

## Assessment meeting – Spring 2020

### **Report – Spring 2020**

As indicated in our updated Student Assessment Plan, we are evaluating our first four department learning goals based on a variety of data from our direct and indirect assessment. This includes a capstone rubric (direct) and alumni survey (indirect). In future years the latter will be replaced with data derived from a modified senior survey tied more directly to our learning goals. The data for this past year are given in the pages below.

The first four learning goals respectively relate to the sociological/anthropological imagination, sociological/anthropological literacy, theory, and methods. During our meeting, we talked about the data for each goal, with a particular focus on the results of the survey. Of these, literacy and theory stood out as learning goals that large percentages of alumni found useful in their life after Hendrix. In relation to specific methods, students indicated a more mixed level of use, something to be expected given the variety of methods different students would have acquired (we have multiple methods courses). More concerning, however, alumni students reported a low level of utility in the sociological imagination. While we are concerned about this, to some extent this might be an issue to be addressed by making more explicit how this overarching phrase or concept is connected to the other learning goals. That is, many of the other learning goals are constituent elements of the sociological imagination, but we may need to find ways to articulate that more clearly to students across our curriculum. We plan to make discussing this issue a key part of our fall department retreat this coming August.

Department Learning Goals 1-4 – Alumni Survey from Question 5 – “Are there specific skills that you learned in the classroom that you think help you in your professional life?”

1) Students will develop their “sociological (and anthropological) imagination,” the ability to think creatively and meaningfully link individual biographical events to larger social patterns in society; to see the connection between “personal troubles” and “public issues” (Mills 1959).

Alumni Survey Q5 - Sociological imagination:

14/33            42%

2) Students will acquire general “sociological and anthropological literacy,” the ability to perceive and systematically analyze social structures (stable, persistent patterns of interaction) in society, from small-scale micro-level symbolic interactions to large-scale global social arrangements.

Alumni Survey Q5 - Understanding of structural inequality, social systems, and institutions:

26/33            79%

3) Students will engage with an intellectually rigorous theoretical core including using a wide variety of classical and contemporary sociological/anthropological theories to interpret social reality.

Alumni Survey Q5 – Critical thinking

29/33            88%

Alumni Survey Q5 – Understanding/appreciation of cultural differences

29/33            88%

4) Students will strengthen their methodological sophistication through an acquaintance with the research methods of sociology/anthropology and their appropriate uses, and independent research skills, including qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Alumni Survey Q5 – Survey/Questionnaire creation

15/33            45%

Alumni Survey Q5 – Interviewing

19/33            58%

## Alumni Survey Q5 – Transcribing

12/33          36%

## Alumni Survey Q5 – Statistics

18/33          55%

## Sociology/Anthropology Learning Goals Capstone Assessment Rubric (1\*)

Class of: \_\_\_2020\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_June 1, 2020\_\_\_\_\_ Assessor: \_\_\_\_Anne Goldberg\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the number of students in a given class achieving each level of proficiency on each learning goal. Space for open response questions at the end of rubric.

	<b>No Evidence</b> (student's presentation revealed no exercise of this goal)	<b>Evident</b> (student's presentation revealed the exercise of this goal)	<b>Very Evident</b> (student's presentation revealed substantial exercise of this goal)
Sociological and anthropological imagination (DLG1)	0	4	7
Comments			
Ability to analyze social structures (DLG2)	1	0	10
Comments			
Application of theory(ies) (DLG3)		1	10
Comments:			
Methodological sophistication (DLG4)		4	7
Comments:			