

Assessment of the General Education Behavioral Sciences Division Student Learner Outcomes in SO200

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SO200, Introductory Sociology fulfills the general education behavioral sciences requirement. As listed in the Chaminade University Catalog 2009-2010, on page 70, the student learning outcomes for the Behavioral Sciences Division are that the student will demonstrate:

1. The ability to apply the scientific method to the study of human behavior in various environmental contexts;
2. An understanding of human behavior relative to various environmental contexts; and
3. An understanding of human behavior relative to adapting to various changing environmental contexts.

To assess these outcomes a number of questions were imbedded in the final exam. One question assessed student learning outcome 1 (SLO1). Three questions assessed SLO2. Two questions assessed SLO3. Each question was scored on a 3-point system: 1 = incorrect, 2 = partially correct, and 3 = correct. Twenty-one students completed the assessment.

**SLO1 Applying Scientific Method to the Study of Human Behavior**

For this question, 71.4% of the students answered it correctly (score of 3); 19% answered it partially correct; and 9.5% (2 students) answered it incorrectly. The mean score was 2.62 with a standard deviation of 0.65.

**SLO2 An Understanding of Human Behavior Relative to Various Environmental Contexts**

For the three questions used to assessing this outcome, 9.5% of the students answered all three correctly; 57.1% answered two of the three correctly; 33.3% answered only one of the three correctly. No student answered all three questions incorrectly. The mean of the mean scores of the combined sum for each student was 2.43 with a standard deviation of 0.27.

**SLO3 An Understanding of Human Behavior Relative to Adapting to Various Environmental Contexts**

For the two questions used to assess this outcome, 9.5% of the students answered both correctly; 57.1 percent answered one of the two correctly; 19% answered both partially correct; and 14.3% answered only one question partially correct. No student

answered both incorrectly. The mean of the mean scores of the combined sum for each student was 2.14 with a standard deviation of 0.41.

### **Conclusion**

As a first attempt to assess the three general education student learner outcomes with students in SO200 (Introductory Sociology), the instrument used demonstrates that students are able to apply the scientific method to the study of human behavior with 71.4% answering the question correctly. With student learning outcomes 2 and 3, however, the assessment results indicate lower levels of demonstration of the understanding of human behavior relative to various environmental contexts and relative to adapting to various environmental contexts.

Further work is suggested to this instructor to address SLO2 and SLO3 in subsequent lectures and class exercises that would highlight or emphasize these learning outcomes.