APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Arts & Science **Department:** Sociology

Contact Person: Ashley Vancil-Leap **Mail Stop:** 9562 **E-mail:** adv102@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** January 17,2025

Current Degree (BS, MS, etc.): Bachelor of Science

Current Major: Applied sociology

Current Concentration(s): N/A

Current Campus(es): ☐ Starkville ☐ Meridian ☑ Distance ☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering only

New Degree (BS, MS, etc.): _____

Effective Date:

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

**Any new program or modification desiring a starting semester other than fall must include a justification

Proposed Major: _____

Proposed Concentration(s): _____

Proposed Campus(es)

☐ Starkville
☐ Meridian
☐ Distance
☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering only

Summary of Proposed Changes:

We are requesting modifications to the general education requirements for the Applied Sociology program to align them with the University and College expectations for a B.S. degree. When we initially developed the Applied Sociology program, we inadvertently based its general education requirements on the B.A. degree requirements. Additionally, we request minor grammatical updates to the Applied Sociology section of the catalog.

Approved:	Date:
Department Head	1/16/25
Director of Academic Quality	2/3/25
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	1/25/25
Dean of College or School	2/3/25
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to make modifications to an existing undergraduate degree outline. If any General Education (Core) course is acceptable in the category, please indicate by saying "any Gen Ed course". There is no need to type in the whole list. All deleted courses and information should be shown in *italics* and all new courses and information in **bold**. Include the course prefix, number, and title in both columns. Expand this table as needed.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Applied Sociology Concentration: N/A	Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Applied Sociology Concentration: N/A
The following degree program is offered: Bachelor of Science Applied Sociology majors are well prepared to enter many rewarding positions in the workforce right out of college or further graduate training in law, business, community planning, architecture, medicine, politics, or academics. Opportunities for employment include, but are not restricted to entry-level positions in administration, advertising, banking, counseling (family planning, career, substance abuse, etc,), health services, journalism, group and recreation work, marketing and market research, sales, non-profit organizations, teaching, criminal justice, social services, and social research. In addition, applied sociology provides training that other liberal arts majors do not, such as the core elements of research methods and the training for research analyst positions in real-world settings.	The following degree program is offered: Bachelor of Science Applied Sociology majors are well prepared to enter many rewarding positions in the workforce right out of college or further graduate training in law, business, community planning, architecture, medicine, politics, or academics. Opportunities for employment include, but are not restricted to entry-level positions in administration, advertising, banking, counseling (family planning, career, substance abuse, etc.), health services, journalism, group and recreation work, marketing and market research, sales, non-profit organizations, teaching, criminal justice, social services, and social research. In addition, applied sociology provides training that other liberal arts majors do not, such as the core elements of research methods and the training for research analyst positions in real-world settings.
All new freshmen desiring to major in Applied Sociology will be admitted into the Applied Sociology major in the College of Arts and Sciences at Mississippi State University. For all other students wishing to major in Applied Sociology, to be eligible for admission to the Applied Sociology program, students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on all college work attempted prior to entering the major. The criteria for remaining in the program include: 1. Students must earn *an* minimum of a	All new freshmen desiring to major in Applied Sociology will be admitted into the Applied Sociology major in the College of Arts and Sciences at Mississippi State University. For all other students wishing to major in Applied Sociology, to be eligible for admission to the Applied Sociology program, students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above on all college work attempted prior to entering the major. The criteria for remaining in the program include: 1. Students must earn a minimum of a "C" in all Applied Sociology courses. Students earning a grade lower than a

"C" in all Applied Sociology courses. Students earning a grade lower than C in an Applied Sociology course must retake that course. 2. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or above. Students who fall below the overall GPA of 2.0 must bring it up to 2.0 the next semester or drop the Applied Sociology major.	"C" in an Applied Sociology course must retake that course. 2. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or above. Students who fall below the overall GPA of 2.0 must bring it up to 2.0 the next semester or drop the Applied Sociology major. **Students who wish to major in Applied Sociology should plan their programs with the departmental major advisor as soon as possible after entering the University and should consult with their advisor before each registration period. The program is arranged individually to combine the most varied advantages consistent with the student's interests and purposes.**

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English: EN 1103 English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II	 3 3	English: EN 1103 English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II	 3 3
Fine Arts: A&S Core	 3	Fine Arts: A&S Core	 3
Humanities: Literature – A&S Core History – A&S Core *Philosophy– A&S core* *Humanities Elective* [1]	 3 3 *3* *9*	Humanities: Literature – A&S Core History – A&S Core	 3 3
Social/Behavioral Sciences: Social Science– A&S core *Social Science Electives*[2]	 6 *12*	Social/Behavioral Sciences: Social Science– A&S core Social Science– A&S core	 3 3
Mathematics: *MA 1313 College Algebra* MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics	 *3* 3	Mathematics: MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics	 3
Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab– A&S core Life Science w/ lab– A&S core *Natural Science Elective– A&S core*	 3-4 3-4 *3-4*	Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab– A&S core Life Science w/ lab– A&S core	 3-4 3-4
Foreign Language: Foreign Language I Foreign Language II *Foreign Language III*	 3 3 *3*	Foreign Language: Foreign Language I Foreign Language II	 3 3
Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	 3	Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	 3
General Electives: Consult advisor	 *10-13*	General Electives: Consult advisor	 **44-46**

Major Core Courses: ASO 1003 Introduction to Applied Sociology SO 1103 Contemporary Social Problems SO 3003 Social Inequality SO 3053 Organizations in Modern Society ASO 3213 Applied Sociology Research Methods ASO 4803 Applied Sociology Capstone Course Electives Social Problems in Society: Choose 2 of the following: SO 3703 Racial and Ethnic Inequality SO 4273 Sociology of Education SO 4423 Health and Society SO 4703 Population Problems and Processes CRM 3103 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice Community, Policy, and Practice: Choose 2 of the following: SO 4123 Poverty Analysis ASO 4153 Internship in Applied Sociology SO 4503 Gender and Work SO 4733 Community: Organization and Relationships CRM 3113 Community Crime Prevention and Policy Applied Sociological Methods: Choose 2 of the following: ASO 3103 Program Evaluation ASO 3203 Survey Design and Evaluation ASO 4103 Applied Data Management ASO 4203 Focus Groups and Interviewing GR 4303 Principles of GIS	3 3 3 3 3 3 6 6 6	Major Core Courses: ASO 1003 Introduction to Applied Sociology SO 1103 Contemporary Social Problems SO 3003 Social Inequality SO 3053 Organizations in Modern Society ASO 3213 Applied Sociology Research Methods ASO 4803 Applied Sociology Capstone Course Electives Social Problems in Society: Choose 2 of the following: SO 3703 Racial and Ethnic Inequality SO 4273 Sociology of Education SO 4423 Health and Society SO 4703 Population Problems and Processes CRM 3103 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice Community, Policy, and Practice: Choose 2 of the following: SO 4123 Poverty Analysis ASO 4153 Internship in Applied Sociology SO 4503 Gender and Work SO 4733 Community: Organization and Relationships CRM 3113 Community Crime Prevention and Policy Applied Sociological Methods: Choose 2 of the following: ASO 3103 Program Evaluation ASO 3203 Survey Design and Evaluation ASO 4103 Applied Data Management ASO 4203 Focus Groups and Interviewing GR 4303 Principles of GIS	3 3 3 3 3 3 6 6 6
Free Elective: Choose 1 course Student may choose any SO, ASO, SW, or CRM course.	3	Free Elective: Choose 1 course Student may choose any SO, ASO, SW, or CRM course.	3
Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied with ASO 4803 in the major		Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied with ASO 4803 in the major	
Total Hours	124	Total Hours	124

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:

The student learning outcomes and assessment will not be impacted by this modification request. The original student learning outcomes and assessment are as follows:

Students will be required to complete a minimum of 124 hours of course work. This includes the university/A&S core curriculum and the required Applied Sociology courses. Together, the program of study seeks to provide students with a well-rounded curriculum that will help them develop an integrated understanding of applied sociology and equip them with the core knowledge and skills needed in applied careers.

The specific desired student learning outcomes are provided below. These outcomes are aligned with the College of Arts and Science learning objectives and reflect the knowledge and skills valued by applied sociology employers.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:

- Students will apply analytical, critical, and logical reasoning skills to generate solutions for complex problems in real-world settings.
- Students will analyze logistics and related processes to improve research methods and enhance decision making.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and methodologies and the ability to consider related decisions from a holistic perspective.

Data Analysis:

- Students will utilize applied sociology research techniques to analyze data, support decision making, and generate solutions for complex problems in real-world settings.

Communication:

- Students will demonstrate strong written and oral communication skills.

Multiple methods will be used to evaluate student learning and program effectiveness:

- Student learning will be assessed through course assessments (exams, quizzes, homework, and projects).
- The Office of Institutional Effectiveness at MSU conducts exit surveys of graduates and tracks admission, retention, graduation, and graduate placement rates that will be used to evaluate the program's effectiveness.
- The College of Arts and Science utilizes a variety of measures to assess student learning that will also be used to help evaluate the program's effectiveness.
- The Center for Distance Education utilizes a variety of measures to assess student learning that will also be used to help evaluate the program's effectiveness.
- Surveys and active engagement with employers and recent graduates will be used to monitor needs and assess (and if needed) adjust program content.

JUSTIFICATION:

We are requesting modifications to the general education requirements for the Applied Sociology program to align them with the University and College expectations for a B.S. degree. When we

initially developed the Applied Sociology program, we inadvertently based its general education requirements on the B.A. degree requirements (similar to those in the on-campus Starkville program). We now seek to update these requirements to meet the standards expected by students, faculty, and employers for a B.S. degree. Additionally, we request minor grammatical updates to the Applied Sociology section of the academic catalog. Details of the proposed changes are provided below:

Catalog Description Updates:

1. The online catalog contains minor grammatical errors. For example, the comma after "etc." in parentheses should be replaced with a period.
2. A grammatical correction is needed for Point 1: currently, it states, "Students must earn an minimum of a 'C' in all Applied Sociology courses." It should be corrected to "Students must earn a minimum of a 'C' in all Applied Sociology courses."
3. Another clarification for Point 1: it should specify, "Students earning a grade lower than a 'C' in an Applied Sociology course must retake that course."
4. A statement on advising has been added to the Catalog Description.

General Elective Updates:

1. Removed College Algebra, which was eliminated from General Education requirements in Fall 2023. *Rationale:* For students without ACT scores, College Algebra may still be taken as a free elective if desired.
2. Removed the foreign language III requirement, as per B.S. degree expectations.
3. Removed "Introduction to Philosophy" and 9 credits of humanities electives, in alignment with B.S. degree standards.
4. Removed 12 hours of social science electives, as required for a B.S. degree.
5. Removed a third Natural Sciences course, as required for a B.S. degree.
6. Increased the number of general elective hours to reflect these adjustments.

SUPPORT:

The modification has the support of the Department of Sociology. Please see the attached letter of support.

4-LETTER ABBREVIATION: ASOC

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2025

CIP NUMBER: 45.1101

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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December 6, 2024

Dear University Committee on Courses and Curriculum,

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, please accept this letter of support for the program modification to the B.S. in Applied Sociology online program. The B.S. in Applied Sociology was originally approved with a set of general electives that mirrors B.A. requirements and not B.S. requirements. Thus, the Department of Sociology is requesting to update the general electives to reflect B.S. expectations. Additionally, there are minor grammatical updates the department would like to make to the Academic Catalogue for Applied Sociology. During our faculty meeting on Friday, December 6th, the Department of Sociology faculty voted unanimously to support this program modification to Applied Sociology. We believe it is important to update our general electives to reflect what is expected of a B.S. degree and to update any grammatical errors.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Ashley Vancil-Leap, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Department of Sociology, Criminology and Social Work
Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee

Ashley Vancil-Leap (Chair)

Raymond Barranco

Robert Boyd

Dana Dillard

Margaret Ralston