REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM

Program: Sociology
Department (if applicable): Sociology
College (if applicable): Arts and Sciences
Degree title (Old): MA in Sociology and MS in Agriculture (Sociology)
CIP Code:
Accrediting Agency (if applicable):

I. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Number of transfer credits allowed
   (Graduate School limit: 9 hours or 25% of coursework)

2. Residence requirement (if applicable)

3. Languages and/or skills required

4. Termination criteria

5. Plan A requirements*

6. Plan B requirements*

7. Distribution of course levels required.
   (At least one half must be at 600+ level and two thirds must be in organized courses.)

8. Required courses (if applicable)

   SOC 650: Concepts and Theories in Sociology (3)
   SOC 680: Methods of Social Investigation (4)
   SOC 772: Topical Seminar in Sociology: Statistics (3)

   SOC 650: Concepts and Theories in Sociology (3)
   SOC 681: Research Design and Analysis (3)
   SOC 682: Special Topics in Advanced Sociological Methods (1-3)

9. Required distribution of courses within program
   (if applicable)

10. Final examination requirements

*If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

NOTE: To the extent that proposed changes in 5, 6, or 8 above involve the addition of courses in other programs, please submit correspondence from the other program(s) pertaining to the availability of such courses to your students.
II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)
If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please includes specific references to those requirements.

The department has instituted more stringent entrance requirements, resulting in incoming cohorts whose level of statistical and methodological expertise is superior to what the department once experienced. Most recently entering students do not need basic courses in statistics and research design. Those who do will be advised to begin by taking STA 570 or an appropriate undergraduate course (e.g., SOC 302 or 303). The department also has found that SOC 680, which is intended to provide an overview of all methodological strategies commonly used in sociology, cannot provide sufficient depth regarding any one strategy to prepare students to embark on thesis research. As a result, many Master's level students have found it necessary to go beyond the official requirements before beginning thesis research.

The new requirements will insure that all MA and MS students are exposed to rigorous training in research design and quantitative analysis prior to attempting a thesis or research paper. Because SOC 682 alternates between quantitative and qualitative topics, those expecting to complete a qualitative project for their thesis may use SOC 682 to be exposed to a more intensive treatment of qualitative methods than was possible with SOC 680. Students expecting to conduct quantitative research will be able to choose Survey Research or another quantitative topic for SOC 682.

The proposed methodology requirements will better equip students to begin thesis research and will also prepare them more adequately to enter a Ph.D. program or to accept research-oriented employment.

Signatures of Approval:

[Signatures]

*Undergraduate Council
*University Studies
*Graduate Council
*Academic Council for the Medical Center
*Senate Council

*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL:

Rev 11/98
ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGE COUNCIL/CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

INVESTIGATOR REPORT

INVESTIGATING BODY  Area B, Stuart Kaufman  COURSE, MAJOR or DEGREE:  SOC MA/AG SOC MS Degree
(Behav. & Soc. Sci. Curr. Com. Chair)  (department or college)

DATE FOR COUNCIL REVIEW  Dec. 13, 2002  CATEGORY:  NEW, CHANGE, DROP

INSTRUCTIONS: This completed form will accompany the course application to the Graduate/Undergraduate Council(s) in order to avoid needless repetition of investigation. The following questions are included as an outline only. Be as specific and as brief as possible. If the investigation was routine, please indicate this. The term "course" is used to indicate one course, a series of courses or a program, whichever is in order. Return the form to the Associate Dean, 231 Patterson Office Tower for forwarding to the other Council(s). ATTACH SUPPLEMENT IF NEEDED.

1. List any modifications made in the course proposal as submitted originally and why.

None

2. If no modifications were made, review considerations that arose during the investigation and the resolutions.

None—Changes are modest and self-explanatory

3. List contacts with program units on the proposal and the considerations discussed therein.

Phone and e-mail contacts with James Hougland, Acting Chair, Dept. of Sociology

4. Additional information as needed.

5. A&S Area B, Social Sciences Curriculum Committee Recommendation:

   APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

6. A&S Council Recommendation:

   APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

7. Stuart Kaufman

   Date: 12/13/02

A&S Council Investigator, Dr. Stuart Kaufman

File: InvestigatorRpt