

**PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM**

**Name of Institution:** Clemson University

**Briefly state the nature of the proposed modification (e.g., adding a new concentration, extending the program to a new site, curriculum change, etc.):**

We request approval for two changes to our extant MS Applied Sociology program. First, we propose a change in name to MS Social Science that reflects the composition of the faculty and the courses offered in the department that related to sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice. Second, we propose a streamlined curriculum that is in alignment with the lower credit hour requirements of other Master’s programs at Clemson and related programs at peer institutions.

**Current Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):**

MS Applied Sociology

**Proposed Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):**

MS Social Science

**Program Designation:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate’s Degree   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master’s Degree                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor’s Degree: 4 Year  | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor’s Degree: 5 Year  | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Research/Scholarship (e.g., Ph.D. and DMA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Professional Practice (e.g., Ed.D., D.N.P., J.D., Pharm.D., and M.D.) |  |

**Does the program currently qualify for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?**

- Yes  
 No

**If No, should the program be considered for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?**

- Yes  
 No

**Proposed Date of Implementation:** 15 August 2019

**CIP Code:** 45.9999

**Current delivery site(s) and modes:** Clemson University Main Campus (50104)

**Proposed delivery site(s) and modes:** Clemson University Main Campus (50104)

**Program Contact Information** (*name, title, telephone number, and email address*):

Dr. Melissa Vogel, Graduate Coordinator; 864.656.0837, [mvogel@clemson.edu](mailto:mvogel@clemson.edu)

Dr. Jeremy King, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; 864.656.4592; [jking2@clemson.edu](mailto:jking2@clemson.edu)

**Institutional Approvals and Dates of Approval:**

University Graduate Curriculum Committee: 14 December 2018

Provost: 6 April 2019

Clemson University Board of Trustees: 26 April 2019

### **Background Information**

*Provide a detailed description of the proposed modification, including target audience, centrality to institutional mission, and relation to strategic plan.*

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice is updating its MS in Applied Sociology to an MS in Social Science. The composition of the faculty and the courses offered in the department have changed significantly in recent years, and now reflects its independent undergraduate majors in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. The focus of MS degree program continues to be teaching foundational social science methods and theory.

The modification ensures that the degree name and curriculum both reflect this focus and the available robust coursework that is available. The program prepares students for both industry and academia, and not exclusively for work in applied settings. Thus, the inclusive name of Social Science (rather than Applied Sociology) more accurately reflects what the department teaches, how it trains graduate students, and the disciplinary expertise of the faculty.

We are also streamlining the curriculum to: bring it into alignment with the requirements of other Master's programs at Clemson; eliminate competitive disadvantages with comparable MS programs in the discipline; make the program accessible to the more diverse forms of undergraduate majors in the Department; and reduce the total price of the program to students via a curriculum with fewer credit hours. The modification is aligned with Strategic Priority #3 (The Academic Core) in the University's Clemson *FORWARD* strategic plan, which calls for an extended focus on the quality of and a greater commitment to graduate education and the graduate student experience.

The target audience for this program remains those seeking a terminal Master's degree in social science—including the growing number of students in one of the department's three undergraduate majors who can take advantage of a Bachelor's/Master's 4+1 pathway for completing the MS. It is aimed at students wanting both practical and theoretical knowledge in the areas of sociology, anthropology and/or criminal justice, and prepares them for employment in industry or government agencies (though also serves as preparation for those wanting to subsequently pursue related doctoral study).

The Social Sciences, M.S. program is designed to provide a solid foundation in social science methods. It focuses on the acquisition of social science research skills, theory application and practical field experience. Students are taught not only to generate, but also to effectively communicate and apply knowledge of social sciences, thereby supporting Clemson University's mission of educating students to "think deeply about and engage in the social, scientific, economic, and professional challenges of our times.". This program prepares students to conduct theoretically sound, empirically sophisticated research projects and to fulfill current and future workforce demands, and who are prepared to continue advanced studies in a doctoral program or obtain a position in industry. This is central to the foundation of Clemson University's mission of the "generation, preservation, communication, and application of knowledge."

**Assessment of Need**

*Provide an assessment of the need for the program modification for the institution, the state, the region, and beyond, if applicable.*

This program modification is needed to bring the curriculum into alignment with a disciplinarily diversified body of faculty, available coursework, and prospective students. These changes provide competitive advantage to students by not restricting their preparation to that needed solely for work in applied settings, and may also result in some cost savings to them from a more streamlined curriculum. The program can also support post-baccalaureate workforce training diversity inasmuch as underrepresented minorities make up a disproportionately large share of the baccalaureate social sciences degree holders compared to the general population.

**Transfer and Articulation**

*Identify any special articulation agreements for the modified proposed program. Provide the articulation agreement or Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding.*

There are no articulation agreements associated with the modification.

**Description of the Program**

The thesis and non-thesis options in the MS Social Science program are 35 and 30 credit hours respectively. The program will thus require 3-5 fall/spring semesters to complete. The table below shows projected enrollment that starts assuming 6 extant students already enrolled in the program returning for the fall 2019 semester plus an additional 3 new students (for a total of 9 students in two different entering cohorts in the fall 2018 and 2019 semesters). New cohort enrollments only occur in the fall, and the total columns are the sum of first-year cohort students, returning students in the previous cohorts less anticipated graduations. The long-run projection shows a steady state of 12 fall/spring students compared to the 10 students enrolled in fall 2018; this reflects small organic growth in the program expected from the rebranding of the degree and the curriculum reduction.

| Projected Enrollment |                |       |                  |       |                  |       |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Year                 | Fall Headcount |       | Spring Headcount |       | Summer Headcount |       |
|                      | New            | Total | New              | Total | New              | Total |
| 2019-20              | 3              | 9     | 0                | 9     | 0                | 3     |
| 2020-21              | 5              | 8     | 0                | 8     | 0                | 5     |
| 2021-22              | 6              | 11    | 0                | 11    | 0                | 6     |
| 2022-23              | 6              | 12    | 0                | 12    | 0                | 6     |

*Explain how the enrollment projections were calculated.*

The new program requires 30 credit hours, which we anticipate the students will complete in three to five semesters. The projection above assumes 100% completion with 5 new students admitted fall of 2020 and 6 new students admitted each year going forward (2022 & 2023). In addition to new enrollment each fall, we anticipate that each newly admitted student will graduate in Spring of the following year, therefore reducing the headcount for the following Summer. The Fall 2019 admitted students (3) will graduate no later than Spring of 2021 or be enrolled five semesters. This assumption carries through to Summer of 2023. The Fall 2020 students (5) will graduate in Spring of 2022, Fall 2021 students (6) will graduate in Spring of 2023.

This projection is based on historical baseline enrollment in the current MS program, and the expected growth in enrollment based on surveys/conversations with prospective students if the modifications are approved.

US Census Bureau 1-yr American Community Survey (ACS) data over 2014-2016 for social sciences degree holders by public use micro areas (PUMAs) living location indicates that there are 7068 individuals in the workforce that are living in the Easley/Clemson, Anderson, Simpsonville/Laurens, Greer (NW & East), Wade Hampton/Berea, Spartanburg, and Greenville/Mauldin PUMAs social science degrees. Nationally, IPEDS data indicates that 86% of social science degrees awarded are at the undergraduate level. However, national ACS data indicates that 58% of the working population with social science degrees have only a baccalaureate degree. If this workforce percentage holds for the Upstate workforce population residing in the PUMAs above, then this suggests a candidate pool of nearly 4100 workforce individuals living in the Upstate that have only a bachelor’s degree in social sciences. The projected enrollment growth corresponds to 0.05% of this population per annum—we take this as an independent confirmation of reasonableness and plausibility of the growth projection justified solely on the basis of a local pool of potential students.

**Curriculum**

***Attach a curriculum sheet identifying the courses required for the program.***

Curriculum requirements, including that for the non-thesis option, are listed in the tables below.

**M.S. Social Science Course Requirements**

Thesis Curriculum:

| <b>Course Name</b>   | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods   | <b>3</b>       |
| SOC 6060 Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences                            | <b>3</b>       |
| SOC 8970 Graduate Professional Development Seminar                                       | <b>2</b>       |
| SOC 8100 Theories in the Social Sciences   | <b>3</b>       |
| Choice of Advanced Research Methods: Quantitative or Qualitative (SOC 8070 or ANTH 6030) | <b>3</b>       |
| Choice of Survey Design (SOC 8030) or Evaluation Research (SOC 8050)                     | <b>3</b>       |
| Electives  | <b>12</b>      |
| SOC 8910 Master’s Thesis Research  | <b>7</b>       |
|  |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>36</b>      |

Non-thesis Option Curriculum:

| <b>Course Name</b>   | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods   | <b>3</b>       |
| SOC 6060 Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences                            | <b>3</b>       |
| SOC 8970 Graduate Professional Development Seminar                                       | <b>2</b>       |
| SOC 8100 Theories in the Social Sciences   | <b>3</b>       |
| Choice of Advanced Research Methods: Quantitative or Qualitative (SOC 8070 or ANTH 6030) | <b>3</b>       |
| Choice of Survey Design (SOC 8030) or Evaluation Research (SOC 8050)                     | <b>3</b>       |
| Electives  | <b>12</b>      |
| SOC 8910 Master's Thesis Research  | <b>1</b>       |
|  |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>30</b>      |

**Curriculum Changes**

w/ Thesis

| <b>Courses Eliminated from Program</b>        | <b>Courses Added to Program</b>   | <b>Core Courses Modified</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| SOC 8300 Human Systems Development (3 cr)     | SOC 6060 Qualitative Methods Research Methods for the Social Sciences (3cr) | SOC 8070 Advanced Research Methods (3cr) now optional instead of required                                      |
| SOC 8950 Field Experience (1-6 cr)            | SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods (3cr)                                | One of SOC 8030 Survey Design (4cr)<br>SOC 8050 Evaluation Research (3cr)<br>required instead of both required |
| SOC 6710 Population Issues and Methods (3 cr) |   | SOC 8970 Professional Development Seminar (reduce from 4cr to 2cr)   |
|   |   | Electives (12 cr instead of 3-8 cr)  |
|   |   | SOC 8910 Thesis Research (7 cr instead of 6 cr)  |

Non-Thesis option

| <b>Courses Eliminated from Program</b>        | <b>Courses Added to Program</b>                                     | <b>Core Courses Modified</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| SOC 8300 Human Systems Development (3 cr)     | SOC 6060 Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences (3cr) | SOC 8070 Advanced Research Methods (3cr) now optional instead of required                                      |
| STAT 8010 Statistical Methods I (3 cr)        | SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods (3cr)                        | One of SOC 8030 Survey Design (4cr)<br>SOC 8050 Evaluation Research (3cr)<br>required instead of both required |
| SOC 6710 Population Issues and Methods (3 cr) | SOC 8910 Thesis Research (1 cr)                                     | SOC 8970 Professional Development Seminar (reduce from 4cr to 2cr)   |
| SOC 8950 Field Experience (1-6 cr)            |   | Electives (12 cr instead of 6-11 cr)   |
| Internship in applied setting (6 cr)          |   |  |

**New Courses**

List and provide course descriptions for new courses.

SOC 6060 Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences – Introduction to qualitative research methods, design and analysis for the social sciences. Methods covered may include interviews, focus groups, observation, visual analysis and content analysis. Students learn about validity, reliability, trustworthiness, ethics and the uses of social science qualitative research in a variety of applied settings.

SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods – This course focuses on the application of quantitative methods and has two main sections. Part I will focus on a conceptual understanding of the basics of the social science process. Part II covers basics in descriptive and inferential statistics, including measures of central tendency and variability, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and regression.

SOC 8910 Master’s Thesis Research

**Similar Programs in South Carolina offered by Public and Independent Institutions**

Identify the similar programs offered and describe the similarities and differences for each program.

| <b>Program Name and Designation</b>     | <b>Total Credit Hours</b> | <b>Institution</b> | <b>Similarities</b>       | <b>Differences</b>  |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| M.A. Social Science                     | 36                        | The Citadel        | Degree name               | Focus is more toward teachers and military than theories or research                                    |
| M.A. Anthropology                       | 30                        | USC                | Small, personal attention | 4 subfield specializations  |
| M.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice   | 30                        | USC                | Small, personal attention | Specific focus on 3 different fields; geared toward criminal justice professionals                      |
| M.A. Sociology                          | 30                        | USC                | Small, personal attention | Focuses on 3 fields: inequalities and institutions; population and health; and social psychology        |
| M.S. Criminal and Social Justice Policy | 30                        | Coker College      | Small, personal attention | Focused solely on criminal justice theory and case studies, rather than social science research methods |

### **Faculty**

*State whether new faculty, staff or administrative personnel are needed to implement the program modification; if so, discuss the plan and timeline for hiring the personnel. Provide a brief explanation of any personnel reassignment as a result of the proposed program modification.*

No new faculty are needed to implement the program modification.

### **Resources**

*Identify new library, instructional equipment and facilities needed to support the modified program.*

**Library Resources:** None

**Equipment:** None

**Facilities:** None

### **Impact on Existing Programs**

*Will the proposed program impact existing degree programs or services at the institution (e.g., course offerings or enrollment)? If yes, explain:*

Yes

No

This program modification will make our Master's degree more accessible to prospective students who were are undergraduate departmental majors (Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice) as well as to external applicants with diverse disciplinary backgrounds. The focus on social science research methods in the modified curricula is also expected to be more marketable and attractive than the previous narrower focus on applied sociology. Accordingly, we expect enrollment to increase.

### Financial Support

| Estimated Sources of Financing for the New Costs                        |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Category  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | Total          |
| Tuition Funding   | 80,388          | 82,800          | 113,712         | 125,489         | 129,253         | 531,641        |
| Program-Specific Fees   | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | -              |
| Special State Appropriation   | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | -              |
| Reallocation of Existing Funds  | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | -              |
| Federal, Grant, or Other Funding  | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               | -              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>80,388</b>   | <b>82,800</b>   | <b>113,712</b>  | <b>125,489</b>  | <b>129,253</b>  | <b>531,641</b> |
| Estimated New Costs by Year   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                |
| Category  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> | Total          |
| Program Administration and Faculty and Staff Salaries                   | 27,240          | 28,602          | 30,032          | 31,534          | 33,110          | 150,518        |
| Facilities, Equipment, Supplies, and Materials                          | 5,000           | 5,000           | 5,000           | 5,000           | 5,000           | 25,000         |
| Library Resources   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                |
| Other (specify)   |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>32,240</b>   | <b>33,602</b>   | <b>35,032</b>   | <b>36,534</b>   | <b>38,110</b>   | <b>175,518</b> |
| <b>Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated New Costs)</b> | <b>48,148</b>   | <b>49,198</b>   | <b>78,679</b>   | <b>88,955</b>   | <b>91,143</b>   | <b>356,123</b> |

**Budget Justification**

*Provide a brief explanation for all new costs and sources of financing identified in the Financial Support table.*

The program modification seeks to add additional capacity to the currently taught courses by modifying the program to reduce the total number of credit hours required to complete the degree program. Due to the modification, the projected enrollment for the modified program is expected to increase incrementally each year. The first year anticipates 3 newly enrolled students, increasing to a steady state of 6 new students by fall of 2021.

**Expenditures:**

**Program administration, Faculty and Staff Salaries:** While the total course requirement is being reduced, two new courses (SOC 6060 Qualitative Methods Research Methods for Social Sciences and SOC 8010 Quantitative Research Methods) will be taught in the newly established degree program. Each course is projected to cost approximately \$10K each plus fringe of \$3.6K for a total of approximately \$27K of new course costs. Cost of implementing the course is expected to increase 5% each year.

**Facilities, Equipment, Supplies and Materials:** In addition, \$5K per year will be needed to market to prospective students.

**Revenue (Tuition Funding):** The program tuition rate is priced at the University’s Tier 2 level, currently \$638 per credit hour, and is assumed to increase approximately 3% per annum. Student enrollment is expected to increase by 3 students in the first year, 5 students in the second year, and 6 students in year 3 through 5. The total program estimation is based on students taking 6 credit hours per semester for 5 semesters which would mean 18 credit hours taken in the first year (Fall, Spring and Summer) and 12 credit hours in the second year (Fall and Spring). Students in their second year, will overlap with the newly admitted student cohort. Therefore, the tuition funding for the first year would be calculated as 18 credit hours for the 3 new students for the \$638 per credit hour in addition to 12 credit hours for the 6 continuing students for the \$638 rate.

**Evaluation and Assessment**

| <b>Program Objectives</b>   | <b>Student Learning Outcomes Aligned to Program Objectives</b>   | <b>Methods of Assessment</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| Develop content and theory experts in the field of social science | Demonstrate masters-level competence in sociological theory by relating empirical social science research to the relevant body of sociological theory in their area of specialization. | -Written Assignment (SOC 8100)<br>-Thesis or Culminating Major Project (SOC 8910)  |
| Equip learners with analytical and statistical toolkit            | Access, evaluate, manage, and analyze large data sets employing multivariate statistical techniques.   | - Quantitative research skills will be assessed with assignments and written exams (SOC 8010)<br>- Qualitative research skills will be assessed in a project involving the use of exercise of 3 different qualitative methods (SOC 6060) |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | -Survey Design (SOC 8030) or Evaluation Research (Survey or Paper) (SOC 8050)                                      |
| Provide future researchers and policy analysts | Design and implement methodologically sound social research projects that focus on program evaluation, policy analysis, and organizational assessment. | -Research Project (SOC 8070 or ANTH 6030)<br>-Supervisor Evaluation (real-world research effectiveness) (SOC 8910) |

Will the proposed modification impact the way the program is evaluated and assessed? If yes, explain.

- Yes
- No

Will the proposed modification affect or result in program-specific accreditation? If yes, explain; and, if the modification will result in the program seeking program-specific accreditation, provide the institution’s plans to seek accreditation, including the expected timeline.

- Yes
- No

Will the proposed modification affect or lead to licensure or certification? If yes, identify the licensure or certification.

- Yes
- No

Explain how the program will prepare students for this licensure or certification.

N/A

If the program is an Educator Preparation Program, does the proposed certification area require national recognition from a Specialized Professional Association (SPA)? If yes, describe the institution’s plans to seek national recognition, including the expected timeline.

- Yes
- No N/A