

2013-14 Program Review

Best Practices Form

Instructions: *Submit this form as a separate attachment with your completed Program Review.* Programs often do something particularly well; usually they have learned through assessment—sometimes trial and error—what solves a problem or makes their programs work so well. These are often called **Best Practices** and can help others. Please share the practices your program has found to be effective. The contact information lets others know whom to contact for more information. This part of Program Review is linked to the Student Success Strategic Goal: “Become an exemplary model of student success by developing and implementing best practices.” For examples of Best Practices visit the [Program Review Committee’s website](#).

Program/Department: Sociology/Behavioral Science Name of Chair/Director/Manager: Prof. Becki Whitson
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Best Practice(s):

With a limited number of faculty, the Sociology Program relays extensively on adjunct instructors to meet the course load. The availability of part time instructors with established classroom experience is a limited commodity and it eventually becomes necessary to hire educationally qualified instructors and introduce them to the classroom for the very first time. As an adjunct, however, the orientation process is not as extensive as would be provided for a new fulltime faculty and yet the expectations within the context of the classroom are the same. To address this situation the Behavioral Science Department Chair established an intentional mentor/minion relationship between an experienced faculty member and a brand new, fresh out of graduate school, adjunct hire. This not only allows for one-on-one support in the basic elements of textbook, syllabus, and other classroom resources; it also allows for an ongoing relationship that helps to address the many other first time experiences that arise in the course of any classroom experience (e.g. disappointment with the results of the first exam, how to encourage participation, etc.).