

## Executive summary

### Introduction

The Sociology Program is located in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. It provides undergraduate education in sociology for students to complete degrees that include the Sociology Major, Sociology Teaching Major, Sociology Minor, Sociology Teaching Minor, or BIS emphases. The program serves students seeking general education, diversity credits, or who wish to take sociology courses for interest. It studies social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. It investigates the structure of organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Its subject matter ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of health care and medicine.

### Mission

The sociology program revisits its mission statement in the fall 2013, immediately after, and accords the 2010 statement a 5-year program report. Revisiting and refining the vision represented the first step in the efforts to better align the program mission with its goals and student role of Sociology undergraduate programs. The Sociology program mission resonates with the new [College of Social and Behavioral Sciences mission statement and mission of access, community, and learning](#)

In revising the mission, our faculty members agreed that the most important goal, the one that separates sociology from other social science disciplines, is building a skill of sociological thinking where students can explain how social structures and cultures shape and interact with individual biographies and life chances. Additional skills include collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, critically evaluating social phenomena, and synthesizing complex concepts into cogent and compelling oral and written reports. All five goals are integrated in the course content and pedagogy through the specific program outcomes, albeit in various degrees, and faculty are encouraged to explain to students which skills they are developing in sociology. As an undergraduate program, we are focused on training students in skills that can be marketable in a variety of occupations and careers. That training takes place both inside and outside the traditional classroom as students engage in online education, serve the community through community engaged learning (CEL) courses, conduct primary research, intern in area companies and organizations, and participate in Study Abroad programs. Students who graduate with a Sociology major or minor degree have acquired discipline-specific content knowledge (concepts, theories, methods, research findings) and had an opportunity to apply sociological analysis and ways of thinking, the social

After the previous five-year self-study report, the program made a plan to have all its courses assessed by the 2016-17 report (see [http://www.weber.edu/portfolio/socio\\_ap.htm](http://www.weber.edu/portfolio/socio_ap.htm)). We managed to complete