

Meg Wilkes Karraker

Professor of Sociology and Family Business Fellow
University of St. Thomas

I have over three decades of experience developing, assessing, and, as needed, terminating courses, curriculum, and programs in sociology and criminal justice, as well as family studies and women's studies. My current teaching interests involve the introductory course, sociological theories, global perspectives on gender, and interdisciplinary family studies. In my teaching, I emphasize community-based (service) learning and writing across the curriculum. I have been a regular contributor to ASA teaching resource publications, have served as a member of the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning and the ASA Honors Program Advisory Panel, and am an active participant in teaching and learning activities at the local, regional, national, and international level, including service as President Emerita of Alpha Kappa Delta. I have also served at the national and state levels on committees on minorities in sociology.

I have deep and broad experience in department development and faculty and program evaluation, including:

- § **Mentoring** tenure-track and adjunct faculty
- § Recruiting, selecting, and retaining **faculty of color**
- § Aiding departments suffering from **interpersonal conflict**
- § Negotiating value and norm **conflicts at religiously-affiliated colleges**
- § Sustaining **professors as writers**
- § Developing **interdisciplinary programs**

As DRG Consultant, I assist departments (students, faculty, and staff) to identify assets and deficits, while offering critical assessment of realistic goals and objectives. I value triangulation around a variety of informants beyond the department, including faculty in other departments, deans and other administrators, and professional staff in information, technology, and other areas. I am an effective listener and my reports are constructive and thoughtful, well-crafted and completed in a timely fashion. I have a flexible schedule for travel and reviews, especially during the month of January.

I earned the PhD at the University of Minnesota, following the Master of Science at North Carolina State University, and the Bachelor of Arts at Clemson University, all in sociology with supporting coursework in anthropology, education, history, political science, and women's studies. Except for very brief stints teaching at the University of Minnesota and at a local community college during graduate school, all of my teaching and consulting experience (program and tenure/promotion reviews) has been at private, liberal arts colleges which grant the Bachelor's degree in sociology.

The University of St. Thomas is a university of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, enrolling approximately 6,000 undergraduate and 5,000

graduate students. While the University awards graduate degrees in a few liberal arts and several professional fields, the University only awards the BA in sociology. The program I chaired for six years is a joint Sociology/Criminal Justice program, with approximately 130 majors, 80 who major in Sociology: Criminal Justice, 30 who major in Sociology, and the rest of who have majors in education, social science, or other individualized majors. During my term as chair, the department completed one 10-year review. We continue to engage in continuous program assessment.