

ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN

Department: Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology

Program: Criminology BA/BS

College: Humanities and Social Sciences

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DEPARTMENT MISSION: The Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology is firmly committed to the principles of a liberal education. Our central objective is to teach and communicate the sociological and anthropological ways of viewing the world. The programs in sociology, criminology and anthropology are intended to increase the student's knowledge of social organization and social relationships and to assist students in developing skills in the processing, integration and utilization of knowledge, rather than its simple transfer. Our curriculum reflects the long-standing interest of our disciplines in examining the human condition and understanding stability and change in social life. The Department prepares students to work in a wide variety of occupations or to pursue professional or graduate studies. The Department's mission is to produce graduates who are motivated and equipped to make meaningful contributions to the enhancement of the human condition.

The Department's mission relates to the mission of Colorado State University at Pueblo in the following ways: (a) the Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology Department offers programs of study designed to complement and strengthen a broad liberal arts education; (b) the Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology Department provides programs with emphasis on preparing students for career success or further professional development through graduate education; and (c) the programs in the department wed theory to practice across the curriculum, stressing the application of knowledge in a variety of contexts.

The Department's mission relates to the mission of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the following ways: (a) the Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology Department programs provide classroom environments that stimulate critical thinking and assist students to further develop critical thinking skills; (b) social action and responsibility, personal morality and accountability, and professional ethics are focused on throughout the curriculum in classes that examine the interplay between individual agency and social influence; (c) the broad disciplines within the department stress the importance of an awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity; and (d) the department is committed to producing motivated and socially aware graduates equipped to make meaningful contributions within a diverse community and increasingly interdependent world.

PROGRAM MISSION: Criminology examines the making of laws, the nature and extent of crime and criminality, and efforts to control crime. The criminology program provides students with a strong foundation in sociological theory and research to foster a comprehensive and contextual understanding of crime and justice in society and the capacity to think critically and creatively about what does and doesn't work in current crime control efforts. The organizations and institutions developed to respond to crime, in particular the criminal justice system, will be examined along with the related concepts of law and justice. Courses focus on the social

construction or definitions of crime, the causes of crime and delinquency, and on the origin, nature, and consequences of societal reactions to criminal offending, including practices in both public and private justice agencies. Students pursuing careers in traditional criminal justice fields, such as policing, probation & parole, corrections and reintegration, will develop a strong foundation to work and effect social change in these fields. Criminology majors interested in careers in legal advocacy, community activism and social research will have the skills and knowledge enabling them to become transformational leaders in their profession.

The criminology curriculum emphasizes the importance of research- based knowledge, theoretically informed practice, critical analysis, ethical decision-making, and communication. Students are strongly encouraged to engage in experiential learning through courses and in the internship program with placements in criminal justice, juvenile justice, victim advocacy, and community-based agencies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the Criminology major, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. A comprehension of and the ability to critically assess and compare the major criminological theoretical perspectives.
2. Apply a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods in the gathering and analysis of criminological data and recognize common methodologies used in criminological literature.
3. An ability to apply criminological theories and methods to substantive issues and in order to understand social problems and inform crime-related social policy.
4. An ability to engage in critical thinking about various aspects of social life and organization, including crime and criminal justice institutions.
5. Be able to communicate criminological knowledge in a clear and effective manner.

CURRICULUM MAP

Core required courses and their objectives, in aggregate, meet the outcomes for the program.

Criminology	Theory Comprehension	Methods Application	Analysis	Critical Thinking	Communication
Crim 101 Introduction to Criminology	I	I	I,D	I,D	I,D
CrIm 205 Research Methods	D, R	D,R	D,R	D, R	D,R
Crim 310 Criminological Theory	R,M	D,R	D,R	R,M	R,M

Crim 335* Advanced Research Methods	R	R,M	R,M	R,M	R
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I = Introduce D = Develop R = Reinforce M=Mastery

*Denotes a requirement for BS degrees only

ASSESSMENT MEASURES

A. INDIRECT MEASURES

1. Review of program curriculum & course requirements (syllabi).
2. Questionnaires administered to graduating seniors.

B. DIRECT MEASURES

1. Senior essays.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS & TIMELINE (Direct measures)

	Year 1	Year 2*	Year 3*	Year 4*	Year 5*
SLOs	4	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Measures	Essay	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Artifacts collected	spring	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scoring	spring	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Report submitted	JUNE 2026	JUNE 2027	JUNE 2028	JUNE 2029	JUNE 2030
Assessment plan – annual review for update or revision	Plan revised May 2026				

*Denotes an assessment process and timeline that will be determined during spring 27. A seminar/capstone course will be used to conduct assessment.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS of student performance

SLO 1 Theory comprehension – 75% of students will score on the assessment rubric at the meet expectations (proficient) level or higher.

SLO 2 Methods application – 75% of students will score on the assessment rubric at the meet expectations (proficient) level or higher.

SLO 3 Sociological analysis –75% of students will score on the assessment rubric at the meet expectations (proficient) level or higher

SLO 4 Critical thinking – 75% of students will score on the assessment rubric at the meet expectations (proficient) level or higher.

SLO 5 Communication – 75% of students will score on the assessment rubric at the meet expectations (proficient) level or higher.

Assessment Rubric (to be revisited after year 1):

Critical Thinking SLO

- Objective Description: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- AAUC VALUE Rubric Considerations (Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric): explanation of issues, evidence, influence of context and assumptions, student’s position, conclusions, and related outcomes.

Paper # _____ Reviewer’s initials _____

Criteria for evaluation	0	1	2	3
The student clearly and comprehensively states the issue to be considered.				
The student effectively evaluates and synthesizes evidence from multiple sources.				
The student clearly and effectively draws conclusions that are well-supported by the available evidence.				
The student demonstrates an ability to evaluate the causes and consequences of historical change and continuity.				

- 0 - Student fails to meet the benchmark.
- 1 - Student achieves minimum standards for meeting the benchmark.
- 2 - Student meets the benchmark without difficulty.
- 3 - Student meets the benchmark, exceeding expectations.

Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology May 2026 -Annual Assessment