Melinda Messineo, PhD
ASA Program Reviewers and Consultants
Statement of Consulting Approach

Using a strengths-based approach, I help departments identify their assets within the existing campus climate and guide them as they articulate their aspirations and needs for continued growth. My goal is to transform the self-study process from its traditional summary and reporting function to a more forward-facing actionable endeavor.

I am passionate about sociology and am eager to help departments tell their story. Celebrating over 20 years in higher education, I bring experience in curriculum development, assessment, career preparation, graduate studies, online learning, antiracist and inclusive pedagogy, experiential high impact learning, and more. I have served in numerous campus and university roles including six years as chairperson, two as interim Associate Vice President for Diversity, 18 years as director of the First Year Experience, 20+ years as faculty development facilitator and more.

Departments often report feeling isolated from the broader discipline and describe how the everyday efforts of simply “getting the work of the university done” prevents reflection, exploration, and networking. As an ASA Program Reviewer and Consultant, I bring a wealth of resources and information that the association provides. I have served as chair of the Section on Teaching and Learning and was a member of the team that wrote “The Sociology Major in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education: Curriculum, Careers, and Online Learning.” One of my roles in PRC is to connect departments to these valuable resources. This can help save you time and effort and can jump-start any new initiatives you decide to embark upon.

The self-study and companion outside reviewer reports serve many purposes. As an historical record, evidence for accountability, and roadmap for the future, these functions can often appear at odds. My role is to help synthesize this information and reflect back to units their strengths and priorities to help them make choices and move forward. These timely reports provide summative evaluative feedback as well as formative guidance to help departments reach their goals.

Without question, education in experiencing significant transitions in philosophy, funding, and public perception. Sociology programs are a tremendous asset to campuses and communities. I look forward to helping you tell your story and begin writing the next chapter.

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