EP.27.057_FINAL
Approved by EP 10/26/2027

10KS0344PHD: SOCIOLOGY, PHD

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (eastuby@illinois.edu; mhazen@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)
2. 1324-SOC Head (rabm@illinois.edu)
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Approval Path

1. Tue, 28 Oct 2025 11:57:22 GMT
   Emily Stuby (eastuby): Rollback to Initiator
2. Tue, 14 Jul 2026 18:57:07 GMT
   Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
3. Wed, 15 Jul 2026 14:21:51 GMT
   Reuben May (rabm): Approved for 1324-SOC Head
4. Mon, 27 Jul 2026 15:26:28 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
5. Mon, 27 Jul 2026 15:44:17 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
6. Wed, 02 Sep 2026 22:22:06 GMT
   Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
7. Thu, 03 Sep 2026 02:44:24 GMT
   Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
8. Fri, 04 Sep 2026 17:55:55 GMT
   Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Rollback to KV Dean for Provost
9. Tue, 15 Sep 2026 15:50:56 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
10. Tue, 15 Sep 2026 19:05:16 GMT
    Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
11. Thu, 17 Sep 2026 19:32:26 GMT
    Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
12. Thu, 17 Sep 2026 19:47:42 GMT
    Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
13. Thu, 24 Sep 2026 13:55:56 GMT
    Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Jun 5, 2019 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
2. Sep 15, 2022 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
3. Feb 19, 2025 by Donna Butler (dbutler)
4. Jun 26, 2025 by Brooke Newell (bsnewell)

Date Submitted: Fri, 10 Jul 2026 18:41:03 GMT

Viewing: 10KS0344PHD : Sociology, PhD
Last approved: Thu, 26 Jun 2025 13:56:43 GMT
Last edit: Fri, 25 Sep 2026 19:00:58 GMT

Changes proposed by: Rebecca Riley

Proposal Type:

Major (ex. Special Education)

This proposal is for a:

Revision

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Sociology, PhD

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Sociology

Sponsor Name

Reuben May

Sponsor Email

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If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

Melissa Reedy, murray@illinois.edu (LAS Assistant Director Course & Cir Dvt), Ghassan Moussawi, moussawi@illinois.edu (SOC Director of Graduate Studies) and Brian Dill, dill@illinois.edu (SOC faculty)

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Catalog Term

Desired Effective Catalog Term

Spring 2027

Effective Catalog

2026-2027

Proposal Title

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

Are there other related proposals that should be considered simultaneously with this one? If yes, please list the program keys and/or titles. Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

This PhD proposal (Key 431) is related to the Sociology, MA proposal (Key 432).

Program Justification

Provide a brief description, using a numbered item list, of the proposed changes to the program.

Provide a list of numbered items of what changed and why each change was necessary.

1. Reduced SOC 510 from 4 to 2 credit hours. The course was previously taken over two semesters (2 hours each). Much of the orientation and resource content is now provided through SOC 585, departmental writing and career workshops, a dedicated departmental orientation day, and the spring semester of SOC 510.

2. SOC 500 and SOC 501 have been replaced by SOC 503. SOC 500 and SOC 501 will be deactivated after SP27 as part of the PhD curriculum revision. Approved in SP26, SOC 503 integrates classical and contemporary theory into a single course, allowing students to examine theoretical traditions comparatively and understand their historical development. SOC 503 better reflects current disciplinary practices while strengthening students' foundation in sociological theory and preparing them for advanced research.

3. SOC 485 was removed because it was deactivated in SP25.

4. SOC 530, a new course approved SP26, was added as part of the PhD curriculum revision to strengthen students' foundation in sociological research design and methodology while supporting earlier assessment of student progress. It fills a gap in the current curriculum by providing comprehensive training in research design and prepares first-year students for the second-year research paper and dissertation, helping them transition from consumers to producers of original sociological research.

5. SOC 531, a new course approved SP26, was added to strengthen students' critical thinking, analytical reasoning, written communication, and scholarly argumentation. The course emphasizes evaluating literature, developing evidence-based arguments, and producing high-quality academic writing, enhancing the PhD curriculum and aligning it more closely with leading sociology graduate programs.

6. SOC 583 and SOC 590 were removed as 'select one of the following options'. SOC 583, Qualitative Research Methods, changed to only be a required course and not in a choose from list to strengthen students' foundational training in sociological research design

and methodology while promoting earlier and more consistent assessment of student progress. Students will still be able to take SOC 590, Independent Study, as a substantive course at the 500 level (see Justification 8).

7. SOC 585, a new course approved SP26, complements SOC 586 and provide foundational training in statistical methods, data management, and statistical software and has been added. Because many incoming students have limited experience with statistics or data analysis, the course establishes a common baseline while aligning the curriculum with peer sociology PhD programs, which typically require multiple statistics courses.

8. Required 500-level substantive coursework was reduced from five courses (12 hours) to three courses (12 hours), including one approved Advanced Methods course selected in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. All Sociology graduate courses are 4-credit hour courses, therefore the previous designation of 12 hours in this five course requirement did not make sense. We are correcting this to three courses to reflect 12 hours.

9. SOC 598, Thesis Proposal, was added as a prerequisite to SOC 599. The variable credit range (2-12 hours) provides flexibility while supporting dissertation preparation as part of the revised PhD curriculum, which emphasizes consistent preparation for independent research careers.

10. SOC 599 was revised from 3-24 hours to now require 8-24 credit hours. Eight hours represents the minimum dissertation research requirement, while 24 hours reflects approximately four semesters of dissertation research within the anticipated five-year degree timeline.

11. Elective hours were updated to 22-48 hours to maintain the revised 96-hour program requirement. The language was changed from "Electives to bring coursework total to 72 hours" to "Electives to bring coursework total to 96 hours" to reflect the revised curriculum and the common entry pathway for all students.

12. Revision of “Other Requirements” table includes:
a. A change to the minimum program hours being increased from 43 to 48 to support the revised curriculum and provide a stronger, more consistent foundation in sociology. The "Minimum 500-Level Hours Required Overall" requirement was removed because all required Sociology courses and electives are already at the 500 level, making the requirement redundant.
b. The Qualifying Exam was removed because it no longer aligns with the program’s emphasis on developing independent research skills. While broad knowledge of sociological subfields remains important, the revised curriculum better prepares students through research-focused milestones that are more consistent with current disciplinary expectations and peer programs.
c. Qualifying Paper 1 (second year) and Qualifying Paper 2 (third year) replace the Qualifying Exam as key program milestones. Qualifying Paper 1 requires students to conduct original empirical research suitable for publication, while Qualifying Paper 2 develops expertise through critical synthesis of scholarship within a sociological subfield. Together, the papers strengthen research, writing, methodological rigor, and scholarly identity while preparing students for the dissertation, publication, and professional careers.

13. Under Admission Requirements, the GRE was changed from a required to an optional admission component. Admissions now rely on a holistic review of writing samples, academic performance, and letters of recommendation, which better assess applicants' potential for success than standardized test scores alone.

14. The separate "Entering with approved M.S./M.A. Degree" program option and its corresponding Other Requirements table were removed as part of the PhD curriculum revision approved by the faculty in August 2025 following recommendations from the Sociology Ad Hoc Committee, established in January 2024. The revised program continues the practice of admitting all students at the same entry level to promote consistent training, earlier assessment of student progress, and the development of independent researchers. Under the previous structure, students entering with an MA/MS could bypass approximately three years of coursework and Qualifying Papers 1 and 2. The revised curriculum requires all students to complete these core milestones, ensuring a consistent foundation in sociological theory, research methods, and scholarly development necessary for academic, industry, and government careers. As a result, the separate "Entering with approved BS/BA Degree" heading was also removed and replaced with the broader title, "Major Requirements." This also changes the programs minimum total credit hours required from 64 to 96, since entry with an approved master's degree is no longer applicable.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/ proposed change?

No

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Features

Academic Level

Graduate

Does this major have transcripted concentrations?

No

What is the longest/maximum time to completion of this program?

5 years

What are the minimum Total Credit Hours required for this program?

96 ~~64~~

What is the required GPA?

3.25

CIP Code

451101 - Sociology, General.

SOC Code(s) (Should be completed only for Certificates:)

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

Revised programs

Graduate Program 02.pdf

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Major Requirements

~~Degree~~

~~Code~~	~~Title~~	~~Hours~~
~~SOC 510~~	~~Professionalization Seminar (2 semesters)~~	~~4~~
~~SOC 500 & SOC 501~~	~~Course SOC 500 Not Found and Course SOC 501 Not Found~~	~~8~~
~~SOC 485~~	~~Course SOC 485 Not Found (or equivalent)~~	~~4~~
~~SOC 583~~	~~Qualitative Research Methods~~	~~4~~
~~SOC 586~~	~~Adv Social Statistics I~~	~~4~~
~~Select one of the following:~~		~~4~~
~~SOC 583~~	~~Qualitative Research Methods~~	
~~SOC 590~~	~~Individual Topics in Sociology~~	
~~An additional 5 substantive courses at the 500 level~~		~~12~~
~~Electives to bring coursework total to 48~~		~~8-12~~

~~SOC 599~~	~~Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)~~	~~3-24~~
~~**Total Hours**~~		~~**0**~~

Code	Title	Hours
SOC 503	Social Theory	4
SOC 510	Professionalization Seminar	2
~~SOC 500 & SOC 501~~	~~Course SOC 500 Not Found and Course SOC 501 Not Found~~	~~8~~
~~SOC 485~~	~~Course SOC 485 Not Found (or equivalent)~~	~~4~~
SOC 530	Principles of Sociological Research	4
SOC 531	Sociological Survey	4
SOC 583	Qualitative Research Methods	4
SOC 585	Social Data and Statistics	4
SOC 586	Adv Social Statistics I	4
~~Select one of the following:~~		~~4~~
~~SOC 583~~	~~Qualitative Research Methods~~	
~~SOC 590~~	~~Individual Topics in Sociology~~	
An additional 3 substantive courses at the 500 level, including an Advanced Methods course in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.		12
~~Electives to bring coursework total to 72~~		~~32-36~~
SOC 598	Thesis Proposal (Maximum of 12 hours)	2-12
SOC 599	Thesis Research (Maximum of 24 hours)	8-24
Electives to bring coursework total to 96		22-48
Total Hours		**96**

~~**Entering with approvedB.S./B.A.Degree Other Requirements Entering with approvedM.S./M.A.**~~**Other Requirements**

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Students must earn a B or better in every required course.	
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	48
~~Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:~~	~~43~~
~~Qualifying Exam Required~~	~~Yes~~
Qualifying Paper 1 Required	Yes
Qualifying Paper 2 Required	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.25

~~**Requirement**~~	~~**Description**~~
~~Other requirements may overlap~~	
~~Students must earn a B or better in every required course.~~	
~~Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:~~	~~43~~
~~Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:~~	~~43~~
~~Qualifying Exam Required~~	~~Yes~~
~~Preliminary Exam Required~~	~~Yes~~
~~Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required~~	~~Yes~~

~~Dissertation Deposit Required~~	~~Yes~~
~~Minimum GPA:~~	~~3.25~~

Corresponding Degree

PhD Doctor of Philosophy

Program Regulation and Assessment

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

Illinois Administrative Code: 1050.30(b)(1)(D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record keeping.

Are the learning outcomes for the program listed in the Academic Catalog?

Yes ~~No~~

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Ph.D. in Sociology, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate major sociological theories and theoretical debates within the discipline.
2. Design, conduct, and disseminate original sociological research, including data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
3. Apply advanced qualitative and quantitative research methods and research design principles to address sociological questions.
4. Communicate sociological knowledge effectively through professional written, oral, and scholarly presentations for diverse audiences.

Implement and assess effective pedagogical strategies that support learning in sociology and related fields.

Did you make any revisions to the learning outcomes you copied and pasted from the current academic catalog?

Yes

Program Description and Requirements Attach Documents

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Admission Requirements

Is this revision a change to the admission status of the program?

Yes ~~No~~

Please describe the admission status change, whether suspension or resumption of the admission status:

GRE will no longer be required, but is optional. The department uses a holistic evaluation, including a writing sample, coursework/ grades, and letters of reference. The GRE as a standardized test may not effectively reflect the skills required for success in the PhD program.

Provide a brief narrative description of the admission requirements for this program. Where relevant, include information about licensure requirements, student background checks, GRE and TOEFL scores, and admission requirements for transfer students.

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Students applying for admission should have a BA/BS/MA/MS and background in one of the social sciences, preferably sociology. A writing sample is required. Non-native English speakers must also submit

Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) scores. The department does not accept applications to the M.A. program.

Enrollment

Describe how this revision or phase down/elimination will impact enrollment and degrees awarded. If this is an elimination/phase down proposal include the plans for the students left in the program.

These revisions should not impact enrollment or number of degrees awarded, but rather raise the quality of our student's education and preparedness for careers in social science research.

What is the matriculation term for this program?

Fall ONLY

Budget

Are there budgetary implications for this revision?

No

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

Attach File(s)

Financial Resources

What tuition rate do you expect to charge for this program? e.g, Undergraduate Base Tuition, or Engineering Differential, or Social Work Online (no dollar amounts necessary)

Graduate Base Tuition

Are you seeking a change in the tuition rate or differential for this program?

No

Is this program requesting self-supporting status?

No

Attach letters and self-supporting documents as applicable

Program Support

Provide a brief description of the support for this program, including the financial, faculty, space, advisors/staff. Discuss plans to acquire any additional support that will be needed. If new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities is needed, describe the Facility Need, Year 1 and 5 cost, and any other applicable notes.

Financial Support. The program will be funded through the existing Sociology tuition model. Students will be assessed the Sociology/College of Liberal Arts and Science tuition, and revenues will be shared according to the established Integrated and Value-Centered Budgeting (IVCB) framework. These funds will support any increased instructional, advising, or administrative needs associated with program growth. No additional campus or external funding is anticipated at this time.

Faculty Support. The curriculum is built primarily from existing Sociology courses currently offered by the Department. Faculty will contribute to instruction, curriculum oversight, assessment, and student mentoring. The program governance structure will mirror that of existing Sociology and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences governance.

Advising and Staff Support. The academic advising for Sociology students will be provided by the Department of Sociology, as the administrative home of the program. The Director of Graduate Studies will monitor student progress toward degree completion, and work with the student's Academic Advisor provide guidance regarding Thesis defense/completion and career opportunities. The Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Studies Committee will oversee curriculum planning.

Space and Facilities. No new facilities are required. The program will utilize existing classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, and instructional spaces currently maintained by Sociology.

Future Support Needs. Enrollment is projected to grow slowly to maintain quality of educational experience, with a cap of 12 graduate students per year. Existing college and departmental resources are expected to be sufficient to support the projected enrollment, and no additional facilities or major infrastructure investments are anticipated.

No new facilities, major renovations, or significant improvements to existing facilities are anticipated. The program will utilize existing instructional, research, and advising resources within the Department Sociology.

Attach any supporting documents as applicable.

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

The proposal team consulted with Jessica Hagman and, based upon their input, determined that the Library's resources, collections, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of the program outlined in this proposal.

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP.27.057

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

PHD:Sociology -UIUC

Program Code:

10KS0344PHD

Minor Code

Conc Code

Degree Code

PHD

Major Code

0344

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer Comments

Emily Stuby (eastuby) (Tue, 28 Oct 2025 11:57:22 GMT): Rollback: Department requested.
Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (Fri, 04 Sep 2026 17:55:55 GMT): Rollback: Per discussion with Melissa Reedy.

Key: 431