

**Social Science Department**  
**AUP for Academic Year 2025-2026**  
October 2024

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## **Describe Department/Unit**

### **Connection to College Mission**

The mission of the Social Sciences Department is to promote student success and critical thinking by offering high quality course offerings that enable students to fulfill general education, major and transfer requirements through traditional and distance education. To accomplish this mission the department provides • Transfer, general education and major classes in all modes of delivery and at all sites, including Associates of Arts Transfer degrees in Anthropology, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Psychology • Learning opportunities that develop ethical and effective citizenry • Working relationship with the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Learning Assistance Center (LAC), and Counseling.

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## **Report on Improvements Made and Gaps Identified in the Prior Year**

### **Student Equity**

The Social Science department remains committed to the following efforts and goals in our continuous evaluation of how our department can reasonably and effectively lower or eliminate unnecessary barriers to learning:

- 1) lowering textbook costs across all of its offered classes and using OER resources as much as is feasible without undermining the instructional quality or rigor of the class.
- 2) improving the transparency of class and instructor expectations by working with instructors in the department on making sure their major behavioral, grading, late-work, discussion posting, and participation expectations/policies are clearly communicated in either their syllabus or class canvas pages, or in other similar forms easily and directly accessible to students.
- 3) Discussing and evaluating our late-work policies and our first & second week assignments so that students on financial aid and students with families have reasonable flexibility on due dates.

The process of working with adjunct faculty on these issues remains an incomplete one, but a department canvas page has been created with departmental policies and goals, and efforts are ongoing to connect all faculty, adjunct and full-time, to the department and its policies and initiatives as adjunct faculty go through the evaluation process.

The department and its canvas page also promulgate the departmental goals of lowering textbook costs to below \$50 for each course taught in the department, with the understanding that for some courses it might not be as of yet possible to lower costs while maintaining rigor and quality, and the goals of maintaining a canvas shell, checking in with students, and clear policies for student/instructor communication in the syllabus.

After reviewing the subject level gap report data helpfully generated by Institutional Research, and focusing primarily on gaps between collegewide completion and success rates, and social science subject specific completion and success rates during the 2023-2024 academic year, a few gaps were identified.

Political Science sees a 83%(CW) vs 57%(Subj) gap in success for students attending class at the Ridgecrest campus.

Psychology sees modest success gaps with men of 80%(CW) vs 73%(Subj), and Latinos 80%(CW) vs 75%(Subj)

History sees the most significant gap as its "overall" subject completion and success rates lag behind the collegewide rates

significantly, with a completion gap of 91%(CW) vs 84%(Subj) and a success gap of 80%(CW) vs 71(Subj). This gap seems to be largely concentrated in online sections and creates gaps, when compared to collegewide rates, in multiple subgroups - men, women, Latinos, white, and others.

The department will review and analyze these gaps at its department meetings and discuss their possible causes and possible ways to address them.

## **Outcomes Assessment: Loop-Back Improvements Made**

### **Actions taken in the prior academic year**

In the preceding academic year none of the departments completed assessments fell short of the department's 70% threshold for students meeting the requirement, which would indicate that improvement actions need to be taken.

## **Outcomes Assessment: Results of Last Year's Assessments**

### **ANTH c111**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

### **ANTH c121**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

### **ANTH c121H**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

### **ANTH c131**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

### **ANTH c141**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

### **ECON c101**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**ECON c102**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**ECON c103**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**POLS c101**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**POLS c101H**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**PSYC c101**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**PSYC c151**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**SOCI c101**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

**SOCI c210**

**Target Met?**

Did Not Assess

## **Outcomes Assessment: Missed Targets**

## **Outcomes Assessment: Schedule of This Year's Assessments**

ANTH c111

ANTH c121

ANTH c121H

ANTH c131

ANTH c141

ECON c101

ECON c102

ECON c103

POLS c101

POLS c101H

PSYC c101

PSYC c151

SOCI c101

SOCI c210

## **Program Review**

### **Social Science's Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer**

#### **Year of Last Program Review:**

2024

#### **Actions Taken in the Prior Year to Address Strategies:**

None. The program review was completed during the spring of 2024.

#### **Strategies Still to be Addressed:**

Stabilize Ethnic Studies course offerings

Collaboration with librarians and tutoring center

Establish a functioning SLO and PLO assessment schedule and process

Community outreach to increase enrollments in on-site courses

## Last Year's Initiatives

### Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements - continued

The African American History course has completed CiC review and has been submitted for transfer as an Ethnic Studies (Area F) course.

The department is considering the best options for a potential fourth Ethnic Studies course offering.

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## Reminder of Initiatives for the Current Year

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### Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements, and streamline on ground course offerings - continued

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## Plan Initiatives for Next Year

### Initiatives for Next Academic Year

#### Social Science courses outreach and marketing

Is this part of a multiyear initiative?

Yes

#### Specific Action Steps to be Taken:

- 1) Begin a departmental dialogue about the actual content of existing outreach and marketing material produced, distributed, and presented by the college at events and on media about social science classes and degrees. The aim will be to brainstorm ideas about how to improve the content and better capture audience attention about the benefits and possibilities of our courses and degrees.
- 2) Work directly with marketing to create better trifold and other marketing material, as well as to create engaging materials for presentation at outreach events so that social science will be more prepared and likely to participate in institutional events attempting outreach to the community.
- 3) Use the new materials to actually participate as a department at outreach events to potential students so that social science isn't just thought of as a suite of classes that are generically part of transfer requirements or a general Liberal Arts and Sciences degree.

#### Early Observational Data, or "Lead" Measure(s):

Department meeting minutes for spring 2025, fall 2025, and spring 2026, reflect that departmental dialogue did indeed occur.

New marketing and event presentation materials are created.

Social Science participation at outreach events increases.

#### Does the department request help developing these instruments?

No

#### Institutional Performance Data, or "Lag" Measure(s):

A measurable increase, even if relatively modest, in enrollment in social science courses.

**Person Responsible:**

Department Chair with support and in consultation with departmental full-time faculty

**Unit gap or institutional goals addressed:**

It addresses a Strategic Plan goal or objective (reminder to the right), It addresses a gap in student equity

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## Evaluate Resource Needs

### Facilities

### Information Technology

### Marketing

The department is requesting \$1000 for marketing in order to facilitate its new outreach and marketing initiative of creating more academically engaging and relevant materials.

### Professional Development

### Other Needs

The department is requesting \$300 for the purchase of examination booklets to be held in the Office of Instruction for use by IWV instructors. This is intended as an option to help reduce the pernicious and destructive use of A.I. by students inclined to use fraud to achieve degrees.

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## Staffing Requests

### 1000 Category - Certificated Positions

### 2000 Category - Classified Staff

AUP Budget Worksheet for Social Science - FY25

F		A				2024	2024	2025	2025				
Fund	Org Description	Account Description	Program Title	Activity	Location	Adopted Budget	Actual Expenses	Adopted Budget	Request	Notes		Increase?	
UNIV	Social Science Department	Inst Supplies & Materials	Anthropology		CI			\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00	ongoing lab expenses			
UNIV	Social Science Department	Inst Supplies & Materials	History		CI			\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	Blue Books for student exams			
										Resource Requests			
Type of request		1 time or ongoing?		Requested amount		description/explanation				In planning document	Data?	Relevance?	Operational Efficiency?
Marketing		ongoing		\$ 1,000.00		hardcopy marketing materials and social media promotion				AUP	Dean suggested 1000.	never been done before and needs to be done for enrollment management	suggest combine with other LAS requests so that Marketing can drive this. This also will be ongoing and will have potentially high ROI