

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.):

Revising the BA Sociology curriculum to streamline major requirements, reduce the program's required credit hours, and eliminate the emphasis area/concentration in Criminal Justice

Current Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):
BA Sociology (General Sociology, Community Studies, Criminal Justice, and Social Services)

Proposed Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks):
BA Sociology (General Sociology, Community Studies, and Social Services)
[Delete Criminal Justice emphasis area/concentration.]

Program Designation:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree |
| <input checked="" 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: **August 2020**

CIP Code: **45.1101 [No Change]**

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

Proposed delivery site(s) and modes: **Clemson University Main Campus (50104) [No Change]**

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

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Institutional Approvals and Dates of Approval:

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee approval: 1 November 2019

Provost approval: 6 December 2019

Board of Trustees approval: 7 February 2020 [anticipated]

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 and Criminal Justice is seeking approval for changes to the BA in Sociology to introduce flexibility and access for students within the curriculum and its disciplinary coursework, reduce the total number of program credit hours, and eliminate the program's criminal justice emphasis area.

In Fall 2013, the first semester covered by our modern student information system, our BS and BA Sociology programs enrolled over 200 students, approximately a third of whom pursued an emphasis area/concentration in criminal justice. Subsequently, the Department has undergone a number of changes that include the Fall 2016 introduction of a new major in criminal justice. The growing criminal justice major alone now (as of Fall 2019) enrolls over 200 students. Given the success of this major, and the university's recent approval of a new criminal justice minor, the emphasis area within the Sociology BA is no longer necessary.

With these changes to the size and student makeup of the baccalaureate Sociology programs, whose enrollment has dipped to a still healthy 140 students as of Fall 2019, updates to the curriculum are necessary. We are proposing changes that would benefit BA Sociology students by allowing them to take more courses within their areas of interest and by deepening their knowledge within the discipline. The proposed curriculum changes would also allow students more flexibility to study abroad, double major, and pursue internship, co-op, and other professional development activities. These changes align with the University's ClemsonFORWARD strategic priority of increasing opportunities for student academic engagement. Furthermore, a streamlined curriculum could attract more students changing their major or pursuing a second major to our Sociology baccalaureate programs.

The proposed changes to the BA Sociology are:

- 1) Reduce the required number of credit hours for the BA in Sociology from 121 to 120.
- 2) Remove the requirement that students must complete an advanced English course.
- 3) Broaden the course options within the general sociology emphasis area, and add three credit hours to each emphasis area.
- 4) Allow students to select between the currently-required quantitative research methods course and an alternative qualitative methods course for their second methods requirement.
- 5) Remove the requirement that students must complete additional departmental arts and humanities courses beyond those required for general education, and instead build in an opportunity for them to earn credit toward their degree for four semesters of modern language (instead of the two semesters of credit currently allowed).
- 6) Delete the criminal justice emphasis area.

Where currently required courses are eliminated, they are replaced with electives if not otherwise specified above. All of these changes are designed to streamline and simplify the Sociology major in order to allow students more flexibility in their programs and, therefore, to improve time to degree and provide students more opportunities to participate in opportunities that align with the engagement goals of the ClemsonFORWARD plan.

Assessment of Need

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

Over the last couple of years, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice has conducted numerous focus groups with graduating sociology majors and has learned that students find our requirements to be

overly complicated. Focus group participants have expressed that they would like flexibility to study abroad or pursue second majors, but feel restricted by curriculum elements that include very specific course menus required to meet degree requirements. They have also told us that there are experiences and courses that would be very beneficial to their academic careers and professional goals that they have had to forego because of the specificity of our extant curriculum, which requires courses to be very carefully timed in order to fulfill requirements.

Furthermore, comparison of our sociology curriculum to that at six similarly-ranked public land grant institutions demonstrates that our curriculum is the most complex, with our program both having the most restrictive course requirements within the major and allowing the fewest elective credits. For instance, all of the other programs allow students to complete between 18 and 24 hours of sociology electives, while our current curriculum allows, at most, 9 hours in this category. The proposed changes bring our requirements in line with competitive programs and support improved time-to-degree and greater opportunities to participate in professional engagement.

These goals are accomplished through the following curriculum modifications:

- Trimming 15 credit hours of requirements from outside of our department (additional arts and humanities courses) and replacing them with major electives, general electives, and prerequisites for required language courses. This will allow students to take more sociology classes to deepen their knowledge within the field, enhance their career preparation, and provide more elective slots for engagement opportunities.
- Explicitly adding the first two semesters of a modern foreign language to the curriculum rather than assuming that these credits will be earned by other means (e.g., credit by examination) or fulfilled via “elective” slots.
- Adding flexibility for students by allowing them to choose between a quantitative or a qualitative course for their advanced research methods requirement rather than specifying a quantitative methods course.
- Replacing specific menus of courses within the general sociology emphasis area with sociology electives to allow students to take major classes that better fit their goals and interests.

These changes reduce the total number of required credit hours from 121 to 120, which is in line with that of other social science majors (including anthropology, criminal justice, psychology, and political science) in our academic college.

As mentioned above, we also plan to delete the Criminal Justice emphasis area because demand for it has dropped with the introduction of the criminal justice major three years ago. At that time, there were about a dozen criminal justice majors and approximately 65-70 BA and BS sociology majors pursuing an emphasis area in criminal justice. Today, however, there are over 200 criminal justice majors, while there are currently only six sociology majors with an emphasis in criminal justice (four of whom are scheduled to graduate this year). Given the further addition of a newly approved criminal justice minor that will go into effect in Fall 2020, the emphasis area is no longer necessary.

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 proposed modification.

Description of the Program

The BA Sociology program is a four-year degree that, under the proposed modification, will require 120 credit hours of coursework—or approximately 15 credit hours per semester for eight semesters—including at least 34 credits in sociology or rural sociology. At least 12 of the 34 credits must be from 4000-level sociology or rural sociology courses. Coursework includes core sociology requirements (e.g., Research Methods, Theories), general education classes, modern language requirements for the BA, electives, and courses within the emphasis area/concentration and required minor. As mentioned earlier, emphasis areas include General Sociology, Community Studies, and Social Services (with the deletion of the Criminal Justice emphasis); each student completes 18 semester hours within his or her selected emphasis area.

Students may enter the program during any semester, and there are multiple cohorts following different catalog years enrolled at any one time. Sociology majors typically take general education and introductory courses within the major and minor, as well as modern language requirements, during their freshman and sophomore years, followed by advanced courses within their major, minor, and emphasis area during the junior and senior years. Interested students may complete internships, research experiences, Creative Inquiry projects, or study abroad trips as their schedules and interests allow.

Projected Enrollment – Detailed Model (BA Sociology)												
Year	Fall Headcount				Spring Headcount				Summer Headcount			
	New	Continuing	Lost	Graduate	New	Continuing	Lost	Graduate	New	Continuing	Lost	Graduate
2020-21	15	45	2	4	8	54	1	14	1	10	1	2
2021-22	16	45	2	4	9	55	1	14	1	10	1	2
2022-23	16	47	2	4	9	57	1	14	1	11	1	2
2023-24	17	49	2	5	10	59	1	15	1	11	1	2
2024-25	17	51	2	5	10	61	1	15	1	12	1	2

Projected Enrollment						
Year	Fall Headcount		Spring Headcount		Summer Headcount	
	New	Total	New	Total	New	Total
2020-21	15	60	8	62	1	11
2021-22	16	61	9	64	1	11
2022-23	16	63	9	66	1	12
2023-24	17	66	10	69	1	12
2024-25	17	68	10	71	1	13

Explain how the enrollment projections were calculated.

For this enrollment model, the starting 2020-2021 data is assumed to be similar to that for 2019-2020, which is characterized based upon information gathered from Clemson’s Banner student information system; this mirroring assumption is reasonable given that (as of 14 January 2020), admission applications to our sociology programs are running a few students higher than last year, admissions offers are running a few students less, and confirmed acceptances of admissions offers are flat.

The tables above reflect student enrollment in the BA Sociology program. New incoming and outgoing student projections reflect averages from the last three years of departmental advising data regarding numbers of students participating in freshman and transfer student orientation, changing their majors, and graduating. These projections also incorporate 3% growth each year starting in 2021-2022 since we are anticipating that our streamlined curriculum will attract more students (especially double majors and students changing their major). A slow, steady growth will allow for efficient and effective management of the program.

Curriculum

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

Freshman Year

First Semester

SOC 2010 Introduction to Sociology *or* SOC 2020 Social Problems 3 Credits

Mathematics Requirement 3 or 4 Credits ¹

Modern Language Requirement 4 Credits ²

Natural Science Requirement 4 Credits ³

Elective 1 Credit

Credit Hours: 15-16

Second Semester

ENGL 1030 Composition and Rhetoric 3 Credits

STAT 2300 Statistical Methods I 3 Credits

Modern Language Requirement 4 Credits ²

Social Science Requirement 3 Credits ³

Elective 3 Credits

Credit Hours: 16

Sophomore Year

First Semester

Arts and Humanities (Literature) Requirement 3 Credits ³

Cross-Cultural Awareness Requirement 3 Credits ³

Oral Communication Requirement 3 Credits ³

Modern Language Requirement 3 Credits ²

Elective 3 Credits

Credit Hours: 15

Second Semester

SOC 2040 Professional Development for Sociology Majors 1 Credit

Arts and Humanities (Non-Lit.) Requirement 3 Credits ³

Minor Requirement 6 Credits ⁴

Science and Technology in Society Requirement 3 Credits ³

Modern Language Requirement 3 Credits ²

Credit Hours: 16

Junior Year

First Semester

SOC 3020 Social Research Methods I 3 Credits

Emphasis Area Requirement 6 Credits ⁵
Stratification Requirement 3 Credits ⁶
Elective 3 Credits
Credit Hours: 15

Second Semester

SOC 3040 Social Research Methods II *or* SOC 4060 Qualitative Research Methods for Social Sciences 3 or 4 Credits
Emphasis Area Requirement 3 Credits ⁵
Minor Requirement 6 Credits ⁴
Elective 3 Credits
Credit Hours: 15-16

Senior Year

First Semester

Emphasis Area Requirement 6 Credits ⁵
Stratification Requirement 3 Credits ⁶
Minor Requirement 3 Credits ⁴
Elective 3 Credits
Credit Hours: 15

Second Semester

SOC 4040 Sociological Theory 3 Credits
Emphasis Area Requirement 3 Credits ⁵
Elective 7 Credits
Credit Hours: 13

Total Credits: 120-122

Footnotes

¹ Select from MATH 1010, MATH 1020, or MATH 1060.

² Students must complete through 2020 (1010, 1020, 2010, and 2020) in a modern language. See Modern Languages Requirement at Clemson University statement.

³ See General Education Requirements. (Note: Social Science Requirement must be in an area other than sociology.)

⁴ See Minors.

⁵ See emphasis area requirements in program description below.

⁶ Select from SOC 3600, SOC 4600, or SOC 4610.

Emphasis Areas (Concentrations) in Sociology

Students select one of the following Emphasis Areas:

- **Community Studies:** SOC 4590, SOC 4950, and either RS 3010 or SOC 3310; plus nine additional credits selected from all courses offered in sociology or rural sociology not already taken to fulfill requirements.
- **General Sociology:** Eighteen credits selected from all courses offered in sociology or rural sociology not already taken to fulfill requirements.

- **Social Services:** SOC 3800, SOC 4140, and SOC 4950; and nine additional credits selected from all courses offered in sociology or rural sociology not already taken to fulfill requirements.

Curriculum Changes

General Sociology Emphasis Area

Courses Eliminated from Program	Courses Added to Program	Core Courses Modified
Advanced Writing Requirement (3 hours)	Modern Language 1010 and 1020 (8 hours)	SOC 2040, Professional Development for Sociology Majors (reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour)
Advanced Humanities Requirement (12 hours)	Sociology Electives (9 hours)	
Institutions Requirement (3 hours)	General Electives (4 hours)	
Processes Requirement (3 hours)	SOC 4060, Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences (as an alternative to SOC 3040)	

Community Studies and Social Services Emphasis Areas

Courses Eliminated from Program	Courses Added to Program	Core Courses Modified
Advanced Writing Requirement (3 hours)	Modern Language 1010 and 1020 (8 hours)	SOC 2040, Professional Development for Sociology Majors (reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour)
Advanced Humanities Requirement (12 hours)	Sociology Elective (3 hours)	
	General Electives (4 hours)	
	SOC 4060, Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences (as an alternative to SOC 3040)	

Delete the Criminal Justice emphasis area.

New Courses

List and provide course descriptions for new courses.

The following are courses that are new to the BA Sociology curriculum, but are extant offerings at the University:

The 1010 and 1020 level courses in a modern language are introductory classes that prepare students for the required intermediate level courses in their selected foreign language. These classes were previously considered prerequisites for BA Sociology students instead of required courses.

Sociology electives may be any sociology courses not taken to fulfill core or emphasis area requirements. Specific institutions and processes requirements in the general sociology emphasis have been replaced with these electives. Furthermore, an additional sociology elective has been added to each emphasis area. Four general elective credits have also been added under the proposed curriculum.

SOC 4060, Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences, may be used to meet the advanced research methods requirement under the proposed curriculum. (Currently, Research Methods II, which has a qualitative focus, is required. SOC 4060 would be a new option for BA students.) This course provides an 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.

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.

Program Name and Designation	Total Credit Hours	Institution	Similarities	Differences
Sociology BS	125	Charleston Southern University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No BA degree offered (only BS); no emphasis areas; private religious institution
Sociology BA	120	Clafflin University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No emphasis areas; no modern language requirement; private HBCU institution
Sociology BA	120	Coastal Carolina University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and four emphasis areas	No minor required; different emphasis areas; smaller, liberal arts institution
Sociology BS	120	Coker University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No BA degree offered (only BS); no emphasis areas; private liberal arts institution
Sociology BS	122	College of Charleston	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and four emphasis areas	No BA degree offered (only BS); different emphasis areas; smaller, liberal arts institution
Sociology BA or BS	120	Francis Marion University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and two emphasis areas	No modern language requirement; much smaller liberal arts institution
Sociology BA	128	Furman University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No emphasis areas; very small private liberal arts institution
Sociology BS	120	Lander University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No BA degree offered (only BS); no emphasis areas or modern language requirement
Sociology BA	122	Morris College	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and required minor	No emphasis areas; very small private religious HBCU
Sociology BA	120	Newberry College	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core and modern language requirements	No emphasis areas or minor; very small private religious institution
Sociology BS	122	Presbyterian College	Traditional four-year sociology	No BA degree offered (only BS);

			degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	no emphasis areas; very small private institution
Sociology BA	124	South Carolina State University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements in theories and research methods	No modern language requirement, minor, or emphasis areas; small HBCU institution
Sociology BA	120	University of South Carolina-Aiken	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and three emphasis areas	No modern language requirement; comparatively few major courses compared to gen ed requirements
Sociology BA	120	University of South Carolina-Beaufort	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core and modern language requirements	No emphasis areas or minor; comparatively few major courses compared to gen ed requirements
Sociology BA or BS	120	University of South Carolina-Columbia	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core requirements and three emphasis areas	No emphasis areas; requires cognate or minor; comparatively few major courses
Sociology BA	120	University of South Carolina-Upstate	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core and modern language requirements	No emphasis areas; requires cognate or minor; comparatively few major courses
Sociology BA	122	Vorhees College	Requires core courses in theories and research methods	Hybrid sociology/general social science curriculum; no emphasis areas; no minor; private religious HBCU
Sociology BA	120	Winthrop University	Traditional four-year sociology degree with core, minor, and modern language requirements	No emphasis areas; smaller institution

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, staff, or administrators are needed to implement the program modification.

Resources

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

Library Resources: No New Resources Required

Equipment: No New Equipment Required

Facilities: No New Facilities Required

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

The proposed changes will likely produce a slight increase in enrollment in sociology courses, while decreasing slightly the demand for classes within Clemson's arts and humanities disciplines. Since Sociology students select from such a wide range of arts and humanities courses to fulfill BA requirements, no major impact is expected on the enrollment of any one course or department. The curriculum modification, with these concomitant minor impacts, has been approved by our University Curriculum Committee, Provost, and Board of Trustees.

Financial Support

Estimated Sources of Financing for the New Costs						
Category	2020-2021	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Tuition Funding	\$1,028,160	\$1,068,851	\$1,119,710	\$1,189,713	\$1,243,947	\$5,650,381
Program-Specific Fees						
Special State Appropriation						
Reallocation of Existing Funds	\$108,960	\$112,552	\$116,270	\$120,122	\$124,110	\$582,013
Federal, Grant, or Other Funding						
Total	\$1,137,120	\$1,181,403	\$1,235,981	\$1,309,835	\$1,368,057	\$6,232,395
Estimated New Costs by Year						
Category	2020-2021	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Program Administration and Faculty and Staff Salaries	\$108,960	\$112,552	\$116,270	\$120,122	\$124,110	\$582,013
Facilities, Equipment, Supplies, and Materials						
Library Resources						
Other (specify)						
Total	\$108,960	\$112,552	\$116,270	\$120,122	\$124,110	\$582,013
Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated New Costs)	\$1,028,160	\$1,068,851	\$1,119,710	\$1,189,713	\$1,243,947	\$5,650,381

Budget Justification

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

The program leverages current teaching capacity in the existing program and will need minimal, existing resources to support the requested program modifications. The enrollment projection is based on 3% growth per year, as are the tuition projections. The budget above reflects a continuation of current revenues and expenses.

Revenue Highlights:

- **Reallocation of Existing Funds¹:** The program uses current undergraduate tuition at \$544 per credit hour. Reallocated resources are approximately \$109K in Year 1 and \$124K by Year 5. The program will utilize reallocated resources to support the existing faculty and staff salary and fringe at an average of \$10K per course as listed in the Expense Highlights.

Expense Highlights:

- **Program Administration and Faculty and Staff Salaries:** The reallocated resources will be used to support the existing faculty and staff salaries at a cost of \$10K plus fringe per course. The personnel costs are approximately \$109K in Year 1 and \$124K by Year 5. These are the only costs associated with the program modification. Due to the nature of the changes, this is the only cost associated with the modification.

Evaluation and Assessment

Program Objectives	Student Learning Outcomes Aligned to Program Objectives	Methods of Assessment
Prepare students to utilize and apply sociological concepts and theories.	Explain real-world challenges using sociological theory. Recognize and interpret social variation, and apply cross-cultural knowledge in a variety of settings. Identify the significance of gender, racial, ethnic, and economic stratification and social structure.	ETS Major Field Test Scores Essay from Social Stratification Course
Equip learners with analytical and statistical tools.	Collect, manage, analyze, and report data, within the ethical parameters of social science research. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in behavioral science contexts.	Research Project from Advanced Research Methods Course Supervisor Ratings of Student Interns ETS Major Field Test Critical

¹ Academic Tuition and Fees do not directly fund undergraduate departments and programs; rather, they are collected and distributed centrally and therefore have not been included in the budget justification.

		Thinking Subtest Scores
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Will any the proposed modifications impact the way the program is evaluated and assessed? If yes, explain.

- Yes
 No

The objectives and assessment methods above are the current ones for the extant BA Sociology program. These evaluation and assessment methods are still relevant to our proposed modified curriculum and, therefore, do not require any changes to the current evaluation scheme.

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.

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