10KS0344MA: SOCIOLOGY, MA

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Thu, 16 Jul 2026 13:30:08 GMT
   Emily Stuby (eastuby): Approved for U Program Review
2. Thu, 16 Jul 2026 13:42:25 GMT
   Reuben May (rabm): Approved for 1324-SOC Head
3. Mon, 27 Jul 2026 15:26:26 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
4. Mon, 27 Jul 2026 15:44:06 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
5. Wed, 02 Sep 2026 22:22:03 GMT
   Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
6. Thu, 03 Sep 2026 02:44:22 GMT
   Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
7. Fri, 04 Sep 2026 17:55:48 GMT
   Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Rollback to KV Dean for Provost
8. Tue, 15 Sep 2026 15:50:54 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
9. Tue, 15 Sep 2026 19:05:20 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
10. Thu, 17 Sep 2026 19:32:02 GMT
    Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad_College
11. Thu, 17 Sep 2026 19:47:40 GMT
    Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
12. Thu, 24 Sep 2026 13:55:49 GMT
    Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Aug 3, 2019 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
2. Sep 15, 2022 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
3. Oct 6, 2022 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
4. Jun 26, 2025 by Brooke Newell (bsnewell)

Date Submitted: Fri, 10 Jul 2026 17:28:47 GMT

Viewing: 10KS0344MA : Sociology, MA
Last approved: Thu, 26 Jun 2025 13:53:08 GMT
Last edit: Fri, 25 Sep 2026 19:01:17 GMT

Changes proposed by: Rebecca Riley

Proposal Type:

Major (ex. Special Education)

This proposal is for a:

Revision

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Sociology, MA

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Sociology

Sponsor Name

Reuben A. Buford May

Sponsor Email

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College Contact

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College Budget Officer

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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.

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 Master of Arts 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 MA proposal (Key 432) is related to the Sociology, PhD proposal (Key 431).

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 as 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 a required course 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 11).

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. SOC 586, Advanced Statistics, was added to the POS to complement SOC 585. SOC 585 ends with linear regression is not comprehensive enough to build a solid quantitative foundation. SOC 586 provides a more in depth understanding of generalized linear models (e.g., logit, Poisson, etc.) as well as an introduction to panel data and fixed/random effects. The tools developed over the two-part quantitative series (SOC 585 and SOC 586) will allow our students to readily pursue quantitative projects. This series equips our students with the ability to critically engage with and evaluate quantitative research.

9. Reduce required number/hours from six substantive 400-500 level courses (24 hrs) to three 500 level courses (12 hrs) one being an Advanced Methods Course in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. As part of the PhD program revision, required coursework hours increased from 24 to 30, to ensure a solid, consistent Sociological Foundation. With the shift to more specific required courses, required hours for these 500-level courses were reduced from 24 to 12 hours to maintain the same approximate educational load.

10. Total credit hours changed from 40 to 38. Minimum total credit hours for this program are changing from 40 to 38 as part of the Sociology, PhD (Key 431) overall revision. The MA is a terminal degree in sociology to accommodate a doctoral candidate that may decide to leave before working on their dissertation for academic or personal reasons. This MA can be awarded if the student has completed these requirements under those circumstances. These revisions, in conjunction with those to the PhD, ensure a solid, consistent Sociological Foundation necessary for independent academic researchers and experts for high-level industry or government positions.

11. Removed from the Other Requirements table the “A Master's paper is required.” and added Qualifying Paper 1 during the second year of the program and added Qualifying Paper 2 during the third year of the program. These papers represent program milestones but also as important opportunities for students to develop their scholarly identity within sociology. Together, these papers help students learn how to situate themselves in relation to broader disciplinary debates, master a substantive area of research, and practice the craft of producing written work that meets the standards of our field. Each paper is intended to build the habits of critical inquiry, methodological rigor, and clear communication that will carry forward into the dissertation and beyond.

12. Removed from the Other Requirements table the “At least two semesters in residence and 5 UIUC courses minimum are required” due to unnecessary repetition. This program is offered only in-person making all courses Illinois courses and in residence.

13. Changed from the Other Requirements table "Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit" from 32 to 26 because of the required 38 hours in the program, there are two courses (each 4 credit hours) allowed in the "An additional 3 substantive courses at the 500 level, including an Advanced Methods course in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies." that are outside the unit.

14. Changed from the Other Requirements table "Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall" from 28 to 38 because all hours in the POS are 500-level and required.

15. The Department of Sociology is requesting Non-Direct Admission status for the Sociology, MA program. This request does not represent a change in practice. This request is to formalize an existing practice. This decision to continue/formalize this practice was voted on and confirmed in August 2025 at the faculty retreat, as very few students are well-served by a terminal Masters in Arts in Sociology. The PhD program is the better choice for students in this discipline. Hence, the Department of Sociology chose to not offer direct admission to the Master of Arts in Sociology. Occasionally, a doctoral candidate may decide to leave before working on their dissertation for academic or personal reasons, and can be awarded the Sociology MA if they have completed the requirements for the MA program. It is our interest to continue this practice indefinitely. Report of Change to Non Direct Admission Status form is uploaded.

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?

38 ~~40~~

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

SOCChange-to-Non-Direct-Admit.docx

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
SOC 503	Social Theory	4
SOC 510	Professionalization Seminar	2
~~SOC 500~~	~~Course SOC 500 Not Found~~	~~4~~
~~or SOC 501~~	~~Course SOC 501 Not Found~~	
~~SOC 485~~	~~Course SOC 485 Not Found (or equivalent)~~	~~4~~
~~Select one of the following:~~		~~4~~
SOC 530	Principles of Sociological Research	4
SOC 531	Sociological Survey	4
SOC 583	Qualitative Research Methods	4
~~SOC 590~~	~~Individual Topics in Sociology~~	
~~Six additional courses at 400 or 500 level (at least 4 in SOC and 4 at the 500 level)~~		~~24~~
SOC 585	Social Data and Statistics	4

SOC 586	Adv Social Statistics I	4
An additional 3 substantive courses at the 500 level, including an Advanced Methods course in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.		12
Total Hours		**38**

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
~~At least two semesters in residence and 5 UIUC courses minimum are required.~~	
~~A Master's paper is required.~~	
Qualifying Paper I	Yes
Qualifying Paper II	Yes
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	26
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	38
Minimum GPA:	3.25

Corresponding Degree

MA Master of Arts

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 M.A. in Sociology, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate major sociological theories and theoretical perspectives to explain social phenomena.
2. Apply qualitative and quantitative research methods and research design principles to investigate sociological questions and interpret findings.
3. Critically evaluate sociological research by assessing research design, methodology, data analysis, and conclusions.
4. Communicate sociological knowledge effectively through professional written and oral presentations for academic and professional audiences.

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

No

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:

The Department of Sociology is requesting Non-Direct Admission status for the Sociology, MA program. This request does not represent a change in practice. This request is to formalize an existing practice.

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

The proposed PhD in Sociology will be supported through existing academic, financial, advising, instructional, and research resources within the Department of Sociology, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The program follows the established PhD model currently implemented at the University of Illinois and therefore does not require new faculty or staff positions at program launch.

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.27.058

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

MA:Sociology -UIUC

Program Code:

10KS0344MA

Minor Code

Conc Code

Degree Code

Major Code

MA

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer Comments

Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (Fri, 04 Sep 2026 17:55:48 GMT): Rollback: Per discussion with Melissa Reedy.

Key: 432