

Assessment: Annual Report



Program (SS) - BA- Social Science

Unit Mission: The mission of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Science is to fulfill and extend the mission and philosophy of Great Basin College. The BA in Social Science provides a broad interdisciplinary knowledge base and professional experience. This course of study is designed to instill abilities in critical thinking, writing, presentation, and research skills as well as build an interdisciplinary knowledge base.

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Measures</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<p>Acquire and interpret scholarly information and data - Acquire and interpret scholarly information and data to reach informed, reasoned, and balanced conclusions. Outcome Status: Active Frequency of Assessment: 2016-2017, 2020-2021 Start Date: 08/31/2015</p>	<p>Internal Tracking - BA Social Science students' semester grades from a sample per discipline from the following core BA Social Science courses ANTH 400A, ANTH 400B, HIST 417C, HIST 441, HIST 458, HIST 478B, PSC 403C, PSC 401F, PSY 412, PSY 435, and PSY 460 will be used to measure this outcome. Criterion: 66 percent of BA social science students completing required upper division social science courses earning a grade of 70 percent or better. Notes: BA Social Science students' semester grades will need to be collected, anonymized, and distributed to the BA Social Science Committee for review.</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2015-2016 Criterion Met: No 65 percent of BAIS-Social Science emphasis students completing required upper division social science courses over the last two years earned a grade of 70 or better. (06/13/2016)</p>	<p>Action: In an effort to determine why this criterion for achievement was not met, and to develop a plan for addressing improving these results in the future, the program supervisor conducted a survey of program faculty members. Each faculty member was asked to identify areas where program students struggle in the program's core upper-division courses. A consensus opinion was that students struggle with research skills (specifically identifying primary sources, and distinguishing between popular and scholarly academic sources), breadth of research, and work ethic (completing and submitting assignments in a timely manner and/or in accordance with deadlines).</p> <p>This seems to indicate that BAIS students who are not succeeding in the courses (earning a grade of 70 or better) are not adequately prepared for the academic and</p>

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			<p>workload expectations of upper-division coursework.</p> <p>While it is beyond the capability of the program to instill a strong work ethic in students, it is possible to address issues with preparation for upper-division coursework. The program supervisor will send out a memo to program faculty relating the data on this measure, the findings of the survey, and requesting that faculty place more emphasis on the development of academic research and writing skills in lower-division survey courses. Also, program faculty will be asked to emphasize that such skills are required in order for students to successfully complete upper-division courses. The program supervisor will also recommend to the program committee that the program's students be required to successfully complete INT 301 (Integrative Research Methodology) before being allowed to enroll in the core upper-division courses. (06/13/2016)</p>