



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision of BALAS in Sociology, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SPONSOR: Professor Phyllis Baker, 333-1950, pbaker@illinois.edu; Professor Kevin Leicht, 333-1950

COLLEGE CONTACT: Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 333-1350, kmcarney@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Sociology faculty have approved the following changes to the undergraduate major: (1) elimination of the advanced methods requirement; and (2) addition of a capstone experience – SOC 400 (Internships), SOC 450 (capstone course currently under proposal), or SOC 495 (Senior Honors Seminar).

JUSTIFICATION:

The Department of Sociology wishes to remove the Advanced Methods requirement from the Undergraduate Major requirements and replace it with an integrative learning experience – a capstone. The total number of hours in Sociology coursework remains unchanged – 32 hours. The revised Sociology Undergraduate Major would require a total of 32 hours including the following required courses:

- SOC 100—Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 200—Introduction to Sociological Theory
- SOC 280—Introduction to Social Statistics
- SOC 380—Social Research Methods
- One of the following:
 - SOC 400—Sociology Internships
 - SOC 450—Senior Capstone Seminar (under development)
 - SOC 495—Senior Honors Seminar

The purpose of this change is two-fold. First, it will improve course sequencing for students declaring the Sociology major later in their career. Second, we want to make our major attractive to a broader range of students through increasing flexibility in the major. Not all students who want to major in sociology do so because of interest in social science methodology or will benefit from an advanced methods course. This change will attract those students. For students who are interested and would like advanced research methods training, we are

proposing (separately) a Certificate in Sociological Research Methods which offers them an even better opportunity than they have now.

The new capstone experience will be required. This kind of course offers the students both a learning community and a seminar experience as well as a culminating use of what they have learned in the major. The Department of Sociology Faculty have proposed a Sociology Capstone course, SOC 450, to fill this gap in the Sociology curriculum.

Together, these changes streamline the Sociology major by reducing a three-semester sequence (280-380-advanced methods) to a two-semester sequence (280-380). The overall goal of these changes is to increase the number of Sociology majors and to ease the path to graduation for students within the major while at the same time improving the Sociological coherence of students' experience in the major.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The proposal frees faculty and instructor resources for the department to more effectively use these resources, so no new financial resources will be needed to support the proposal.

Faculty will be diverted from teaching advanced methods courses to teaching SOC 400/ 450/ 495 as needed.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

Upper division methods and statistics classes will move from being requirements that must be taught more-or-less every semester to courses that can be offered once a year or less frequently for those pursuing the Certificate in Sociological Research Methods. This represents a reduction in commitment to methods courses in favor of more substantive undergraduate courses and the new Sociology 400/450/495 capstones.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

No external resources will be needed.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

This proposal requires no additional faculty, no changes in class size or teaching loads. We expect that there will be shifts in teaching responsibilities such that faculty will now be teaching SOC 450 (Capstone) instead of advanced methods courses on a regular basis.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. (*A letter of acknowledgement from units impacted should be included.*)

There is no anticipated impact on course enrollment in other units.

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library

The impact on the University Library will be minimal. A capstone course may involve research for a paper, but that is comparable to research performed in the advanced methods courses that are being eliminated simultaneously.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

The impact on technology should be minimal. Space requirements will include classroom space for a new course; but other courses will be taught less frequently, so this should balance out.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective Fall 2017

STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

OVERVIEW TAB (edits yellow highlight)

SOCIOLOGY

Kevin Leicht, Head of Department
3120 Lincoln Hall, 702 S. Wright Street, Urbana
PH: (217) 333-1950
<http://www.sociology.illinois.edu>

Large-scale societal change begins with individuals like you — hungry for knowledge and ready to make a real difference; in the Department of Sociology you will study the inner workings of society with a focus on either Inequalities or Global Sociology.

Sociologists explore human social life at every level, from personal relationships to global society. Major topics of study include inequality, social movements, criminology, race and class relations, gender, social institutions such as religion and education, and fundamental population processes like immigration and mortality. Sociologists use a range of methods and theories to develop and evaluate ideas about social life.

As a student of Sociology, you will train in research methods and become fluent in social statistics while understanding the complexity of societal diversity and social change. These skills are usable in a wide variety of work settings and are skills that employers value.

Recent graduates have pursued careers with the FBI, as Human Resource Specialists, with non-profit organizations, as police officers, and have earned advanced degrees in Social Work, Sociology, Law, Medicine and more. The career paths of Sociology alumni are as diverse as our student population - who represent the best and the brightest from a variety of backgrounds.

In the Department of Sociology you can choose to either major in Sociology, minor in Sociology, or minor in Criminology, Law and Society (CLS). Whereas the major and minor in Sociology provide an overview into the broader discipline of Sociology, the minor in CLS is a more specialized approach for those students interested in law and justice related careers and occupations.

Each student should see a sociology departmental adviser at least once a year to choose sociology courses and to monitor their progress.

MAJOR TAB (edits yellow highlight)

Major in Sociology

Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum

E-mail: soc@illinois.edu

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required major and supporting coursework equates to 44 hours including 32 hours in Sociology.

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Departmental distinction: In order to achieve distinction, high distinction, or highest distinction, a sociology major must meet the following requirements:

- Have completed [SOC 490](#) or [SOC 495](#)
- Attain a UIUC GPA of 3.25 or higher
- If both these requirements are met, then the MAJOR GPA distributes as follows:
 - 3.25 – Distinction
 - 3.50 – High Distinction
 - 3.75 – Highest Distinction

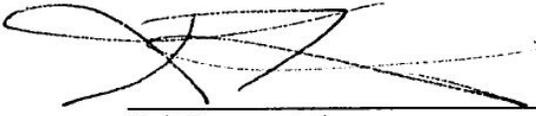
Code	Title	Hours
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology	4
SOC 200	Intro to Sociological Theory	3
SOC 280	Intro to Social Statistics ¹	4
SOC 380	Social Research Methods	4
Select one of the following capstone experiences:		3
SOC 400	Internships	
SOC 450	Senior Capstone Seminar	
SOC 495	Senior Honors Seminar	
Students may select any sociology courses to fulfill the requirement of 32 hours in Sociology		14
Supporting course work taken outside the Department of Sociology ²		12

¹ If a statistics course is taken outside the Department of Sociology, that course does not count toward the 32 hours of Sociology courses.

² Supporting course work is designed to expand the student's education, and should be taken outside of Sociology. A student may take supporting course work from one department, such as psychology, economics, history, or statistics, or from a cohesive selection of courses in various units. With an advisor's approval, departmental or interdisciplinary minors, or a double major, may be used to fulfill the requirements of supporting course work.

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:



Unit Representative:

Karen M Carney

College Representative:

8-26-2016

Date:

10-4-16

Date:

**Appendix A:
Comparison Table of Proposed Revisions**

Current Requirements:	Current Hours	Revised Requirements:	Revised Hours
<i>Major Core Requirement</i>		<i>Major Core Requirement</i>	
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology	4	SOC 100-Introduction to Sociology	4
SOC 200 Intro to Sociological Theory	3	SOC 200-Intro to Sociological Theory	3
SOC 280 Intro to Social Statistics ¹	4	SOC 280-Intro to Social Statistics ¹	4
SOC 380 Social Research Methods	4	SOC 380- Social Research Methods	4
Select one of the following: SOC 480-Methods of Field Research SOC 481-Survey Research SOC 485-Intermediate Social Statistics SOC 488-Demographic Methods	3	Select one of the following capstone experiences: SOC 400- Internships SOC 450- Senior Capstone Seminar SOC 495- Senior Honors Seminar	3
Students may select any sociology courses to fulfill the requirement of 32 hours in Sociology	2-14	Students may select any sociology courses to fulfill the requirement of 32 hours in Sociology	14
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.17.25

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



October 6, 2016

Bettina Francis, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the BALAS in Sociology

Sincerely,



Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney
A. Elli
P. Baker
N. Hotlzelaw-Stone

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448
Urbana, IL 61801



October 4, 2016

Kathryn Martensen
Associate Provost
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
207 Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

Revision of the BALAS in Sociology

Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Carney".

Karen M. Carney
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor Kevin Liecht
Professor Phyllis Baker
Dr. Nicole Holtzclaw-Stone