Learning Outcome Statement: In the Fall 2009 semester the Sociology Department engaged in an in-depth exploration of the following course-level student learning outcome in Sociology 16 (Marriage, Family, and Relationships):

- Students will be able to understand how factors in the social structure, such as the economy, public policy, religion, and education influence patterns and changes in marriage, families, and relationships

This course-level learning outcome supports the following Sociology Department program-level outcome:

- Students will be able to recognize the connections between social structure and the individual in society

Means of Assessment and Criteria: In support of the identified student learning outcome, Sociology Department faculty developed the following means of assessment and criteria:

- A post-assessment instrument will be administered to students enrolled in Marriage, Family, and Relationships (SOC-16) sections taught by full-time and part-time faculty. Assessment will occur during the 13th and 14th weeks of the semester. We expect that the average student score will meet or exceed 70 percent.

In the first week of October, Sociology Department faculty identified six questions that demonstrated acquisition of the stated student learning outcome. Supported by the Office of Institutional Research, the Sociology Department developed a scannable survey form that identified student name, unique student identifier, section number, date that the form was completed, and student responses to the six survey items.

Consistent with the stated means of assessment, post-assessment forms were disseminated in 18 SOC-16 sections in the 13th through 15th weeks of the Fall semester (November 16th through December 3rd), reaching a potential audience of 603 students. In total, 363 valid post-assessment forms were returned (a 60.2% response rate), allowing researchers the ability to generalize findings with a 95% confidence level (confidence interval ± 3.25).
Summary of Evidence:

Tables 1 provides a frequencies distribution of the number of items answered correctly at post-assessment. The mean number of items answered correctly was 3.76, a 62.7% correct response rate. In examining the range of correct responses, 13.2% of students were able to identify all (100%) of the questions correctly; 31.1% were able to identify 5 or more (83.3%) of the questions correctly; and 52.3% were able to identify 4 or more (66.7%) of the items correctly.

Table 1
Number of Questions Answered Correctly By Survey Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Assessment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Cum. %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Six Questions Answered Correctly (100.0%)</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Questions Answered Correctly (83.3%)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Questions Answered Correctly (66.7%)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Questions Answered Correctly (50.0%)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Questions Answered Correctly (33.3%)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Question Answered Correctly (16.7%)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Questions Answered Correctly (0.0%)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Number of Items Answered Correctly 3.76 (62.7%)

Additional analyses were conducted for each survey item. For each of the six survey questions that demonstrated acquisition of the stated student learning outcomes, Table 2 identifies the number and percentage of students who identified the correct response.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>Correct Responses</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>According to a Sociological perspective, which of the following is <strong>NOT</strong> a factor in the changes in divorce rates over time? (correct response: People are less interested in marriage now)</td>
<td></td>
<td>131</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Now that most American women are working full-time, which if the following statements is true? (correct response: Women still do the majority of housework and child care)</td>
<td></td>
<td>197</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The average age of marriage has increased over time; which of the following has been a factor in this trend? (correct answer: All of the above)</td>
<td></td>
<td>257</td>
<td>70.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Which of the following women would be most likely to marry after the age of 30? (correct response: Josefina, the daughter of a wealthy surgeon in Orange County who plans to go to law school)</td>
<td></td>
<td>292</td>
<td>80.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>What is the <strong>MAIN</strong> reason we have seen an increase in interracial marriages in the last forty years? (correct response: The removal of U.S. laws which banned interracial marriage)</td>
<td></td>
<td>179</td>
<td>49.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>According to Sociologists, why are same sex marriages, for the most part, not legal in the United States? (correct response: Because of social institutions such as the government and religion have been significant in defining marriage between a man and a woman)</td>
<td></td>
<td>309</td>
<td>85.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of Results for Planning:

As Table 2 indicates, three of the survey items – questions #3, #4, and #6 – were correctly identified by at least 70% of Sociology 16 students in the 13th – 15th weeks of the semester. However, the three remaining survey items were answered correctly by less than 55% of the survey respondents, including two items – questions #1 and #5 – that were correctly identified by less than half of the survey respondents.

In examining this learning outcome assessment finding, a review of: a) the way these questions are worded on the survey and their clarity to students; and/or b) the extent to which these concepts are delivered and reinforced are two areas that Sociology Department faculty might want to explore. Additionally, Sociology Department faculty might want to re-examine the assessment criteria and consider establishing tiered criteria (e.g., 20% of students will be able to identify all six survey items correctly; 35% will be able to identify at least five survey items correctly; etc.).
INSTRUCTIONS: This is a Sociology Department survey. Please provide what you think is the best response to each of the following questions. Use a black ink pen, blue ink pen, or #2 pencil to "bubble-in" your responses.

1) According to a Sociological perspective, which of the following is NOT a factor in the changes in divorce rates over time?
- People are less interested in marriage now
- Many states have changed their laws since the 1970s to make a divorce easier to obtain
- The changes in social perception of divorce as less stigmatizing
- The meaning of love and marriage has changed over the last century, and people now have higher expectations of marriage than before
- The changes in the economy which increased female participation in the labor force

2) Now that most American women are working full-time, which of the following statements is true?
- Gender discrimination in hiring practices has been eliminated
- Men are doing the same amount of housework and child care as women in dual-earner families
- Men and women now earn the same wages for the same work
- Women still do the majority of housework and child care
- All of the above

3) The average age of marriage has increased over time; which of the following has been a factor in influencing this trend?
- More individuals are postponing marriage to attend college
- More people are choosing to cohabit instead of getting married
- Because of changes in the economy, it takes longer to find a career and settle down
- Many women no longer have to marry for financial security because they are more economically independent now
- All of the above

4) Which of the following women would be most likely to marry after the age of 30?
- Josefina, the daughter of a wealthy surgeon in Orange County who plans to go to law school
- Isabel, who grew up on a small farm in Iowa, whose parents did not attend college
- Katrina, whose only parent worked odd jobs, such as at Blockbuster Video, Taco Bell, and Wal-Mart
- Shawna, whose mother is working at a nursing home during the day and attends college in the evening
- It depends on who finds true love first

5) What is the MAIN reason we have seen an increase in interracial marriages in the last forty years?
- There has been an increase in minorities in the United States due to immigration
- The removal of U.S. laws which banned interracial marriage
- There are more racial minorities in the media today
- Because it is popular to date outside of your race
- Because some people are just more attracted to people of different races

6) According to Sociologists, why are same sex marriages, for the most part, not legal in the United States?
- Because it is morally wrong
- Because marriage is to procreate and same sex couples cannot have children
- Because social institutions such as the government and religion have been significant in defining marriage between a man and a woman
- Because the government is right
- Because if it were legal, the human race would eventually disappear