Assessment Plan
Master of Arts in Sociology and Social Justice
Kean University
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Mission:

The Kean University Master of Arts degree in Sociology and Social Justice prepares students to address inequalities based on identity categories such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ability. The Program is the first and only of its kind in the State of New Jersey and the region.

Social Justice as a discipline is the study of how social advantages, disadvantages, and personal outcomes, are distributed, and how the relationship between social identity and inequality, and the practice of reducing the gap among them, at local, national, and global levels. The M.A. Program in Sociology and Social Justice emphasizes the interplay between theoretical and applied approaches in sociology, and provides students with an integrated culminating practicum and master’s thesis experience. Successful graduates from our Program will complete a total of 36 credits (including the practicum and master’s thesis supervision). Our ideal student should have the passion to pursue justice, the ability to argue for those who cannot, the knowledge to understand public issues, the courage to challenge oppression, and the humanity to bring people together for a noble cause.

Assessment Process:

Students in the Master of Arts in Sociology and Social Justice must complete six graduate core courses and four major electives out of a possible seven. The selection of the elective courses depends on student’s academic interest in the area of social justice. Additionally, students are required complete the research practicum, the master’s thesis supervision, and the comprehensive examination for the program. The master’s thesis and the student’s supervision is considered as the Capstone course.

Each core course has assessment tools such as extensive written examinations, research projects, and reflective writing assignments, etc., as part of the assessment process in the M.A. in Sociology and Social Justice. These instruments are used to assess outcomes and to derive results useful to student assessment and outcomes and are designed toward making improvements to the M.A. Program in Sociology and Social Justice.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – as aligned with KU SLOs derived from the Institutional Mission.* (Data from Direct and Indirect Measures collected each semester in designated and end-of-program courses.)
Students who graduate with the M.A. in Sociology and Social Justice will be able to:

**SLO1:** Demonstrate how social Justice as a discipline may be considered as the study of how social advantages, disadvantages, and personal outcomes, are distributed, and how the relationship between social identity and inequality, and the practice of reducing the gap among them, at local, national, and global levels. (KU 1, 2, 3)

**Direct Measures:** Research papers in required courses scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals: SOC 5050, 5055, 5031, 5060

**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

**SLO2:** Identify and discuss how to inspire a commitment to democracy, with firm principles of egalitarianism and equity and be ready for a career in research, teaching, public service, business and other positions to serve as agents of social change. (KU 1, 2)

**SLO 3:** Demonstrate the importance of Critical Pedagogy; Critical Social Theory; and Critical Thinking.

**Direct Measures for SLO2 & 3:** Extensive Research paper as the Master’s Thesis completed in SOC 5302 under the supervision and tutelage by the Graduate Coordinator.

**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

**SLO4:** Discuss and argue for the passion to pursue justice, the ability to stand for those who cannot, the knowledge to understand public issues, the courage to challenge oppression, and the humanity to bring people together for a noble cause.

**Direct Measure:** Extensive Research paper as the Master’s Thesis completed in SOC 5302 under the supervision and tutelage by the Graduate Coordinator.

**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey (KU 1, 2, K3, S1, S2, S5)