

ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

College: Nursing and Health Professions

Degree Program: Social Work Masters

Chair/Director: Loretta Brewer

2012 Report

DATA SAY:

Student evaluations of SW 6003: Psychosocial Pathology rate the course very highly (4.45 on a 5 point scale); however, feedback received on the graduating students exit survey indicate that students would prefer to take the course during a fall or spring semester rather than summer due to the need for additional time to process content that they view as essential to their future careers.

SO WHAT:

These findings were discussed with department faculty at their retreat in August 2011.

HOW WE CHANGED:

A decision was made to move the course to the fall semester, in 2012.

WHAT WE GOT:

Fall 2012 course evaluations and the Graduating Students Exit Survey will be monitored to determine if there is a change in students' feedback regarding this course.



ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

College: Nursing and Health Professions Degree Program: Masters in Social Work (MSW)

Chair/: Dr. Karen Allen

Program Director: Dr. Loretta Brewer

2013 Report

DATA SAY:

The mean course evaluation score for SW 5053: Social Welfare Policy and Services was 2.23 in Fall 2011. In addition, the mean course evaluation score for SW 6063: Social Welfare Policy Analysis was 3.55. Both course evaluation scores were considerably below the 3.97 mean of means for all graduate course taught within the department during Fall 2011. In addition, survey data collected at the end of the semester indicated that students lacked confidence in their ability to “understand and interpret the history of the social work profession, describe and analyze social welfare policy research, and formulate social policies that advance social and economic justice” (MSW Foundation Curriculum Evaluation Survey).

SO WHAT:

Taken together, this data suggested a serious problem in the policy sequence within the MSW program. This information was shared during the Fall 2012 faculty retreat and subsequently with the Community Advisory Board. With input from these groups, a strategy for improving outcomes for these courses was developed.

HOW WE CHANGED:

SW 5053: Social Welfare Policy and Services, which was taught previously by an adjunct instructor, was assigned to a tenure-track professor. Class sizes were reduced and a second section was added to SW 6063: Social Welfare Policy Analysis. Both sections of this course were taught by tenure-track professors and were taught in the traditional face-to-face classroom format rather than on-line.

WHAT WE GOT:

The course mean for SW 5053 was 4.66 in Fall 2012. The mean for SW 6063 was 4.46 in Spring 2013, which indicates considerable improvement in students’ perception of the quality of these courses. In addition, preliminary analysis of Foundation Curriculum Evaluation Survey data indicates a higher level of student confidence regarding this curriculum content.

