MEMORANDUM

TO: Edward Montgomery
    Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Phyllis Peres
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the graduate program in Sociology (PCC log no. 06068)

Your proposal to modify the structure of the graduate program in Sociology has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective Fall 2007. The College should ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Mary Giles, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Gay Gullickson, Graduate School
    Matthew Hill, Graduate School
    Katherine Pedro Beardsley, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences
    Joan Kahn, Sociology
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.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 21 February, 2007

COLLEGE/SCHOOL BSOS

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM SOCY

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.)

This proposal is to change the Sociology graduate program from one with separate MA and PhD programs, to a single PhD-only program. We would admit all of our graduate students directly into the PhD program, regardless of whether they have completed the MA. However, we would keep the MA as an option for students who either wish to obtain a master's degree while continuing in the Ph.D. program, or who leave before completing the Ph.D.

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.)

For the past 5+ years, the Sociology graduate program has effectively operated as a PhD-only program. We have been implementing the graduate program as a single program, with all of the MA requirements also required for PhD. MA and PhD applicants are evaluated using the same criteria, and we have only admitted MA applicants who have expressed an interest in obtaining a PhD. We clearly do not offer a terminal MA degree anymore, though in some cases, students have chosen not to continue on for the PhD. (See attached for further discussion).

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair
   
2. Department Chair Suzanne M. Bianchi Agnana M. Blanchi 2/10/07

3. College/School PCC Chair Tony L. Whitehead Tony L. Whitehead 3/4/07

4. Dean Kathryn F. Dushkin 9/30/07

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) AM 6/21/07

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Phyllis Reses 6-7-07

VPAAP 8-65

BSS 07-1
PCC Proposal for a PhD-Only Program in SOCIOLOGY

Date Submitted: 20 February, 2007
College: BSOS
Department: SOCY
Proposed Action: CHANGE

Description:
This proposal is to change the Sociology graduate program from one with separate MA and PhD programs, to a single PhD-only program. We would admit all of our graduate students directly into the PhD program, regardless of whether they have completed the MA. However, we would keep the MA as an option for students who either wish to obtain a master’s degree while continuing in the Ph.D. program, or who leave before completing the Ph.D.

Justification:
For the past 5+ years, the Sociology graduate program has effectively operated as a PhD-only program. We have been implementing the graduate program as a single program, with all of the MA requirements also required for PhD. MA and PhD applicants are evaluated using the same criteria, and we have only admitted MA applicants who have expressed an interest in obtaining a PhD. We clearly do not offer a terminal MA degree anymore, though in some cases, students have chosen not to continue on for the PhD.

By converting to a PhD-only program, we would bring the structure of the program more in line with what we actually do. By removing the completion of the MA as a prerequisite for entering the PhD program, we would allow students to move more quickly through the program and shorten their time to completion. We have opted to replace the MA thesis requirement with an original research paper to be completed by all students during the second year. We hope that the second year paper will be of high quality and will result in a publication prior to graduation, thereby improving our students’ marketability, especially in the academic job market.

The only students who might be negatively impacted by this change are students seeking a terminal masters degree; yet, these are precisely the students who we have consciously chosen to avoid admitting into our program. Moving to the PhD-only program will reduce confusion among potential applicants and will more clearly reflect the goal of our program.

(See attached catalog descriptions of the old and new programs)
“Proposed” Catalog Description (see below for “old” description)

Sociology (SOCY)

Abstract

The Graduate Program in Sociology is designed for students seeking a Ph.D. degree. However, the M.A. option is available to students who either wish to obtain a master’s degree while continuing in the Ph.D. program, or who leave the program before finishing the Ph.D. Areas of emphasis in the Department include: demography; gender, work, and family; military sociology; political economy (comparative sociology, development, and stratification); social psychology; and theory.

Typically, about half the students finishing Ph.D. degrees in the Sociology Department work as faculty members at colleges and universities, and about half are working in research, administration, and consulting in federal, state, or private organizations. Our location in the Washington, D.C., area offers an unusual number of full-time research opportunities for our graduates.

Admissions Information

Admission to the graduate program is based upon the student’s academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and other information relevant to the applicant’s chances of being successful in the program. Although a previous major in sociology is not required, students entering the graduate program should have had the following in undergraduate courses: mathematics through college algebra, elementary statistics, sociological theory, and sociological research methods. Students who have completed prior graduate coursework in Sociology may petition to waive one or more courses in Social Theory, Statistics, or Research Methods.

New graduate students are assigned temporary advisors upon arrival, and are then expected to select a permanent advisor who will direct their dissertation research.

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)

The graduate program in the Department of Sociology is designed for Ph.D. students. We do not offer a terminal Masters program and we will not accept or enroll students for the single purpose of acquiring a Masters degree. However, doctoral students may obtain a Master of Arts degree during their course of
doctoral study by completing 30 credit hours, including 1) two courses in
statistics (6 cr.); 2) one in methodology (3 cr.); 3) one in theory (3 cr.); 4) one
computer skills course (1 cr.); 5) an original research paper completed in the
fourth semester (3 cr.).

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Ph.D. requirements include: 1) two courses in social theory (6 cr.); 2) 3 courses
in statistics (9 cr.); 3) 2 courses in research methods (6 cr.); 4) one computer
skills course (1 cr.); 5) a set of three courses in each of two specialties
(independent reading courses do not count and the same course cannot be
counted twice) (18 cr.); 6) a second-year research paper which meets the
approval of two faculty members (3 cr.); 7) SOCY 701, Integration of theory and
method (3 cr.); 8) 12 credit hours of dissertation research (12 cr.); and 9) a total
of 58 credit hours of coursework and research.

After completion of coursework, doctoral students must pass two examinations
qualifying them to write their dissertations in the specialties of their choice. Upon
the recommendation of the appropriate faculty members, the Department
Graduate Committee approves the coursework qualifying students to take the
two examinations.

Facilities and Special Resources

The Sociology Department’s facilities include data processing and computer
capabilities. The department is also closely involved with the Maryland
Population Research Center and the Center for Research on Military
Organizations. The campus has excellent computer facilities and computer
resources are available to faculty and graduate students.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for graduate students is available through teaching and
research assistantships, and for advanced students through part-time
instructorships. For outstanding applicants, we also offer several C.W. Mills
Fellowships that provide additional support tailored to the applicants needs. All
carry a stipend plus tuition remission, and most include health benefits.

Contact Information

Application may be obtained online at: http://www.gradschool.umd.edu

Director of Graduate Studies
2103 Art-Sociology Building
College Park, MD 20742-1315
Telephone: (301) 405-6390
"Old" Catalog Description

Sociology (SOCY)

Abstract

The Graduate Program in Sociology offers coursework leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Areas of emphasis in the Department include: demography, gender, work, and family; military sociology; political economy (comparative sociology, development, and stratification); social psychology; and theory.

Typically, about half the students finishing Ph.D. degrees in the Sociology Department work as faculty members at colleges and universities, and about half are working in research, administration, and consulting in federal, state, or private organizations. Our location in the Washington, D.C., area offers an unusual number of full-time research opportunities for our graduate students.

Admissions Information

Admission to the graduate program is based upon the student’s academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and other information relevant to the applicant’s chances of being successful in the program. Although a previous major in sociology is not required, students entering the master’s degree program should have had the following in undergraduate courses: mathematics through college algebra, elementary statistics, sociological theory, and sociological research methods. Students entering the Ph.D. program should have had at least one graduate level course each in sociological theory and sociological research methods, and 2 courses in statistics. Students deficient in any of these areas may be admitted to the program provisionally, but they must satisfy the requirements during their first year in the program.

Both M.A. and Ph.D. students are assigned temporary advisors upon arrival, and are then expected to select a permanent advisor who will direct their thesis or dissertation research.

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)
A minimum of 30 credit hours are required for the master's degree and include 1) two courses in statistics; 2) one in methodology; 3) one in theory; 4) a one credit
computer course; and 5) six credits of thesis research (799). A thesis is required. Usually, this phase of the program can be completed in two years.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

Ph.D. candidates must have met all the master's degree requirements. In addition, they must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours beyond the M.A. requirements. Specific Ph.D. requirements include: 1) A set of three courses in each of two specialties (independent reading courses do not count and the same course cannot be counted twice); 2) one course in theory; 3) one advanced statistics course; (4) one methodology course; 5) SOCY 701, integrating methods and theory; 6) a one credit computer course (if not taken at the master's level); and 7) 12 credit hours of dissertation research.

After completion of the coursework, doctoral students must pass two examinations qualifying them to write their dissertations in the specialties of their choice. Upon the recommendation of the appropriate faculty member, the Department Graduate Committee approves the coursework qualifying students to present the two examinations.

**Facilities and Special Resources**

The Sociology Department's facilities include data processing and computer capabilities and a Department library. The department is also closely involved with the Maryland Population Research Center and the Center for Research on Military Organizations, both of which are located in the Art/Sociology Building. The campus has excellent computer facilities and computer resources are available to faculty and graduate students.

**Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance for graduate students is available through teaching and research assistantships, and for advanced students through part-time instructorships. We also have several special fellowships for outstanding applicants, the C.W. Mills Fellowships, that provide additional support tailored to the applicants' needs. All carry a stipend plus tuition remission, and most include health benefits.

**Contact Information**

Application may be obtained online at: http://www.vprgs.umd.edu

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2103 Art-Sociology Building
College Park, MD 20742-1315
Telephone: (301) 405-6390
Fax: (301) 314-6692
gradsoc@socy.umd.edu

http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/

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