

# Sociology Assessment 2016-2017

## Intended Learning Outcome

Oral Discourse

Students will:

- develop proficiency in oral discourse;
- evaluate an oral presentation according to established criteria.

This is a responsibility sociology has through "general education." It seemed like a long time since we assessed it. Apparently, we were not part of the college-wide 2013-2014 assessment of oral competency.

## Assessment Results

Students demonstrate mastery of oral competency in the various senior seminar requirements. In Fall 2016, all students in senior seminar and internship seminar were assessed on the following dimensions on a scale of 1-5:

- central idea presented
- small number of points conveyed
- eye contact with audience
- volume audible
- level of organization in speech

7 students were assessed in senior seminar and 5 in internship seminar.

*Students did well on presenting a central idea, eye contact and audible volume.* All 12 students scored 5 on central idea presented and on audible volume. 11 of 12 students scored a 5 on eye contact and the twelfth scored a 4.

*The great majority of students did well on level of organization, with 9 scoring 5 and 1 student each scoring 4, 3, and 2.*

*Students in senior seminar did well on presenting a small number of points, with all 7 scoring 5; but in internship seminar, 4 of 5 scored only a 1 on presenting a small number of points*

## Program Changes

While we are not considering program changes, we are considering the importance of teaching oral competency in the senior-seminar classes. One reason internship-seminar students performed less well may be that participating in an internship is by its nature less focused than completing a project in a senior seminar. But it may also be that there was more formal instruction about oral competency in senior seminar, leading to stronger results. This suggests the importance of stressing oral competency more in the senior-seminar course guidelines.