

## Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the Realm of Teaching

### *Discipline specific notes, additions, or deletions accompanying the Faculty Guide "Basic Expectations of Teaching"*

In broad terms, the sociology department believes that good teaching has few unique qualities to our discipline. With that said, there are a few broad guidelines that seem to apply to sociology, criminal justice, and human services. It is the general expectation that classes will involve both presentations and activities. It is the general expectation that assessment of student achievement will be varied and beyond mere multiple-choice tests. It is the general expectation that students will be able to discuss, reflect, and think deeply about current social situations. As such the teaching and assessment techniques need to allow opportunities and spaces for students to achieve such activities.

### *Discipline specific notes, additions, or deletions accompanying the Faculty Guide "Teaching Effectiveness"*

Because our social world is often changing it is the general expectation that classes will be revised as new information, perspectives, trends, and social context develop.

## Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the Realm of Research and Scholarship

### *Elements critical to scholarship which may be unfamiliar to faculty in other disciplines*

Human Services, Sociology, and Criminal Justice all follow traditional liberal arts standards for scholarship. Papers, presentations, articles, books (authored and edited) are the standard fare. Peer reviewed works from any legitimate journal are valued as are books whether authored or edited. Books need not be peer reviewed for validation as long as they are not produced by vanity publishers. Textbooks are viewed as the equivalent of original research works, though publication of new works in this area are comparatively rare. Non-traditional academic dissemination of scholarly work is increasingly common and therefore becoming increasingly valuable.

Collaborative publication efforts in the social sciences are far more the norm than the exception. For the department collaborative publications may represent the most beneficial efforts in many ways. A word about the order of authorship. In other disciplines a differentiation is made on the amount or value of the contribution. First authors, for example, are often judged to have provided more value than third authors. This is sometimes true and sometimes not true in the social sciences. For many books and journals, author arrangement is about the alphabetic arranging of last names or who was the corresponding author. There are no implications for the value of the contribution.

Grants are noted as rare within the fields of sociology, criminal justice, and human services.

### *Meaning of Peer Review and circumstances where peer review is not necessary for the work product to be considered for scholarship.*

Peer review includes a hierarchy of academic peers carefully reviewing scholarly articles, including typically an associate editor and 2-3 reviewers. However, changes in publication has resulted in changes in peer-review. If a publisher values a book and offers a publication contract without peer review from other scholars, the work would remain valuable in what is becoming an increasingly common practice. Some journals have moved to a pay to publish model. This is more common in international publications. There is still a "peer review" process, but publication is all be guaranteed with the fee. This has traditionally been seen as inferior.

### *What does and does not qualify as meaningful creative work*

There is no creative work venue for Sociology, Criminal Justice or Human Services.

***Can "Paid" work be considered scholarship***

Sociology, Human Services and Criminal Justice have little paid scholarship. The venue of evaluation research, particularly grant program evaluations, is both paid by the grant recipient and often used for scholarship. Such work is often both paid and seen as scholarship.

***How 21st century forms of disseminating work product into the intellectual marketplace figure into accepted norms of scholarship***

The majority of scientific journals are readily accessible as forms of scholarship alongside oral or poster presentations at scientific meetings. Online conference formats are increasingly commonplace.

The emergence of non-traditional forms of communication (blogs, podcasts, YouTube videos, twitter followings, etc.) have challenged the traditional methods of accessing the intellectual marketplace. A sociology webpage that has 3,000 hits per year is widely more successful than a book that has been purchased by 200 people in a given year.

***Departmental assessment of scholarship quality***

Peer review remains highly valued, though books, in some cases, may not need to be peer reviewed to carry significant scholarly weight.

With some exceptions, international or national conferences carry more scholarly weight than regional local ones, which are thought to be more prestigious than state gatherings. In short, the larger the catchment area the slightly higher the evaluation. Presenting at the NC sociological meeting (state) is good. The Southeastern or Southern (regional) meetings are modestly better. National and international meetings represent still slightly better value. A specialized national meeting may have a more noteworthy impact than a national meeting with a small crowd. Given the complexity we suggest that faculty should be encouraged to explain the value of the presentations separate from extraneous metric.

***Departmental assessment of scholarship quantity***

The goal of social scientists in sociology, criminal justice, and human services is to produce a consistent "pipeline" of academic production. Typically, such arbitrary standards as "one academic presentation per year" or "two peer reviewed publication per three years." Both presentations and publications tend to arrive in cycles. A major research project may take two to three years to create. From such effort, as many as three publications and four presentations may be produced. It is hoped that within a three-year period we may expect to see two presentations and one publication. Further, one would expect to see three to four small or modest size projects and maybe only one major project (in lieu of the smaller efforts) underway at any given time with realistic plans for completion and academic production.

**Nature of the Discipline(s) in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the Realm of Service*****Need, value, and expectation of departmental service***

Attending department meetings is the starting point of basic department service. Collegiality is prized. By and large, service is challenging to comprehensively define and difficult to evaluate.

***Need, value, and expectation of university service***

Serving on University committees.

***Importance of service to the profession***



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There is nothing unique about sociology, criminal justice, or human services in regards to service. If you serve on a regional or state committee that is seen as service.

***Importance of service to the community***

There is no discipline specific information when referring to community service, though most faculty members are involved in various initiatives or groups.

***Departmental assessment of service quality***

Accepting and fulfilling at least one committee assignment.

***Departmental assessment of service quantity***

Accepting and fulfilling at least one committee assignment.