April 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory Ball  
   Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (PCC Log No. 15060)

At its meeting on April 1, 2016, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to modify the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The change is effective Fall 2016. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, including the undergraduate program’s four-year plan (contact Lisa Kiely at lkiely@umd.edu for more information).

MDC/  
Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
    Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management  
    Reka Montfort, University Senate  
    Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology  
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
    Anne Turkos, University Archives  
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
    Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies  
    Katherine Russell, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
    Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz, Department of Sociology
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

• Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

• Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: 01202800
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits:
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hyperion.umd.edu/reports/units.htm

Department/Program: 1281701
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits:

Type of Action (choose one):
X Curriculum change (including informal specializations) □ Curriculum change for an LEP Program
□ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration □ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
□ Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

Modification of course requirements for Sociology Undergraduate Major and elimination of supporting area requirement.

Departmental/Unit Contact Person for Proposal:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair Linda L. Moghadam

2. Department Chair R. Patricio Korzeniewicz

3. College/School PCC Chair Karol Soltan Karol Soltan 3/15/16

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC Andrew Harris

7. University Senate Chair (if required)

8. Senior Vice President and Provost Elizabeth J. Beine 4/19/2016
Proposal for Curriculum Change

For

Department of Sociology Undergraduate Program

Contact: Linda Moghadam

Edited 1/27/2015

Table of Content

Summary of Changes and Rational

Current and proposed programs

Sample four year program

Pre-requisite Structure

New Courses
Summary of Proposed Changes:

- A required introductory course for new majors. This course will cover an introduction to the discipline, the department, the curriculum and its relation to the logic of social inquiry and learning outcomes for the major and the role the curriculum plays in helping students achieve them. Students will also be introduced to faculty research and the variety of areas within the discipline to inform their choices of upper level coursework.

- Completion of Sociology core courses (Statistics, Methods, and Theory) will be required prior to enrolling in the four 400-level Sociology electives.

- Elimination of the current breadth requirement. Replaced with a two course requirement that provides an overview of macro and micro level sociology.

- Elimination of the current depth requirement. Replaced by four 400-level Sociology electives.

- Modifying the current Major Learning Outcomes to facilitate more effective integration across the undergraduate curriculum.

Rationale for Proposed Changes:

- Past undergraduate learning outcome assessments suggest that students are unclear on how core sociology requirements (Statistics, Methods, and Theory) are related to their substantive coursework. The proposed introductory course for all new majors will provide greater emphasis on the centrality of research and theory in the discipline and provide a road map for what to expect as students progress through the major. Currently, these courses are very often taken during the last two semesters of the Sociology B.A.

- The additional sequencing requiring completion of foundational courses (SOCY201, 202, and 203) prior to enrolling in 400 level courses will allow faculty to increase hands on research experience in these upper level courses.

- Increased uniformity of student progress through the major will allow for a more accurate assessment of learning outcomes for the major, including pre and post tests of knowledge and skills.

- Many departments now restrict their upper level courses to majors and therefore, non-majors find it increasingly difficult to enroll in these courses for their supporting area. Students now have many opportunities for minors, double majors, internships, Living and Learning programs and study abroad opportunities that will be more readily available without this requirement.
Current Sociology Undergrad Requirements

Core Major Requirements – 14 credits
SOCY100: Introduction to Sociology
Meets general education SH requirement
Multiple Sections – open to all students

SOCY201: Statistics
Pre-req: MATH111 or MATH220 or higher

SOCY202: Introduction to Research Methods
Pre-req: SOCY201

SOCY203: Sociology Theory
Pre-req: SOCY100

Breadth Requirement: 1 course from 3 areas – 9 credits
Family & Demography
SOCY410
SOCY443
Organizations & Institutions
SOCY431
SOCY443
SOCY464
SOCY467
Stratification & Inequality
SOCY441
Social Psychology
SOCY230
SOCY430

Depth requirement – 6 credits
minimum of 2 additional courses from one breadth area

Intermediate Research Methods – 1 course

Supporting Area: 4 courses outside of the major that are relevant to the concentration (selected from a list)

SOCY electives – 3 to 12 credits

TOTAL CREDITS 38

Current Learning Outcomes for the Sociology Undergraduate Major
At the completion of the B.A. Sociology majors should be able to:
1. Demonstrate competency in theoretical reasoning.
2. Demonstrate competency in written communication
3. Demonstrate methodological competency.
4. Demonstrate competency in understanding disciplinary foundations.
5. Demonstrate analytical competency
Proposed Sociology Undergraduate Requirements

Core Major Requirements - 20 credits

SOCY1XX Introduction to the Sociology Major
for Majors only
To be taken during the students first semester in the major
Revised structure will provide an introduction to major concepts, logic of social inquiry and a roadmap to
the major requirements as well as an introduction to faculty and their research interests.
(3 credits)

MATH111 or MATH220 or higher

SOCY201: Statistics (4 credits)
SOCY202: Research Methods (4 credits)

SOCY203: Sociological Theory (3 credits)
Pre-req: SOCY1XX

SOCY230: Social Psychology (micro) (3 credits)

SOCY441: Stratification (macro) (3 credits)

Four (4) 400 level SOCY courses - 12 credits
2 must require research
taken after Core major requirement completed

IRM - fulfilled by 2- 400 level SOCY courses

Supporting Area: ELIMINATED

TOTAL CREDITS 32

Proposed Modifications to Learning Outcomes for the Sociology Undergraduate Major

Upon completion of their major requirements majors should be able to:
1. Explain the sociological perspective, broadly defined, use sociological theory to explain social
problems and issues, make theoretically-informed recommendations to address current social
problems, and demonstrate the utility of the sociological perspective for their lives.
2. Demonstrate the ability to interpret, locate, evaluate, generate and use sociologically relevant
data to test hypotheses and draw evidence-based conclusions.
3. Integrate sociological theory, research, and data in order to assess various explanations of social
phenomena and to assess social policy.
## Four Year Sample Graduation Plan—Sociology

**Name:** SOCY Student  
**UID:** 123456789  
**Email:** socystudent@lapnmail.umd.edu

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<thead>
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<td>OC: Oral Communication</td>
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<td>NII: Natural Sciences Lab</td>
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**Cum Cr + Planned Credits = Total Credits** 120
Proposed Prerequisite Structure and Sequencing of CORE requirements

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<th>Course #</th>
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<td>SOCY1XX</td>
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<td>SOCY441</td>
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<tr>
<td>400 SOCY electives</td>
<td>SOCY1XX, SOCY201, SOCY202, SOCY203</td>
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New Courses:

SOCY1XX: A required introductory course for new majors. This course will cover an introduction to the discipline, the department, and the curriculum and its relation to the logic of social inquiry. Students will be:

- Given a pretest that will provide a more accurate assessment of learning outcomes for the major when re-evaluated in their senior year
- Introduced to the logic of scientific inquiry in the social sciences
- Introduced to theoretical frameworks and concepts central to the discipline.
- Introduced to faculty research to better inform their choices of upper level coursework.

Current Courses:

- No current courses are scheduled for deletion.
- Once the proposal has been approved, selected courses will be renumbered to better reflect the new structure of the program.
- Given this sequencing four semesters will normally be required to complete the SOCY major

Proposed changes will have no effect on any other department or program.

Students enrolled under the current curriculum will have the option of completing their degrees under either set of requirements.