

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Sociology

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2006 – May 2007

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



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

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: **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.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Review and restructure all educational programs to ensure that students complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

College/AVP Objective: Enable students to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Annual Action Plan June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Provide effective advisement. (1)	Reevaluate the student advisement structure.	Appoint a new faculty advisor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.	Appoint a new undergraduate faculty advisor and a new graduate faculty advisor by Spring 2007.	None.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Facilitate improvement in student learning outcomes. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure achievement of student learning outcome goals in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Assign a TA to the undergraduate statistics courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on a standardized test in required sociology courses. 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on a standardized test in required graduate sociology courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on a standardized test in required sociology courses at the end of both Fall 06 and Spring 07 semesters. 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on a standardized test in required graduate sociology courses at the end of both Fall 06 and 	Funding for teaching (student) assistantships.

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Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
			Spring 07 semesters.	

UTPA Goal: Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurship.

Academic Affairs Objective: Provide support for the improvement of the research infrastructure.

College/AVP Objective: Generate support for research and develop a culture of research.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members using 2004-05 records as the baseline for comparison. (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate teaching load reduction for faculty members on research-track. Encourage collaborative work among faculty members. Increase funding for graduate research assistantship. 	The number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences will be maintained at the same level, or increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records.	The number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences by continuing faculty will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, during AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records (AY04-05).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding from university and/or college to support RA.
Increase faculty mentorship and faculty-student collaborative work in research and scholarly activities using 2004-05 records as the baseline for comparison. (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage collaborative work between faculty and students. Increase funding received for the undergraduate research 	The number of undergraduate research initiative grants, student co-authored publications, and student co-authored presentations will be maintained at the same	The number of undergraduate research initiative grants, student co-authored publications, and student co-authored presentations will be maintained at the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for student travel. None

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	initiative.	level, or increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records.	level, or will increase, during AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records (AY04-05).	

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Provide students with a quality educational experience that experiences that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective:

Review and restructure all educational programs to ensure that students complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

College/AVP Objective:

Enable students to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Participate in Learning Frameworks courses (UNIV 1301). (5)	Make power-point presentations on the field of Sociology in UNIV 1301.	Faculty will maintain a consistent number of presentations in UNIV 1301.	The number of faculty presentations in UNIV 1301 will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	None



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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Provide effective advisement. (1)	Appoint a new faculty advisor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.	Appoint a new undergraduate faculty advisor and a new graduate faculty advisor by Spring 2007.	Dr. Himmel was appointed the undergraduate advisor and Dr. Richardson was appointed the graduate advisor prior to Spring 2007.	1. Most undergraduate and graduate majors received satisfactory academic advisement during the mandatory advisement time. (Note: We later found out that Registrar's Office had given RAC numbers to students.) 2. Advisors revisited UTPA catalogues and made suggestions for changes.

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Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Facilitate improvement in student learning outcomes. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on a locally developed test in required sociology courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating seniors will obtain a minimum of 70 on a locally developed test in required sociology courses at the end of both Fall 06 and Spring 	Graduating seniors (N=19): 90% graduating seniors answered the questions correctly.	The department will continue to monitor/improve assessment of student learning outcomes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on a standardized test in required graduate sociology courses. 	<p>07 semesters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of graduating graduate students will obtain a minimum score of 80 on a standardized test in required graduate sociology courses at the end of both Fall 06 and Spring 07 semesters. 	<p>Graduating graduate students (N=3): 100% graduating graduate students answered the questions correctly.</p>	

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College/AVP Objective: Generate support for research and develop a culture of research.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
<p>Increase research and scholarly activities among faculty members using 2004-05 records as the baseline for comparison. (3)</p>	<p>The number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences will be maintained at the same level, or increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records.</p>	<p>The number of articles in peer-reviewed journals, books published by standard publishers, grants, and presentations at professional conferences by faculty will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, during AY06-07 in comparison to baseline</p>	<p>Book=1 Articles=1 Grant=1 (Center on aging and health)</p> <p>This represents an increase in productivity over AY 05-06.</p>	<p>The department will continue to encourage scholarly productivity.</p>

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		records (AY04-05).		
Increase faculty mentorship and faculty-student collaborative work in research and scholarly activities using 2004-05 records as the baseline for comparison. (4)	The number of undergraduate research initiative grants, student co-authored publications, and student co-authored presentations will be maintained at the same level, or increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records.	The number of undergraduate research initiative grants, student co-authored publications, and student co-authored presentations will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, during AY06-07 in comparison to baseline records (AY04-05).	Undergraduate research grants = 2 This represents an increase in engagement of undergraduate students in research over AY 05-06.	The department will continue to encourage engagement with undergraduate students in research activities.

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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Participate in Learning Frameworks courses (UNIV 1301). (5)	Faculty will maintain a consistent number of presentations in UNIV 1301.	The number of faculty presentations in UNIV 1301 will be maintained at the same level, or will increase, in AY06-07 in comparison to AY05-06.	Made all 5-6 requested presentations in UNIV classes.	No change necessary.