

## UNIT REPORT

**Sociology & Anthropology-  
Academic - APR Self-Study Report  
by Academic Unit/Department**

Generated: 3/15/22, 3:27 PM

## Program Mission

### Department of Culture, Society, & Justice Mission

#### Program Mission Statement:

The Department of Culture, Society, & Justice is composed of three academic programs —Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology offering undergraduate degrees in each, as well as a M.A. in Anthropology. These degrees are offered in partial fulfillment of the University of Idaho's mission as the state's leader in the "enhancing the scientific, economic, social, legal and cultural assets of our state and developing solutions for complex problems facing our society." Many of the department's courses heavily support the university general education, the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences core, and other programs throughout the university. The department's curricula help students develop a basic understanding of human social life in diverse local, national, and global societies. The department also strives to help students to develop critical thinking skills, to understand and appreciate human diversity, to encourage civic responsibility, and to become active participants in constructive social change. The emphasis of the department as a whole is on research involving cultures, diversity and inequality, and systems of justice.

## Program Goal (add a minimum of 3 program goal "plan items")

### Cultivate a Diverse Group of Students

#### Goal Statement:

The department will strive to recruit and retain a diverse body of students, including first generation students, lower-income students, and those from underserved backgrounds.

#### Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:

Cultivate (Goal 4): Foster an inclusive, diverse community of students, faculty, and staff and improve cohesion and morale.

#### Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:

Dashboard demographic and equality metrics. These metrics include self-identified first generation students, Pell Grant eligibility, and recruitment.

#### List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :

We will continue to offer a dynamic curricular experience that appeals to a wide-range of student interest. In addition, we will continue to recruit students, engaging application lists, and direct contact with students from lower-income and underserved backgrounds,.

**Goal Achievement Level:** In Progress

### Engage in Public Scholarship and Outreach that Has a Meaningful Impact on Communities

#### Goal Statement:

Faculty engages in public-oriented scholarship and outreach that impacts communities in a positive way. This scholarship engages a diverse and wide-ranging segment of the population through praxis-driven social research. The results of this research will be published and made accessible in reports, journals, books, and online venues.

#### Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:

Engage (Goal 2): Suggest and influence change that addresses societal needs and global issues, and advances economic development and culture.

#### Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:

The department and Bowers Lab will undertake at least 12 research projects per annum that directly engages a community in the state.

#### List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :

Encourage faculty to engage in public and action-oriented research

**Goal Achievement Level:** In Progress

### Increase our impact on students living outside of the Moscow area

#### Goal Statement:

We will continue to recruit and offer an online degree to students living outside of the Moscow area. This initiative delivers the promise and privilege associated with earning a degree to a much broader segment of the population.

**Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:** Transform (Goal 3): Increase our educational impact.

**Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:**

Students enrolled in our online program. Credits delivered via online instruction.

**List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :**

We are actively promoting the online degree statewide.

**Goal Achievement Level:** Met

## Student Learning Assessment Report (add one "plan item" for each major, degree, and/or certificate offered by dept)

### Criminology

**Assessment Report Contact:** Omi Hodwitz

**Program Changes in Past Year:**

As this is technically a new program in the 2020 academic year, there have been no programmatic or curricular changes since it was proposed in 2017. The department changed its name from "Sociology and Anthropology" to "Culture, Society, and Justice" in 2021 to reflect this new program.

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true):** true

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true):** true

**Optional: Framework Alignment:** We do not use association learning outcomes

**Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the origins of criminal behavior, society's response to crime, and the consequences of crime to our society, utilizing multiple theoretical perspectives.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of methodological approaches used by social scientists to understand crime and crime control.
3. Students will analyze and interpret the diversity of social experience associated with criminology and society, especially as they relate to race, class, gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, religion and nationality.
4. Students will articulate the ethical and social implications of justice and criminology.

**Summary of Student Learning:**

1. Ethics and inequalities: average pre-score = 76%; average post-score = 89%
2. Methods: average pre-score = 54%; average post-score = 54%
3. Theory: average pre-score = 40%; average post-score = 64%
4. Criminal Justice System: average pre-score = 45%; average post-score = 49%

Attached Files

[Assesement Loop.docx](#)

[Assessment summary.docx](#)

**Summary of Faculty Discussion:**

We are discussing ways to engage students in criminology more at the gateway-sophomore level.

**Summary of Changes/Improvements Being Considered:**

We feel we have a very robust assessment program. We have not received any feedback on our assessment data since the program was started.

**Inter-rater Reliability:**

The faculty feel this assessment process is reliable.

**Closing the Loop:**

See attached comparison of the 19-20 comparison.

Attached Files

[20\\_21 school year comparison.xlsx](#)

### Anthropology

**Assessment Report Contact:** Laura Putsche

**Program Changes in Past Year:**

The anthropology program substantially modified the curriculum to include a dedicated senior capstone for anthropology majors. Reflecting growth and new programs, the name of the department was changed to "Culture, Society, and Justice."

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true):** true

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true):** true

**Optional: Framework Alignment:** Our LOs were developed to reflect best practices recommended by the American Anthropological Association

**Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):**

1. Seniors will understand and apply anthropological research methods to a project involving a synthesis of the student's undergraduate anthropological coursework
2. Students will understand anthropological history and theory and will be able to apply theory to anthropological issues.
3. Students will understand and explain cultural and human diversity.


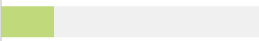

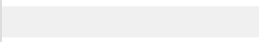
1.

**Research Skills**

Seniors will understand and apply anthropological research methods to a project involving a synthesis of the student's undergraduate anthropological coursework.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Anthropology (B.A., B.S.)

Term: **Overview**

Exceeded		<b>80%</b>	<b>12</b>
Met		<b>20%</b>	<b>3</b>
Partially Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Not Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>


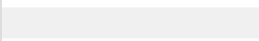

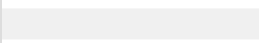
2.

**Professionalism**

Students will have the opportunity to engage in professional and experiential learning outside of the classroom.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Anthropology (B.A., B.S.)

Term: **Overview**

Exceeded		<b>100%</b>	<b>17</b>
Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Partially Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Not Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>


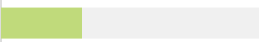

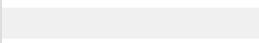
3.

**Theory Application**

Students will understand anthropological history and theory and will be able to apply theory to anthropological issues

Academic Year 2020-2021: Anthropology (B.A., B.S.)

Term: **Overview**

Exceeded		<b>68.75%</b>	<b>11</b>
Met		<b>31.25%</b>	<b>5</b>
Partially Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Not Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>



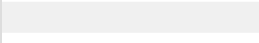

4.

**Diversity Skills**

Students will understand and explain cultural and human diversity.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Anthropology (B.A., B.S.)

Term: **Overview**

Exceeded		<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>
Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Partially Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
Not Met		<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>

**Summary of Student Learning:**

**Summary of Faculty Discussion:**

**Summary of Changes/Improvements Being Considered:**

**Inter-rater Reliability:**

**Closing the Loop:**

**Sociology**

**Assessment Report Contact:** Debb Thorne

**Program Changes in Past Year:**

To better serve the students and consolidate the assessment process, the sociology program ended the program emphasis areas.

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true):**

**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true):** true

**Optional: Framework Alignment:**

**Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):**

**Summary of Student Learning:**

It was reported that 90% of students taking the introductory course earned a "C" or better

**Summary of Faculty Discussion:**

**Summary of Changes/Improvements Being Considered:**

**Inter-rater Reliability:**

**Closing the Loop:**

## Student Achievement

### New Student Achievement Item

**Student Retention:**

The department chair monitors retention by looking at reenrollment and graduation data

**Student Persistence:**

We have not been monitoring student persistence.

**Student Completion:**

The department chair examines four, five, and six-year graduation rates for the three major programs in the department.

**Student Postgraduate Success:**

We ask students in their senior survey what their plans after graduation is

**Identify Equity Gaps:**

Men are underrepresented in all three of our programs, including 1 in 3 for criminology, 1 in 4 in anthropology, and more than 1 in 5 in sociology.

Roughly one half of our students are Pell Grant eligible. One third are first-generation students.

**Effective Learning Environment and Closing Equity Gaps:**

Our program is very focused on providing a comprehensive education to a wide-ranging and diverse cross section of students.

## Demand and Productivity

### New Demand and Productivity Item

**External Demand:**

Overall, our department has a very stable demand for majors and courses, however, there have been shifts within programs over the last few years.

**Internal Demand:**

We have a stable credit hour production, with some programs teaching more credit hours per faculty than others

**Credit Productivity:**

The credit hour productivity between and among the programs was discussed at our annual department retreat. Some faculty felt that there were a lot of opportunities for growth in the department, while others perceived the enumeration of credit hours to be Taylorist and presents some programs in a too favorable light.

Attached Files

[2021-11-03.png](#)

## Financial Health and Resources

### New Financial Health and Resources Item

**Financial Health:**

**Strengths:** After a period of rapid growth, the department has stabilized and is now seeking resources to help manage student demand that has come at a time of decreasing resources. While some of our programs are expected to decline further due to demographic changes, we fully anticipate that the criminology program will continue to grow, albeit modestly, in the immediate term. In all, we anticipate a sustained enrollment pattern as long as resources are added where needed.

**Concerns:** A major area of concern for some faculty continues to be a disparity of resourcing within the three major programs. Faculty-major ratios for our programs are as follows:

Anthropology 10:1

Criminology 52:1

Sociology 11:1

Currently, the Department of SCJ is resourced (in terms of operating budget) by the college as a "medium" sized department based on the number of faculty. However, in terms of total enrollment and student demand, we are the second largest in the college and fourth largest on campus. This is problematic for reasons mentioned above.

**Efficient Use of Resources:**

In all, based on the number of faculty and temporary help, we are extremely "efficient" producing credit hours, especially in relation to other departments in the college. Regrettably, this has meant larger than desirable classes as well as unmet needs in terms of seats in popular courses. We have worked to mitigate this, but continue our request for a different resourcing formula for the entire department.

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