

MIS Startup for the Sociology Departmental Assessment Plan

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March 17, 2005

Beginning Points

- Assessment information is only useful when actually used.
- Maintenance and reporting of data are required.

Purpose of Project

- Creation of management information system.
- Store and report on assessment done by faculty and students.

Parameters

- Hire student with expertise in information systems.
- Use Microsoft ACCESS software.

Uses of Information

- **Primary:**
 - link data with existing committee structure responsible for curricular improvement
 - steady stream of information to respective department committees
- **Secondary:**
 - have outcomes to enter as findings into TracDat

Progress Report

- Approximately 2/3 of database is in the trial phase of operation.
- Data from course assessment has been entered and used to troubleshoot what has been developed thus far.

Outcome Examples


Microsoft Access

File Edit Insert Records Window Help

Type a question for help

Main Switchboard

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
ASSESSMENT DATABASE**




Western Michigan University

Developed by Mewan Gunasekara
for the Dept. of Sociology at WMU

MAIN MENU

- Enter Assessment Data
- Open Goal Assessment Summary Report
- Open Resource Assessment Report
- Course Information



Form View

SOCIOLOGY Goal Asses

Undergraduate

Goal 1 - Assessing Social Issues

Goal 2 - Understanding Sociological Theory

Goal 3 - Empirical Research Statistics

Goal 4 - Written and Oral Communication

L3 - Ready for graduate school

L2 - Advanced undergrad level

L1 - Partial competency

L0 - Lacks basic knowledge

Graduate

Sociology Graduate

SOC6020

SOC4800

Goal	L3	L2
Goal 1	9 (47.4%)	6 (31.6%)
Goal 2	9 (47.4%)	6 (31.6%)
Goal 3	6 (31.6%)	6 (31.6%)
Goal 4	7 (36.8%)	6 (31.6%)

Unforeseen Benefit

- Found a way to link the regular tracking of graduate students with the assessment process, beyond what had been developed in the original department assessment plan.

Things Learned Thus Far

- Reporting forms may make sense to those who develop them, but not to end-users.
- TracDat needs further demonstration so that people are aware of what can and cannot be done with it.
- There are still data management issues to be addressed, at both the department and university level.