



# Comprehensive Program Review

University System of Georgia

## CPR Report Submitted!

**Thank you for submitting a Comprehensive Program Review Report.** Below is the information you sent on June 30, 2003. *Please note* this is a temporary web page and cannot be bookmarked. You may wish to print this page for your records. You will also receive confirmation via email.

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- 2                   **Title:** Director, Center for Institutional Effectiveness
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- 5                   **Institution:** Kennesaw State University
- 6    **Review Status:** Triggered Review
- 7    **Degree level:** Bachelors
- 8    **Degree acronym:** BS
- 9    **Degree/Major:** BS with a major in Sociology
- 10                  **CIP Code:** 45110100
- 11                  **College,** College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
**School/Division:**
- 12                  **Department:** Department of Sociology, Geography, and Anthropology
- 13                  **CPR Plan** Yes  
**followed:**
- 14 **Future institutional** Maintain at present level  
**plans for program:**
- 15 **Plan for resources** maintain  
**in this program:**
- 16 **Supplemental file:** CPR FINDINGS AND PLANS to BOR - Sociology.doc
- 17                  **File Type:** MS Word
- 18 **CPR Web Addr.:** www.kennesaw.edu/ie

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**CPR FINDINGS AND PLANS  
FOR THE  
B.S. WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY  
AT KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY**

**MAJOR FINDINGS ON THE PROGRAM'S QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, & VIABILITY**

The program's self-study and the University Program Review Council were in substantial agreement in their evaluations of the quality, productivity, and viability of this relatively new undergraduate program. The program was judged to be strong in overall quality, strong in overall productivity, and viable. Nearly two-thirds of the program's quality indicators (9 of 15) were rated as strong or very strong including curricular adherence to national standards, the faculty, use of advanced instructional technology, advising, preparation of graduates, diversity, faculty awards, stakeholder satisfaction, and program's responsiveness to change. Opportunities for quality improvement included acquiring new facilities and equipment, increasing the operational budget, increasing gifts and grants, achieving greater program recognition, fully implementing and stabilizing the new program, and managing rapid growth of student interest in the new major. Two-thirds of the program's productivity indicators (8 of 12) were also rated as strong or very strong including enrollment of declared majors (this number grew from 0 in Fall 1998 to 143 in Fall 2002), clarity and efficiency of program requirements, required course scheduling, enrollment in required courses, faculty's instructional productivity, program's cost-effectiveness, responsiveness to program demand, and contribution to the KSU mission. Opportunities for improvement of the program's productivity include increasing the number of degrees conferred annually as the program matures (it graduated 8 in FY01 and 14 in FY02 for a two-year average that already exceeds the Regents' threshold), increasing the graduation rate as more students advance through the upper division sequences, increasing responsiveness to nontraditional students interested in the program, expanding availability of required course sections with future faculty expansion, increasing student and graduate diversity, and achieving a high ranking of degree productivity among USG institutions once the program reaches full maturity. The Council observed that after only two years of operation, this was a fast growing program with good potential for future development and suggested clarifying specific timetables for achievement of the program's action plans.

**PLANS FOR IMPROVING THE PROGRAM'S QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, & VIABILITY**

Some of the more notable plans for improvement include: funding and filling additional full-time faculty to support continued enrollment growth and maturation of the program; fine tuning the curriculum, its student learning outcomes and assessment methods; building stronger student-faculty relationships through new initiatives such as the KIT (Keeping in Touch) brown bag get-togethers; enhancing Web-based advisement resources; continuing the recruitment of students to this relatively new program;

expanding program recognition for teaching excellence; and planning the design of new instructional and support facilities with the architects of the new Social Science building.

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## **NEW RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Kennesaw State's funding and expenditures per FTE student have been substantially below average throughout the university's relatively brief history. New funding and facilities have lagged KSU's exceptional rate of growth over the years. Consequently, the student/faculty ratio at KSU is exceptionally high, and the institution would need another 150 full-time faculty to reach the average of the other state and regional universities in the USG. In that context, there is substantial justification for enhancing most degree programs with additional investments in full-time faculty support. However, this review and its recommendations were completed in the context of a statewide and national economic downturn, significant budget cutbacks in the State's, the University System's, and KSU's operating budgets, and little prospect of KSU receiving special catch-up funding from state appropriations in the near term.

The Council recommended maintaining the program at current levels, and adding additional faculty and operating funds if enrollment continued to increase (and it has). Funding for new faculty positions was expected from institutionally redirected and self-generated sources. Funding for the new \$28 million Social Science building was expected from earmarked legislative appropriations.

## **PLANS FOR INCREASING PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY ABOVE THRESHOLD**

When the System Office issued the initial list of programs triggered for special review in 2001, this program was not on that list because it was so new. Recently in 2003, this program was added by the System Office to the updated list of KSU programs that were below the Regents' threshold of an average of 10 graduates per year. However, the System Office's calculation of the program's "3-year average" is somewhat misleading in that the program has only been in existence long enough to have two years of graduates. The program's two-year average for FY01 and FY02 of 11 graduates per year already exceeds the Regents' threshold and is expected to rise quickly as the growing cohorts of upper division students progress through the program. The number of declared majors in this program (143 in Fall 2002) greatly exceeds the Regents' threshold on that particular productivity indicator and ensures that the program's degree productivity will stay above the Regents' threshold in the future.