The University of Maryland, College Park
Program/Curriculum Proposal

Directions: Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one-page in length. Forms and appropriate attachments should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, who will assign a Log Number to each proposal. Also submit an electronic version of as much of the proposal as is possible.

Date Submitted: February 16, 2005

College/School: BSOS

Department/Program: Sociology

Proposed Action (A separate form for each) Add______ Delete______ Change__ X __

Description (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

We propose to change MATH 111 from a prerequisite for SOCY 201: Introductory Statistics for Sociology to a requirement for the major. A grade of C- or higher will be required.

Justification/Reasons/Resources (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

Since adding and enforcing the pre-requisite for SOCY 201 there has been a marked improvement in the student success rate for SOCY201.

Approval Signatures

1. Department Committee Chair_____________________________________________________             _____________
2. Department Chair_______________________________________________________________             _____________
3. College/School PCC Chair_______________________________________________________             _____________
4. Dean__________________________________________________________             _____________
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)___________________________________________             _____________
6. Chair, Senate PCC______________________________________________________________             _____________
7. Chair of Senate______________________________________________________________             _____________
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost_______________________________________             _____________

VPAAP Rev. 3/1/04
We are proposing to add MATH 111 as a required course for our major. MATH 111 is currently a pre-requisite for SOCY 201: Statistics for Sociology. Since implementing MATH 111 as a pre-requisite for SOCY 201 the student success rate in this course has shown a marked improvement, with fewer students needing to repeat the course. However, students can proceed to SOCY 201 with a “D” grade. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Teaching Committee research shows that there is a strong link between performance in MATH 111 and SOCY 201. Students who complete MATH 111 with a grade D have lower academic performance in SOCY 201. Students who get earn the grade of D in MATH 111 are much more likely to have to repeat SOCY 201, thus delaying the completion of their degree.

The DF rate for SOCY 201 (data from FALL 2002) of those students who took MATH 111 was 22%. For those students who earned a D in MATH 111, the DF rate was 50%. For students who earned a C or C- the DF rate was 42%. For students who earned a B grade, the DF rate was 17%, and for students who earned an A, the DF rate was 1.6%.

Although, a case could be made for making the minimum grade a B or higher for MATH 111, the faculty of Sociology is not in favor of doing this at this time. The BSOS Teaching Committee will be working with the Department of Mathematics to encourage the use of word problems in MATH 111 to better facilitate a seamless transition of MATH 111 into BSOS social science statistics courses.

MATH 111 is already taken by most Sociology majors in preparation for SOCY 201. We therefore do not anticipate a noticeable impact on the demand for this course. The only students who be affected by the proposed change are those who must retake MATH 111 in order to earn a C- or higher.

We are proposing that this new requirement become effective beginning in Fall, 2005 and will apply only to those students declaring Sociology as a major on or after that date. Students who are already Sociology majors will be grandfathered in and will only be required to complete MATH 111 with a D- or higher (the current policy).