8. Change in Curriculum

**College of Liberal Arts**
Department of Sociology
B.A. in Sociology
B.S. in Sociology
Date: March 12, 2007

To: University Curriculum Committee
Attn: Ms. Linda Lacey, Director
Academic Support Services

Through: Dr. Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean
College of Liberal Arts

From: Dr. Mark Fossett, Head
Department of Sociology

Regarding: Reduction of Hours for the BA & BS degrees in Sociology from 128 to 120

I write to describe how the Sociology Department will satisfy the mandate that we reduce the required number of credit hours for our BA and BS degrees for sociology majors from the current 128 to 120.

For both the BA degree and the BS degree, we achieve the needed reduction in credit hour requirements by changing the number of “Free Elective” hours from 26 to 18.

I discussed our options with Dr. Sam Cohn, our department’s Undergraduate Advisor. He chairs our department’s Undergraduate Program Committee which discussed other alternatives including reducing the number of hours required in the major. In the end, we decided to maintain our required number of hours in the major at 33 hours. I view this as appropriate for maintaining the integrity of our major and serving our students well. In addition, I note that it is comparable to sociology degree plans at peer institutions and comparable to requirements for majors in other disciplines. The number of remaining free electives (18) will still give students considerable latitude to craft degree plans to serve their individual needs and thus is acceptable, especially in light of the fact that the total number of credit hours they must take has been reduced by equal amount.

For reference, I have provided photocopies of our current requirements for the BA and BS degrees in Sociology as attachments. These are taken from pages 493-498 of the Texas A&M University Undergraduate Catalog, Edition 129. I have indicated on the photocopied pages where the changes should be made.
Curricula in Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of society. The discipline examines all aspects of human behavior and, in particular, interpersonal relationships and the development of social structures.

The Department of Sociology offers courses in such areas as the family, race and ethnic relations, demography, social stratification and inequality, social psychology, complex organizations, community, environment, criminology, the sociology of religion, global sociology and social change.

Sociological training is useful in a broad variety of occupations. Our course work provides an understanding of the determinants of individual opinions and beliefs, organizational behavior, social trends and world events. These skills are critical to marketing, law, human resources, journalism, government and strategic management. Sociology is the best form of training for entry into the helping professions, and an outstanding generalized preparation for business and industry.

Teacher Certification

Students desiring certification to teach sociology in secondary schools of Texas must complete a social studies composite totaling 76 hours with a sociology emphasis. Students must complete 33 hours in sociology; 9 hours in political science; 6 hours in economics; 10 hours in geography; and 18 hours in history.

-Sociology majors desiring certification must include the following among their sociology courses: one of SOCI 317, 323 or 403; one of SOCI 316 or 424; and SOCI 411. Students should consult an undergraduate Sociology advisor as early as possible to review the requirements of the social studies composite.

In addition to the social studies composite, students must also take: EDTC 305 and 345; INST 210; COMM 203; TFB 201, 322, 323, 324, 401, 404, 406, 407 and 425.

More complete information on requests for teacher certification may be found in the College of Education and Human Development section under secondary certification.

Bachelor of Arts (128 hour minimum)

Sociology, 33 hours minimum; no more than 33 hours of SOCI can be applied to the degree. The following SOCI courses are required. A grade of C or higher is required for a course to be counted in the major field. No more than 3 hours of 484 credit may be applied to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCI 205 Principles of Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCI 220 Methods of Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCI 230 Classical Sociological Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCI 420 Advanced Methods of Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCI 430 Contemporary Sociological Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sociology electives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College and University Requirements. Other courses may qualify for the following categories. Students should consult the approved list of courses available in the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Liberal Arts or from departmental advisors. The following lists incorporate University Core Curriculum requirements. No course may be counted in more than one category.

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Communication: 1. ENGL 104 (C or better required for credit). 2. One course from ENGL 203, 210, 301, 235, 236 or 241; COMM 203 and 243.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Literature in English (6 hours): To be selected from ENGL 203 (unless 203 is used to satisfy the communication requirement), 212, 221, 222, 227, 228, 231, 232 or courses for which one of these listed courses is a prerequisite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Foreign Language: Four-course sequence in French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Greek or Latin, or another language if approved by the department head.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mathematics: At least 3 hours must be in MATH (excluding 102, 103, 104, 130, 150, 165, 365, 366). 3 hours may be in logic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Natural Sciences: Two or more courses; minimum of one course shall include a corresponding laboratory. The list of acceptable courses is available from the departmental office or the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Liberal Arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts: To be selected from the approved list available in the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Liberal Arts or from departmental advisors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Sciences: To be selected from the approved list available in the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Liberal Arts or from departmental advisors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>U.S. History and Political Science: 1. FOLS 206 and 207 (6 hours) 2. Two courses in American history, one of which may be Texas history (6 hours).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>International and Cultural Diversity: To be selected from approved list. This course may also be used to satisfy any other requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kinesiology: KINE 198 Health and Fitness Activity and KINE 199 Required Physical Activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Free Electives (Sociology courses may not be used as elective hours). hour minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See page 20.

Minor Field of Study. Sociology majors are not required to select a minor field of study. If chosen, the minor must consist of 15–18 hours, no more than 9 of which may be lower division. No more than 6 hours from the minor may be used to fulfill other requirements. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the minor field.
 Bachelor of Science (128 hour minimum)

Sociology, 33 hours; minimum no more than 33 hours of SOCI can be applied to the degree. The following SOCI courses are required. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the major field. No more than 3 hours of 484 credit may be applied to the Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology.

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| 6      | Communication:
1. ENGL 104 (C or better required for credit).
2. One course from ENGL 203, 210, 301, 233, 236 or 241.
| 6      | Literature in English: To be selected from ENGL 203 (unless 203 is used to satisfy the communication requirement), 212, 221, 222, 227, 228, 231, 232 or courses for which one of these listed courses is a prerequisite.
| 6      | Mathematics: At least 3 hours must be in MATH (excluding 102, 103, 104, 130, 150, 165, 365, 366); 3 hours may be in Logic.
| 8      | Natural Sciences: Two or more courses, minimum of one course shall include a corresponding laboratory. The list of acceptable courses is in the University Core Curriculum section of this catalog.
| 9      | Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts: To be selected from the approved list in the University Core Curriculum section of this catalog.
| 6      | Social and Behavioral Sciences: To be selected from the approved list in the University Core Curriculum section of this catalog:
| 12     | U.S. History and Political Science:
1. POLS 206 and 207 (6 hours)
2. Two courses in American history, one of which may be Texas history (6 hours).
| 15     | Additional Science Requirements:
12 hours of approved B.S. courses from list available in the Undergraduate Student Services Office in the College of Liberal Arts or from departmental advisors.
| 2      | Kinesiology: KINE 198 Health and Fitness Activity and KINE 199 Required Physical Activity.
| 12     | Free Electives.

* See page 20.
Minor Field of Study. Sociology majors are not required to select a minor field of study. If chosen, the minor must consist of 15–18 hours, no more than 9 of which may be lower division. No more than 6 hours from the minor may be used to fulfill other requirements. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the minor field.

Certificate in Global Sociology

The Certificate in Global Sociology gives students concentrated educational experience in international sociological perspectives. This certificate program is open to all Texas A&M sociology majors. The certificate indicates meritorious completion of the appropriate courses. All students in this certificate program must complete the following requirements:

a. SOCI 206 Global Social Trends

b. Students must complete three additional courses from the following list:
   - SOCI 207 Introduction to Gender and Society
   - SOCI 312 Population and Society
   - SOCI 313 Sociology of the Military
   - SOCI 322 Industrial Sociology
   - SOCI 324 Social Change
   - SOCI 325 International Business Behavior
   - SOCI 328 Environmental Sociology
   - SOCI 329 Pacific Rim Business Behavior
   - SOCI 330 Sociology of Nutrition
   - SOCI 340 Post-Soviet Societies
   - SOCI 350 Islamic Societies
   - SOCI 370 International Migration
   - SOCI 423 Internationalization and Social Change
   - SOCI 484 Field Practicum*
   - SOCI 489 Special Topics in Sociology (see undergraduate advisor)*

c. International Experience: Each student must ordinarily complete one semester abroad, either through one of Texas A&M's regular programs (such as the Santa Chiara, Italy program) or another approved study abroad program, international internship or similar academic experience in another country. With the permission of the undergraduate advisor, a student may substitute appropriate overseas work or experience. Course credit from courses taken during study abroad may sometimes count toward the three required courses in part (b), with the approval of the undergraduate advisor.

d. Language: A minimum of two years (four courses) at the college level of a non-English modern language is required, normally taken prior to the study abroad or other international experience. The language should be appropriate to the student's overall program.

e. A cumulative GPR of 3.0 or above must be earned in courses counting toward the certificate.

f. Transfer courses, independent studies and credit by exam cannot substitute for the required courses unless approved by the undergraduate advisor for certificate purposes.

*Credit contingent on appropriateness of subject matter as determined by undergraduate advisor.