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## MIS Startup for the Sociology Departmental Assessment Plan

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# ***MIS Startup for the Sociology Departmental Assessment Plan***

Dr. Susan L. Caulfield

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 Assessment

## 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
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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.