

# **Administrative and Educational Support Report\***

**Department of Sociology**

**Annual Action Plan  
Annual Assessment Report**

**June 2005 – May 2006**

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



**Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2005–May 31, 2006**

**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:** Sociology      **Unit Head:** Guang-zhen Wang

**Unit Mission:**

**Undergraduate program:** The mission of the undergraduate program at the Department of Sociology is to provide students with the educational experience to intellectually and critically analyze human behaviors and the human society using sociological perspectives. To add to this base of knowledge and skills, the department is committed to high quality research and teaching and to the utilization of the knowledge and the skills in serving local and professional communities of South Texas and the nation as a whole.

**Graduate program:** The mission of the graduate program of the Department of Sociology is to prepare students who complete the program with the knowledge and the technical expertise to be effective specialists, analysts, and administrators in a variety of social settings, such as federal, state, and local government agencies, school districts, community health and aging organizations, marketing firms and evaluation programs. The department offers a curriculum that has a strong emphasis on methods, statistics, and theories. In order to accomplish our mission, the department pursues excellence in teaching, research, and professional service; and provides graduate students with research and teaching experience.

**Unit Goal:** Facilitate improvement in teaching, learning, and curriculum.

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**

1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success
2. Enhance graduate education and research

| Unit Objective<br>(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 FY06 |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Adjust curriculum and course descriptions          | 2, 4                   | Make changes on the curriculum and course                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate and compare</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail messages and department</li> </ul> | None                         |

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| Unit Objective<br>(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 FY06 |
|--|------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| based on 2004-05 and fall 2005 student learning outcome assessment findings. (1) |                        | descriptions if necessary.  | assessment findings among department faculty members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions and suggestions from department faculty members.</li> <li>• Make adjustment to course offerings and/or course descriptions if necessary.</li> </ul> | meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes and online discussions.</li> <li>• Necessary changes in course descriptions and curriculum</li> </ul> |                              |
| Facilitate improvement in student learning outcomes (SLO). (2)                   | 2, 4                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on student standardized test in required sociology courses.</li> <li>• 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on student standardized test in required graduate sociology courses.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance students advising.</li> <li>• Office hours of faculty members.</li> </ul>   | Test scores.   | None                         |

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| <b>Unit Goal:</b>            | Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members                                 |
| <b>Link to UTPA Goal(s):</b> | 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success<br>2. Enhance graduate education and research |

| Unit Objective<br>(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 FY06   |
|---|------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members using 2003-04 records as the baseline for comparison. (3)  | 2, 5                   | Increase the number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate teaching load reduction.</li> <li>• Encourage collaborative work among faculty members.</li> <li>• Increase funding for graduate research assistantship.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications, grants, presentations.</li> <li>• Collaborative work in publications, grants.</li> <li>• Graduate assistantships</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget for new hires.</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• Funding from university and college</li> </ul> |
| Increase faculty mentorship and faculty-student collaborative work in research and scholarly activities using 2003-04 records as the baseline for comparison. (4) | 2, 5                   | Increase the number of undergraduate research initiative grants, co-authored publications and presentations.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage collaborative work between faculty and students.</li> <li>• Increase funding for undergraduate research initiative.</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-authored publications and/or presentations.</li> <li>• Number of projects funded.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for student travel.</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Unit Goal:</b>            | Increase the number of students majoring in sociology  |
| <b>Link to UTPA Goal(s):</b> | 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success<br>2. Enhance graduate education and research |

| Unit Objective<br>(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 FY06 |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Participate in Learning Framework. (5)             | 2, 4                   | Attend Learning Framework classes.                            | Make power-point presentations in Learning Framework classes.         | Slide shows.   | None                         |
| Participate in recruitment activities. (6)         | 2, 4                   | Attend recruitment activities.                                | Make presentations and/or talk to audience in recruitment activities. | Presence at the recruitment activities.                      | None                         |



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**Unit Goal:** Facilitate improvement in teaching, learning, and curriculum.

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**

1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success
2. Enhance graduate education and research

| Unit Objective<br>(Priority: #1 is highest) | Link to UTPA Objective | Expected Outcome                          | Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods  | Assessment Results<br>(Use actual data to describe annual performance) | Use of Results<br>(What change was made?)    |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Adjust curriculum and course descriptions   | 2, 4                   | Make changes on the curriculum and course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-mail messages and department</li> </ul> | Changes in undergraduate degree  | New courses have been added to undergraduate |

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| Unit Objective<br>(Priority: #1 is highest)                                  | Link to<br>UTPA<br>Objective | Expected Outcome  | Assessment Criteria,<br>Evaluation Methods  | Assessment Results<br>(Use actual data to<br>describe annual<br>performance) | Use of Results<br>(What change was<br>made?) |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| based on 2004-05 and fall 2005 student learning outcome assessment findings. |                              | descriptions if necessary.  | meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes and online discussions.</li> <li>• Necessary changes in course descriptions and curriculum.</li> </ul> | plan became effective in the fall 2005.                                      | and graduate curricula.                      |
| Facilitate improvement in student learning outcomes (SLO). (2)               | 2, 4                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on student standardized test in required sociology courses.</li> <li>• 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on student standardized test in required graduate sociology courses.</li> </ul> | Test scores.  | Incomplete.  | Improved advising procedures.                |

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| <b>Unit Goal:</b>            | Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members.                                |
| <b>Link to UTPA Goal(s):</b> | 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success<br>2. Enhance graduate education and research |

| 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?)   |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members using 2003-04 records as the baseline for comparison. (3)  | 2, 5                   | Increase the number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications, grants, presentations.</li> <li>• Collaborative work in publications, grants.</li> <li>• Graduate assistantships</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two faculty members have collaborated on a grant.</li> <li>• No increase for graduate assistantship from university and college.</li> </ul> | Budget for new hires. (A new faculty member has accepted the job offer and will start in the fall 2005). |
| Increase faculty mentorship and faculty-student collaborative work in research and scholarly activities using 2003-04 records as the baseline for comparison. (4) | 2, 5                   | Increase the number of undergraduate research initiative grants, co-authored publications and presentations.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-authored publications and/or presentations.</li> <li>• Number of projects funded.</li> </ul>   | Funding for two student travel to professional conference was provided by the enhancement money from the dean's office.  |  |

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| <b>Unit Goal:</b> | Increase the number of students majoring in sociology |
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**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**

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|--|
| 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success<br>2. Enhance graduate education and research |
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| Unit Objective<br>(Priority: #1 is highest) | Link to UTPA Objective | Expected Outcome                   | Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods | Assessment Results<br>(Use actual data to describe annual performance)          | Use of Results<br>(What change was made?) |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Participate in Learning Framework. (5)      | 2, 4                   | Attend Learning Framework classes. | Slide shows.                            | Advisor and department chairs have made a number of presentations in UNIV 1301. |   |
| Participate in recruitment activities. (6)  | 2, 4                   | Attend recruitment activities.     | Presence at the recruitment activities. | Involved in college effort to recruit new students.                             |   |