Proposal to Change Degree Requirements For the Major

NOTE: All gray text boxes must be completed (even if you just put N/A into them), otherwise the committee must consider the form incomplete.

Contact person Heath Hoffmann  Email address hoffmannh@cofc.edu Phone 953-8182

1. Department: Sociology and Anthropology

2. Degree: BS, Sociology

3. Semester and year in which degree change(s) will go into effect: Spring 2011

4. Change(s) Desired (Note: if the change includes deleting courses from the inventory, a Delete Course form must also be completed for each course, the Curriculum Committee does not assume the responsibility to delete the course):

1. Require SOCY 101 or SOCY 102 (currently SOCY 101 is required)
2. Eliminate the requirement that students complete one course from SOCY 370-379: Research Practicum.
3. Add requirement that students complete SOCY 390: Senior Seminar. This is a new course for which a new course proposal form is being submitted.
4. Allow students to count a maximum of 3 credit hours from SOCY 103, SOCY 109, FYSM 162, or FYSM 163 toward the 6 credit hours of electives for the Sociology major. Currently SOCY 103, SOCY 109, FYSM 162 and FYSM 163 do not count toward the major requirements.
5. Delete SOCY 202 as an electives option.

If these changes are approved the SOCY major will appear like this in the catalog:

SOCY 101 or SOCY 102
SOCY 260
SOCY 271
SOCY 272
SOCY 390

At least one course in each of the four areas of concentration in sociology: Social Psychology (330s), Social Problems (340s), Social Organization (350s), and Social Inequality (360s).

Electives: Complete at least SIX hours from SOCY 103-499, FYSM 162 or FYSM 163. A maximum of 3 credit hours from SOCY 103, SOCY 109, FYSM 162 and FYSM 163 can count toward the electives and GPA for the Sociology major.

NOTES: (the notes are the same as the current catalog except that Note 4 has been deleted)

1. Sociology majors are strongly encouraged to take Math 104.
2. Sociology majors are encouraged to included courses in anthropology, history, political science, international studies, philosophy, psychology, economics, statistics and computer programming in their program of study.

This form was approved by FCC on 8/17/2010 and replaces all others.
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3. Sociology majors may wish to pursue an interdisciplinary minor in African American Studies; Crime, Law and Society; or Women's and Gender Studies.

5. Justification for Change(s):
   1. By allowing SOCY 101 or 102 to count toward the major, we hope to make the major more accessible to students having acknowledged that both courses prepare students for subsequent courses in the major.

   2. Eliminating the 370s: Research Practicum requirement for our major is a response to feedback from our majors that indicate our curriculum was geared too much toward students who were planning to go to graduate school. This was indeed a primary purpose of the 370s class. However, very few of our students aspire to and/or actually go on to graduate school. Based on student feedback, we felt shifting our energy and resources away from a research-intensive course and toward the senior seminar will allow us to focus more on developing students written and oral skills within a topical course and not necessarily a research-based course. For those students who do plan to go on to graduate school and/or who want additional research experience, we will encourage those students through advising to complete a Research Apprenticeship (SOCY 382) with a sociology faculty member.

   3. Adding SOCY 390: Senior Seminar is related to the previous point. We still want to provide students with a capstone experience in the major but we want to provide faculty and students more flexibility in offering topical courses in our areas of expertise while moving away from the requirement that course revolve solely around methodological topics as did the research practicum courses.

   4. Allowing a maximum of 3 credits from SOCY 103, 109, FYSM 162 or FYSM 163 to count toward the GPA and as an elective toward the major is a response to feedback from our majors. We want to encourage students who become interested to Sociology in these courses to be able to apply that first experience to their major requirements. In the past, students were "punished" in a sense because these classes were interesting to them but the courses did not count toward the major.

   5. SOCY 202 used to be a required course in the major but was not a very popular course. Now that it is no longer required for the major, we will not likely be able to fill enough seats in the class to make it worth offering. Thus, we are proposing to delete SOCY 202 from the catalog (the appropriate paperwork is included).

6. Does the change include deleting or adding courses from other departments? If yes, what department/program? Please contact the department chair/program director and request a note or email that they are aware of the proposed change and include that note with the proposal.

   No.
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6. Signature of Department Chair (s) or Program Director(s):
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

7. Signature of Dean(s) of School:
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

8. Signature of Provost:
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

9. Signature of Curriculum Committee Chair:
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

10. Signature of Budget Committee Chair:
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

11. Signature of Academic Planning Committee Chair:
   ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

12. Signature of Faculty Senate Secretary:
   ___________________________________________ Date approved by Senate: ________________

   Completed form should be sent by the Faculty Senate Secretary to the Registrar. After implementation, information concerning the passed course and program changes will be provided by the Registrar to all faculty and staff on campus.