

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: MA in Sociology Exit Exam Update

College: Liberal Arts Department: Sociology and Anthropology

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Jeremy Slack

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

Jeremy Slack

03/21/2025

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 3/19/2025

From: Carina Heckert, Department of Sociology and Anthropology 

Through: Jeremy Slack, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Through: Selfa Chew, Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee

Through: Anadeli Bencomo, Dean, College of Liberal Arts

To: Methaq Abed, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Proposal Title: MA in Sociology Exit Exam Update

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

- New program or Program Change
 - Bachelor's
 - Master's
 - Doctoral/Professional
 - Certificate
 - Fast Track
 - Minor
 - Concentration/Track

- New Course

- Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)

- Change
 - CIP Code
 - Program/certificate SCH
 - Course Title
 - Course Description
 - Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

Since adding a PhD in Sociology program, we now have both a MA and PhD program in our department. Students who enter the PhD in Sociology program without already holding a MA in Sociology will complete the requirements for a MA en route to earning the PhD. Students currently have three options

for completing the requirements for the MA degree: a thesis option, a non-thesis project option, and a non-thesis option with additional coursework (6 credit hours) and an exit exam. We will be maintaining all of these options for earning the MA degree.

To streamline the process of earning the MA en route to the PhD through the additional coursework option, we are clarifying the MA exit exam requirements. Both students who are enrolled in the MA only program and students who are earning the MA en route to the PhD have the option to take this exit exam. The updated exit exam requirements can be found in the updated degree plan below.

Degree Plan

Degree Requirements

The following are the requirements of the 33-hour MA in Sociology degree program:

1. Each candidate must take:

Code	Title	Hours
SOC 5311	Prof Development in Sociology	3
SOC 5312	Sem-Advanced Measure/Inference	3
SOC 5320	Seminar in Research Methods	3
SOC 5328	Social Theory	3
Plus three semester hours of sociology methods		3
Plus twelve semester hours of sociology or anthropology approved for graduate credit		12
SOC 5398	Thesis I	3
or SOC 5396	Non-Thesis Project I	
SOC 5399	Thesis II	3
or SOC 5397	Non-Thesis Project II	
Total Hours		33
Course List		

2. Students are required to enroll in one methods elective, based on their interests. This includes [SOC 5322](#) Seminar in Qualitative Methods and other special topics methods electives such as, but not limited to, advanced statistics or Geographic Information Systems.

3. No later than the completion of 24 credits in the program, the student shall declare to the Graduate Advisor in writing her or his intention to choose the thesis plan or the applied non-thesis plan. Students may change between plans, but should be aware that this may result in taking additional credit hours to complete the degree. More information on the specific expectations of the thesis plan and the applied non-thesis plan is available from the Graduate Advisor.

4. Students enrolled in the thesis plan must enroll at least one semester in [SOC 5398](#) Thesis I and [SOC 5399](#) Thesis II and successfully propose and defend the thesis before a committee while enrolled in SOC 5399. Each thesis course can only count once toward the total number of hours needed for the degree. Thesis committees consist of at least two departmental representatives and one member from outside the department.

5. Students enrolled in the applied non-thesis plan must enroll at least one semester in [SOC 5396](#) Non-Thesis Project I and [SOC 5397](#) Non-Thesis Project II and successfully propose and defend the thesis before a committee while enrolled in [SOC 5397](#) Non-Thesis Project II. Each non-thesis project course can only count once toward the total number of hours needed for the degree. Project committees consist of at least two departmental representatives and one member from outside the department.

6.Candidates may pursue a minor in Anthropology. Candidates taking this option must obtain the consent of the graduate advisor and his/her thesis director, and may take up to 9 hours of anthropology courses from the list of advanced undergraduate courses approved for graduate credit. The plan of anthropology courses must be approved by the graduate advisor and thesis advisor, once assigned. Additional requirements are listed in item 6 below.

7.Undergraduate courses and independent studies approved for graduate credit will count toward the degree only by permission of the graduate advisor and thesis advisor, once assigned. To use an undergraduate course for graduate credit, the following additional work is required: additional reading of original scholarly books and articles above and beyond textbooks; additional written work such as research on specific topics or hypotheses, literature reviews, or identifying research problems in specific areas; and at least five additional meetings with the professor to discuss the added requirements and their completion. The extra requirement must be specified by the instructor in a syllabus.

8.Each candidate will submit a PDF that must be approved by the candidate's committee and submitted to the graduate school following their requirements.

9.Candidates will be allowed only one grade lower than a "B" in coursework taken for graduate credit. No grade lower than a "B" will be accepted in a required course. Candidates must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Degree Plan

Required Credits: 33

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Sociology ¹		
Required Courses (All courses require a grade of B or better):		
SO CI 5311	Prof Development in Sociology	3
SO CI 5312	Sem-Advanced Measure/Inference	3
SO CI 5320	Seminar in Research Methods	3
SO CI 5328	Social Theory	3
Three hours of sociology methods		3
Students are required to enroll in one methods elective, based on their interests. This includes SO CI 5322 (Seminar in Qualitative Methods) and other special topics methods electives such as, but not limited to, advanced statistics or Geographic Information Systems.		
Electives (All courses require a grade of C or better):		
Select twelve additional hours from graduate SOCI or ANTH: ²		12
SO CI 5190	Individual Studies	
SO CI 5290	Individual Studies	

Code	Title	Hours
SO CI 5303	Grad Internship in Sociology	
SO CI 5340	Seminar - Demography	
SO CI 5341	Special Graduate Topics	
SO CI 5348	Seminar-Criminology	
SO CI 5355	US-Mexico Borderlands in Chang	
SO CI 5360	Gender	
SO CI 5362	Border Research	
SO CI 5363	Environmental Justice	
SO CI 5364	Sociology of Health	
SO CI 5365	Seminar-Sociology of Education	
SO CI 5381	Cartography & Visualization	
SO CI 5390	Individual Studies	
SO CI 5396	Non-Thesis Project I	
SO CI 5397	Non-Thesis Project II	
Applied, Thesis, or Course Option:		
Select applied non-thesis option of SO CI 5396 & 5397 or thesis option of SO CI 5398 & 5399 ³		6
SO CI 5396	Non-Thesis Project I	
& SO CI 5397	and Non-Thesis Project II	
SO CI 5398	Thesis I	
& SO CI 5399	and Thesis II	
Course Option (Courses require a grade of B or better) ⁴ : Two additional SOCI/ANTH courses at the 5300 level, with the exception of SO CI 5390 , SO CI 5398 , SO CI 5399 , SO CI 5396 , and SO CI 5397 can be taken to fulfill this requirement. ⁴		
Total Hours		33
Course List		

1 Only one grade lower than a "B" in coursework taken for graduate credit will be allowed.

2 Undergraduate courses with additional work approved for graduate credit are also available for use as electives.

3 [SO CI 5396](#), [SO CI 5397](#), [SO CI 5398](#), and [SO CI 5399](#) are graded as S/U until completion. All courses require a grade of C or better.

4 Under the Course option students will complete an exit exam. The exam will include ~~three areas of study~~ two questions. One question will deal with: sociological theory and the other with: methods of research, ~~and an area of specialization that is identified by the~~

| ~~student through the concentration of coursework.~~ If the student fails to pass any section of the comprehensive exam, they will be allowed to re-take the area(s) not completed or passed at another date and time scheduled by their committee. The failed portion(s) may be re-taken up to two times.