

General Education SLOA Summary

General Education Category: BSS -- Sociology

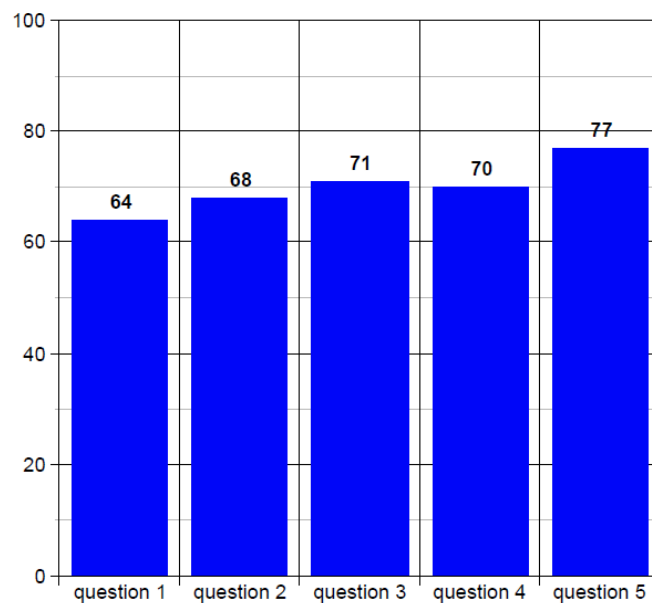
Semester: Spring 2016

Data Summary:

BSS General Education Student Learning Outcomes Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES	COMMON ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO OUTCOMES
1. Analyzes and evaluates issues utilizing appropriate methodologies	#1, #2
2. Demonstrates how culture, society and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures	#3, #4, #5

SPRING 2016 GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES



N = 116

General Education Assessment:

In the Spring 2016 semester, sections of Introduction to Sociology (SOC-101) were administered a general education assessment examination. The two General Education outcomes did not change from the previous year. The sociology team (Daniel Ryan and DJ Madron) utilized an objective measurement (i.e. examination) in order to directly tie course material to the general education outcomes, and to yield valid and reliable findings.

Discussion of Results:

Students were required to answer five questions based on core material/topical areas covered in SOC-101. (A chart linking the five examination questions to the General Education outcomes is pasted above. The examination questions are attached at the bottom of this report.) The questions cover a variety of sociological topics/areas—research methodologies, culture, diversity, socialization, institutions—and are directly tied to the two Behavioral and Social Sciences General Education outcomes:

- (1) Analyzes and evaluates issues utilizing appropriate methodologies
- (2) Demonstrates how culture, society and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures

One hundred sixteen (N = 116) students completed the General Education assessment during the Spring 2016 semester.

For the first General Education Outcome (*Analyzes and evaluates issues utilizing appropriate methodologies*), students were required to answer two questions pertaining to research and current sociological issues. One question required the student to identify and select appropriate research methodologies, while the second question involved identifying variables in a proposed research design.

64% of the students completing the assessment answered question #1 correctly.

68% of the students completing the assessment answered question #2 correctly.

The data from question #1 (64% of students answered question #1 correctly) indicates that many students have difficulty identifying and understanding the appropriate methodologies based on a descriptive narrative of a particular research design. The data also indicates that there is some room for improvement when students are required to identify variables in a particular research design (68% of the students answered question #2 correctly).

For the second General Education Outcome (*Demonstrates how culture, society and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures*), students were required to answer three sociological questions pertaining to culture, diversity, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, agents of socialization, and institutions.

71% of the students completing the assessment answered question #3 correctly.

70% of the students completing the assessment answered question #4 correctly.

77% of the students completing the assessment answered question #5 correctly.

The data from question #3 (71% of students answered question #3 correctly) indicates that some students struggle to identify and understand *socialization* as it relates to individuals and institutions in society. The data from questions 4-5 (70% of students answered question #4 correctly and 77% of students answered question #5 correctly) indicate that the students have a satisfactory grasp/understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in society and how ideas and manifestations of *ethnocentrism* and *cultural relativism* are directly connected to social structure and the individual in society.

Plan of Action: (closing the loop)

During the next academic year (2016-17), the General Education assessment will again be administered to SOC 101 courses. Of particular interest/focus in future data analyses, will be the results of the questions concerning research design and methodologies. Outcomes from past course assessments (COGs)—especially on questions with reference to research methodologies—seem to correlate with the results of this data set. The sociology faculty believe this current assessment will continue yield valid and reliable findings.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

1. A researcher spends time studying the homeless population in Hagerstown. In order to conduct his research, he spends numerous hours observing the behavior of the homeless population and creates field notes that he will later analyze. This type of research is an example of:
 - A. survey
 - B. experiment
 - C. ethnography
 - D. interview
2. Recent studies have linked artificial sweeteners to certain cancers found in humans. In these studies, what would be considered the independent variable?
 - A. humans
 - B. cancers
 - C. artificial sweeteners
 - D. Hawthorne effect
3. What are four core *agents of socialization* in the United States?
 - A. functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism
 - B. folkways, mores, taboo, sanctions
 - C. family, schools, peers, media
 - D. ethnocentrism, multiculturalism, cultural relativism, cultural diffusion
4. A member of a new fundamentalist church believes that he/she has found the one true way to achieve salvation and members of other religions are evil pagans and should stop their religious practices. This individual is
 - A. xenocentric.
 - B. ethnocentric.
 - C. culturally relative.
 - D. monophobic.
5. A U.S. sociologist receives a grant to different religious practices among the people of Cambodia and Vietnam. The sociologist makes a serious and unbiased effort to evaluate the norms, values, and customs of these groups in light of the distinctive cultures of which they are a part. This is an example of
 - A. genocide.
 - B. ethnocentrism.
 - C. cultural relativism.
 - D. totalitarianism.