve the social conditions of our society, our region, the global community.
- C. **Service** based on principles of collegial decision making that contributes to the well being our university, our respective professions, and our regional, national, and international communities.

Unit Goal: Increase academic and co-curricular opportunities for new undergraduates and graduate students

Link to UTPA Goal(s):
 1: Ensure undergraduate student access and success
 2: Enhance graduate education and research

| Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest) | Link to UTPA Objective | Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective) | Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes | Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome | New Resources Needed in FY05 |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Approval of learning community course (1) | 2 | Design an approved learning community class by May 2005. | Develop a tentative design of a learning community class. Develop a new learning | Demonstrate to the CoSBS Dean by May 1 2005 that Sociology has designed at least one approved learning | None |

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|--|------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | | | <p>community class.</p> <p>Obtain approval from administration of the proposed learning community class. The course must be approved for offering class by no later than 2005-2006 academic year.</p> | community class. | |
| Growth of extra- and co-curricula activities (2) | 2, 4 | Increase by at least 5 percent the number of extra- and co-curricular activities by May 2005 | <p>Develop the number of extra- and co-curricular activities held specifically for new students during the 2004-2005 academic year.</p> <p>Propose some new extra- and co-curricular activities to be organized for freshmen.</p> <p>Describe new extra- and co-curricular activities that will take place during Fall 2004 semester and Spring 2005.</p> <p>Compare the extra- and co-curricular activities that took place in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.</p> | The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for Sociology will be compared between the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years. | None |

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|--|------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|
| Approval of freshman seminar (3) | 2 | Design an approved freshman seminar by May 2005. | <p>Develop a tentative design for a freshman seminar.</p> <p>Demonstrate significant progress in the design of a freshman seminar and communication with the UTPA freshman seminar coordinator.</p> <p>Obtain official approval for the design of a freshman seminar from the UTPA freshman seminar coordinator that will be offered no later than 2005-2006 academic year.</p> <p>Develop a design for an approved freshman seminar.</p> | Demonstrate that Sociology has developed an approved freshman seminar by May 1, 2005. | None |



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| Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest) | Link to UTPA Objective | Expected Outcome | Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods | Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance) | Use of Results (What change was made?) |
|---|------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Approval of learning community course (1) | 2 | Design an approved learning community class by May 2005. | Demonstrate to the CoSBS Dean by May 1, 2005 that Sociology has designed at least one | Designed a learning community course (SOC1323) with History/Philosophy | Retention rate was higher than most of the non learning community courses of the |

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|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | approved learning community class. | Department and offered beginning in Fall 2004 (enrollment about 25). The course was well received by students enrolled in the course. | department. The department has planned to collect more in depth data if learning community course is offered during the next academic year. |
| Growth of extra- and co-curricula activities (2) | 2, 4 | Increase by at least 5 percent the number of extra- and co-curricular activities by May, 2005 | The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for Sociology will be compared between the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years. | Although the department did not collect the data for this expected outcome, the following activities occurred during the year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty advisors continued to work with the Sociology student club and a Sociology honor society (AKD) was formed in 2004 with approximately 15 members. 2. During spring 2005, two graduate students presented their research papers at the Southwestern sociological association meeting. 3. During spring 2005, two undergraduate students were selected to attend the summer research institute held in summer at A&M | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fifteen (15) students were initiated into the new honor society. 2. Department continues to encourage mentor (faculty)-student relationship with regard to student research experience. |

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|---|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | (College Station). 4. During spring, two undergraduate students were awarded the undergraduate student research award from the UTPA Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. | |
| Approval of freshman seminar (3) | 2 | Design an approved freshman seminar by May 2005. | Demonstrate that Sociology has developed an approved freshman seminar by May 1 2005. | The freshman seminar concept was folded into what has become the campus Learning Framework course. 1. Sociology has incorporated the class in the undergraduate degree plan. All beginning SOCI majors took the course. 2. Upon requests from instructors who teach the learning framework course (UNIV 1301), Sociology undergraduate advisor and faculty member(s) made PowerPoint presentations in all the sections of the course to introduce students to the | Feedback on the presentations from both the students and the instructors has been positive. The department has planned to continue the presentations during the next academic year. |

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|---|------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | nature of the discipline. | |

Additional Resources Needed (if any) that were requested for FY06 during the budget cycle: 1. one tenure track faculty position, 2. faculty travel increase due to new hire, 3. software purchase for classes, 4. operational budget increase.