



Program Review Quality Assurance Plan

Quality Assurance Plan for: Sociology

Date submitted to SSCPR: September 24 2018

Date Self-Study Report approved by SSCPR: June 7 2018

Date of External Review: April 6 2018

SUMMARY

Summarize what the program has determined - through evidence - about program quality (e.g. strengths, challenges, opportunities for improvement, potential threats, etc.)

The Sociology department at KPU offers a unique program in comparison to other sociology programs in Canada. We are the first-degree granting program in sociology to require that students' complete credits in applied, experiential, or service learning courses. As noted by external reviewers, the program offers strong curriculum and instructional design that is deeply embedded with practical, hands-on activities to assist students in applying sociological concepts that have the potential to provide students with "unique and inspirational learning experiences" (External Review:4).

We offer students the following undergraduate options: A Major in Sociology as part of KPU's Bachelor of Arts (BA) program, an Associate of Arts (AA) in Sociology, and a Minor that can become part of the BA Double Minor program or completed as part of any of KPU's baccalaureate degrees. The overall goal of the BA is to increase access to high quality education that meets the needs of diverse student populations and communities both regionally and globally. Our curriculum reflects this by offering critical, practical and transformative studies taking both local and global approaches. Further, all our courses articulate the learning competencies that were established in KPU's 2018 academic plan which are further connected to viable career paths.

The sociology faculty are committed to our students and the experiential nature of our program and many maintain active research agendas including community commitments and partnerships that help enhance students' abilities to engage with the community.

In moving forward, the sociology department has already started to reflect on our approach to pre-requisites as noted by the external review committee and the Dean. We will also continue to find ways to distribute the required skills found in our two capstone courses (at the 4000 level) that offer service and experiential learning across the entire program. In addition, we will examine the possibility of developing small service learning projects in 2nd and 3rd year courses so as to meet the needs of students developing connections within the community. These enhancements will help our program maintain its unique structure and will ensure our program is both current and competitive. To facilitate future program planning, the Sociology department will make sure to re-invigorate our Community Advisory Review Board (CARB) which will assist in helping to establish and co-ordinate priorities and evolving opportunities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE GOALS

List the program's Quality Assurance Goals (broad statements about what the program intends to accomplish to ensure program quality). Identify the Recommendation(s) – drawn from the **Self-Study Report and External Review Report** - each Goal addresses. Provide a brief Rationale for each Goal (see the Quality Assurance Plan Guidelines for instructions). Add or remove rows as necessary.

GOAL 1: Enabling Student Success

RATIONALE FOR THIS GOAL: To broaden sociology studentship and facilitate graduation.

| Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses | Report (page number) |
|---|---|
| "The department should reflect on their approach to course pre-requisites. For example, the department might consider having prerequisites for only the core courses in the degree. Such a strategy would make the non-core courses more attractive to students from across the university although such a change might also adversely impact the background knowledge students bring to a course." | External Review page 10 |
| "... the BA Major should be revised slightly (to lessen the quantity of electives that are needed for graduation), course prerequisites be reassessed ..." | Self-Study page 86 |
| "We support the revision of the BA Major requirements to reduce the number of 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th year elective requirements to keep the degree competitive and conducive to students graduating." | Response from the Dean's Office, Self-Study page 89 |
| "We also support the revision of the prerequisite structure of the upper level courses to open these courses to more students ..." | Response from the Dean's Office, Self-Study page 89 |
| "KPU sociology requires students to complete 45 credits of course work in the BA Major. We think this number should be reduced by 3 credits. Upper level courses in sociology at KPU tend to have more prerequisites than would be found in other provincial programs. We think the extensive use of prerequisites ought to be re-examined." | External Review Page 2 |
| "Student satisfaction in the KPU sociology program is high but students noted the need for more program flexibility (e.g., increase number of courses offered over the semester (including summer/evenings, across campuses) to enhance program flexibility. The Review Committee invites the sociology program to explore ways to increase choice for students while maintaining important laddering in the curriculum." | External Review Page 5 |
| Develop more 3000 and 4000 level courses | Self-Study page 84 |
| "We do concur with the recommendation from alumni and students for more courses to be offered in the summer semester as well as in a condensed format" | Response from the Dean's Office, Self-Study page 89 |
| "Both students and Alumni felt that more 3000 and 4000 level classes need to be offered." | Self-Study page 84 |

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| “We ... suggest that with the recent restructuring of the KPU admissions process, the Sociology department work with the Associate Dean and the Office of the Registrar to give declared Sociology students’ preferential registration in upper level Sociology courses required for graduation.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 89 |
| Encourage student engagement by re-establishing the Sociology Student Group which will offer students the ability to be involved in the planning of sociology specific events as well as actively engage in other department opportunities. | Self-Study page 84 |

GOAL 2: Decolonize and Indigenize content across the Sociology Department’s curriculum

RATIONALE FOR THIS GOAL: This fundamental initiative will align the Sociology Department’s goal to decolonize and indigenize curriculum with one of KPU’s main commitments as an institution. This is also consistent with the national framework of reconciliation as laid out in the TRC recommendations. This will require significant revision across existing courses and will guide the spirit and direction of new course development.

| Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses | Report (page number) |
|--|---|
| “We suggest that the Department takes up the matter of whether to specifically include inequalities and injustices surrounding aboriginal peoples, or if the language of inequality and marginalization are sufficient.” | Self-Study page 39 |
| “We also agree with the recommendation that the department consider whether or not to specifically include aboriginal matters in course outlines, or if the language of inequality and marginalization are sufficient. We also encourage the department to consider including aboriginal content in research methodology courses given the substantial research available that speaks to the challenges and concerns when conducting research with aboriginal peoples and others who experience inequality and marginalization”. | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 89 |

GOAL 3: Enhance marketing strategies to achieve retention in upper level courses

RATIONALE FOR THIS GOAL: To raise the profile of the Sociology Department and its programming to achieve a balance between lower and upper level student enrolment.

| Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses | Report (page number) |
|--|------------------------|
| “The Program Review report indicated that program marketing could be improved. Mention of an improved KPU sociology website and potential for improved social media was discussed both in the report and during the ERT visit. It is recommended that all possible avenues be explored to help in further marketing the program, perhaps in tandem with the KPU Marketing department.” | External Review page 6 |

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| “Work towards more community engagement to teach about the discipline of Sociology (i.e. identify who we are as sociologists and what we do).” | Self-Study page 82 |
| “...we support the excellent suggestion of mounting an educational campaign about Sociology with community (government and non-government) presentations about its utility and would invite the Sociology Department to work with the Arts Event Coordinator to bring this to fruition.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 87 |
| “... maintaining residency in their community is an important reason why Sociology students choose our programs. Marketing to this niche group is something we recommend so to expand our programs, especially within the high schools.” | Self-Study page 85 |
| “...discuss ways that social media can be used to promote our Department and programs to the community.” | Self-Study page 89 |
| “...holding information session in high schools, the community, improve the website, develop and market special topics courses, using social media etc.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 89 |

GOAL4: Facilitating more community connections for students

RATIONALE FOR THIS GOAL: To connect with community on many different levels and for many different purposes, including: creating employment opportunities for our graduates; helping us to evaluate our programs (Community Advisory Review Board, [CARB]; helping with the promotion, growth and development of our programs.

| Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses | Report (page number) |
|--|---|
| “A strength of KPU, and one emphasized in the sociology programs, is the focus upon community partnerships. The requirement for sociology students to develop a range of competencies through service, experiential, and applied learning is a strength. However, it is a strength that requires renewal. It would be helpful to KPU and to the Department to re-invigorate the Community Advisory Board as one part of renewing the stress on service, experiential, and applied competencies”. | External Review page 10-11 |
| “As a department we must now begin to re-engage and in some cases, forge new academic and community advisory committee ties.” | Self-Study page 86 |
| Establish a Community Advisory Review Board (CARB). | Self-Study page 76 |
| “[M]embership [of a Community Advisory Board] could include departmental representation from KPU, alumni, and those industry partners pivotal in providing service learning placements and future employment contacts for Sociology program students.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 94 |
| “We support and encourage the development of small service learning projects embedded within 2 nd and 3 rd year Sociology course to meet this need and also to increase the number of students graduating with a KPU Sociology degree.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 89 |
| “...continue to explore embedding short-term community placements in relevant lower and upper courses as part of completing the Minor and the Major degree program, and as a means to meet student needs for relevant field-based experience where they can increase their contacts and relationships with future employers.” | Response from the Dean’s Office, Self-Study page 92 |

RECOMMENDATIONS THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS

List the Recommendations from the Self-Study and External Review this Plan does not address. Provide a brief rationale for why these Recommendations cannot be addressed. Add or remove rows as necessary.

| Recommendations | Report (page number) | Rationale |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Need for more physical space dedicated to the program. | External Review page 6 Self-Study pages 79, 83, 86 | Not within the programs control |
| Need for scholarly support. | External Review pages 6 and 10 | Not within the programs control |
| Standardized articulation process | Self-Study page 80 | Not within the programs control |
| Additional institutional support of PD and research at KPU | Self-Study page 85 | Not within the programs control |

QUALITY ASSURANCE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Describe the Quality Assurance Strategies (specific plans of action) the program must achieve to attain its Goal over the next five year. Detail the **steps** the program will take to achieve each Strategy. Add or remove Strategies and tables as necessary.

MONTH/YEAR WHEN THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN BEGINS: Fall 2018

STRATEGY 1: Enabling student success

GOAL(S) THIS STRATEGY SUPPORTS: Goal #1: Enabling student success; Goal 2: Decolonize and Indigenize content across the sociology departments curriculum; Goal 3: Enhance marketing strategies to achieve retention in upper level courses.

| Step(s) Required to Achieve this Strategy | To be Led by | To Begin on (M/YY) | To be Completed By (M/YY) | Notes |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Revise course outlines | Department | Fall 2017 | May 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course outlines have been assigned to various faculty for revisions |
| 2. Reduce elective requirements for 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th year requirements | Department | Fall 2018 | May 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of revising course outlines |
| 3. Complete transfer agreements with post-secondary institutions in metro Vancouver | Dean's office | Fall 2018 | Spring 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department's articulation rep has already started this work |
| 4. Develop pathways to minor and other relevant majors | Department | Fall 2018 | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty have started working with Geography, History, and Policy Studies on developing a Faculty of Arts Minor in Environmental Justice |
| 5. Offer condensed and blended learning opportunities | Department | Summer 2017 | ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2017, we have offered condensed courses in the summer Starting summer 2019, we will be offering an additional two condensed courses that will also be blended |
| 6. Work with the Associate Dean and the Office of the Registrar to give declared Sociology students preferential registration in upper level Sociology courses required for graduation. | Chair | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019 | |

| Resource Implications (if applicable) |
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| What are the resources required to achieve this Strategy? Administrative support from Dean's office |
| When are these resources required? Fall 2018 |
| What Faculty and/or Institutional support is required? Department ASCC representative; ASCC; SCCC; department assistant; office of registrar; BA advisors; associate Dean; |

STRATEGY 2: Indigenize and decolonize SOCI curriculum

GOAL(S) THIS STRATEGY SUPPORTS: This strategy supports Goal 2: Indigenize and decolonize SOCI curriculum.

| Step(s) Required to Achieve this Strategy | To be Led by | To Begin on (M/YY) | To be Completed By (M/YY) | Notes |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Internal discussion on what indigenization and decolonization means and what it could look like in curriculum | Department | September 2018 | Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Two sociology faculty have started working with Geography, history, and Policy Studies on developing a Faculty of Arts Minor in Environmental Justice – received Arts grant to fund Indigenous consultation |
| 2. Request Indigenous leaders to engage with department | Chair | September 2018 | December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department will approve honorarium |
| 3. Review course outlines and teaching practices so as to meet this goal | Department ASCC Rep | Fall 2017 | Ongoing | |
| 4. Continue to organize decolonizing university wide events | AS and FWW, student group | Fall 2018 | Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forthcoming: November 2018: Indigenous People with Disability Awareness Month – organized with BC Aboriginal Network for Disability Society (BCANDS) and Inclusion BC: Presidents Diversity and Equity Committee Funded |
| 5. Encourage SOCI faculty to complete the three online Indigenous Awareness Modules | Chair | Fall 2018 | Ongoing | |

| Resource Implications (if applicable) |
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| What are the resources required to achieve this Strategy? Institutional support for decolonization (PD discussion material etc.) |
| When are these resources required? Fall 2018 |
| What Faculty and/or Institutional support is required? Manager of Indigenous Student Services; Elder in residence |

STRATEGY 3: Enhance marketing strategies to achieve retention in upper level courses

GOAL(S) THIS STRATEGY SUPPORTS: This strategy supports Goal #3: Enhance marketing strategies to achieve retention in upper level courses.

| Step(s) Required to Achieve this Strategy | To be Led by | To Begin on (M/YY) | To be Completed By (M/YY) | Notes |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. SOCI Promotions Team to meet with the Marketing and Communications department to set out a comprehensive and robust marketing strategy, including short and long term goals. In this meeting identify all of the pieces that need to come together to make this a comprehensive approach, including, website, social media, pamphlets, posters, etc. | Chair, Promotions committee | 09/28-2018 | 12/01/2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter account has already been established • some website updates have already been done • currently updating Sociology rack cards • Richmond open house participation has been arranged |
| 2. Promotions team allocate tasks as per the above-mentioned plan and reach out to other SOCI faculty members for assistance in carrying out the plan | Chair, Promotions committee | 01/04/2019 | 04/31/2019 | |
| 3. Promotion of Sociology minors and develop pathways with Political Science, Psychology, and Criminology | TBD | Ongoing | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sociology faculty have started working with Geography, History, and Policy Studies on developing a Faculty of Arts Minor in Environmental Justice – received Arts grant to fund Indigenous consultation |

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| Resource Implications (if applicable) |
| What are the resources required to achieve this Strategy? Marketing support; printing; website design support; active social media posts: i.e. twitter Facebook |
| When are these resources required? Fall 2018 through Spring 2019 |
| What Faculty and/or Institutional support is required? Marketing; website; internal printing; ARTS Marketing; SOCI Promotions committee |

STRATEGY 4: Facilitating more community connections for students.

GOAL(S) THIS STRATEGY SUPPORTS: Goal #4: Facilitating more community connections for students.

| Step(s) Required to Achieve this Strategy | To be Led by | To Begin on (M/YY) | To be Completed By (M/YY) | Notes |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Re-engage with members of the previous SOCI Community Advisory Review Board (CARB) and establish new additional members | TBD | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019 | |
| 2. Integrate service learning core competencies in targeted sociology courses | department | Fall 2018 | Spring 2020 | |
| 3. Strike a CARB | TBD | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019 | |
| 4. Hold meet and greet between students and CARB | TBD | | Spring 2019 | |

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| Resource Implications (if applicable) |
| What are the resources required to achieve this Strategy? Additional sociology budget to support CARB and meet and greet |
| When are these resources required? Starting Fall 2018 |
| What Faculty and/or Institutional support is required? Dean's Office; SOCI Promotions Committee |

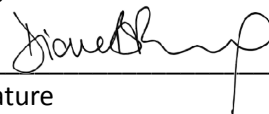
PLAN SUPPORTED BY:

____ Dr. Sal Ferreras _____
Provost's Name

____ Dr. Diane Purvey _____
Dean's Name



Provost's Signature



Dean's Signature

____ October 3, 2018 _____
Date

____ October 4, 2018 _____
Date