CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST:
Addition/Deletion/Change of a Major or Degree

Name of Major or Degree and Action Requested:
Change to the catalog description of the MA in Sociology

Department:
Sociology and Anthropology

Contact:
Anders Linde-Laursen

Rationale:
The department has conducted extensive discussions on how to better describe the SOC MA in the catalog, including how to ensure that students graduating with an MA in sociology have both depth and breadth in the discipline. We have researched other programs and have considered that information in relation to current faculty strengths. The result presented here is a much better organization of the major than what is currently the case.

Curriculum: (Number of Hours and Courses; Indicate Required/Optional)

Please see attached document.

Effective Date (Semester and Year):
Fall___2010_____**Spring**_____**Summer**_____

New Resources Required:
None

Statement of Non-Duplication: (This field of study does not duplicate any other current program at the University.) Please attach a letter from the affected department (s) if duplication will occur.
_____N/A_____

Signatures and Date: (If disapproved at any level, do not sign. Return to previous signer.)

Department/Division Chair:_____

College Curriculum Committee:_____

College Dean:_____

Dean of Libraries:_____

Chair, Graduate Council:_____

Provost/VP Academic Affairs:_____

Presidential Approval (Date):_____

Board of Governors Approval (Date):_____

9/22/06

Program Orientation
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Marshall University offers a supportive environment for students who wish to pursue advanced training in sociology or anthropology as well as those for whom the Master's level is the final degree. The curriculum is designed to provide our students with a wide range of options in pursuit of their academic and professional goals and interests, while also providing solid training in core foundational aspects of the two disciplines. Students learn both qualitative and quantitative research methods and are exposed to a variety of subfields and theoretical perspectives. Faculty core strengths include: theory, social movements and social change, inequality, stratification, deviance, cultural diversity, social interaction and group processes, world systems/globalization, social institutions (religion, family, work and occupations, health care, politics and the economy), criminology, gerontology, qualitative and quantitative research methods, and advanced statistical analysis.

Admission Requirements
Admission to the program is offered to a limited number of qualified students demonstrating academic excellence and professional promise. Admission is granted on a full-time or part-time basis, with preferred entrance in the fall semester of each year. Consideration for admission is based on a complete application which consists of:
· Graduate College application form;
· Personal statement describing interests in the program and future plans;
· Official transcripts from all academic institutions attended;
· Standardized test scores (GRE);
· International students must provide evidence of English language proficiency such as the TOEFL;
· A minimum of 12 credit hours of undergraduate sociology course work;
· Undergraduate grade point average (GPA), overall and in sociology;
· A writing sample: a copy of one paper (10-25 pages) from an undergraduate course, preferably a sociology or anthropology course; and
· Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic or professional competence.

Full Admission is granted to applicants who have submitted a complete application, fulfill the requirements stated above, and achieved a combined GRE score of 651. Students who do not fulfill all requirements stated above (including the minimum GRE score) may be admitted on a provisional or conditional basis.

Provisional: A student may be admitted as provisional when he or she shows academic promise but does not meet the criteria for full admission. A provisional student must be reclassified as fully admitted no later than the completion of the 12th graduate credit hour. This is accomplished by maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA in courses identified in the students' Plan of Study (see below).

Conditional Enrollment: Students who have not submitted all forms may be admitted with conditional enrollment status in the semester for which they have applied for entry based upon submission of (1) a properly completed Graduate Application for Admission form, (2) an official undergraduate transcript that certifies the receipt of a bachelor's degree from an accepted,

regionally accredited institution, (3) an overall undergraduate GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and (4) the appropriate application fee. Applicants who are permitted to enroll for one semester as conditional students (even if they do not attend the classes) are not eligible to register for subsequent terms until they complete all admission requirements and are fully/or provisionally admitted to the requested program.

To receive full consideration all application materials must be received by April 15 for the Fall semester and by November 15 for the Spring semester. Students should plan to take the GRE as early in the year as possible.

Performance Standards

In addition to regular courses and seminars, the graduate student is expected to contribute to his/her professional growth through interaction with the faculty and other graduate students, and from independent study and reading during residency. The criteria for being granted an M.A. include: completion of the credit hour requirements, passing comprehensive examinations, and the successful defense of the thesis or completion of the non-thesis option. The student is expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students who fail to maintain the necessary grade point average will be placed on probation or will be separated from the program. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology maintains a *"one C rule"* whereby students will be placed on academic probation if they earn more than one grade of *C* or lower in any graduate courses. Maximum course load is 12 credit hours a semester; a 9 credit hour load is considered to be full-time for courses taken at the graduate level. Students who have teaching assistantships are advised to take no more than 9 or 10 credit hours.

Plan of Study

The Sociology Master of Arts degree requires the completion of 33 hours of coursework plus SOC 681 thesis hours for the Thesis Option, or completion of 36 hours of coursework plus SOC 679 for the Non-Thesis Option. The curriculum is structured around a set of core requirements and a set of disciplinary focus areas that together provide a strong foundation in sociological theory, research methods and data analysis. At least half of all graduate credit hours taken must be at the 600 level. Students, in consultation with their advisor, must complete an official "Plan of Study" during their first semester or before completion of 12 credit hours. The Plan of Study must be approved by the Graduate Program Director in the department before submission to the Office of the Graduate College. All students must successfully pass comprehensive exams to demonstrate broad comprehension and synthesis of sociology (and, in case the Anthropology Area of Emphasis is chosen, also anthropology); the comprehensive exam will be in conjunction with the defense of the thesis for students choosing that option or will be an examination in an appropriate form after the approval of a problem report.

Core Requirements

All students are required to complete 15 hours of core courses (Fall 2010):
SOC 600 Classical Sociological Theory
SOC 601 Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 605 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis
SOC 606 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis
SOC 609 Professional Development

SOC 605 and SOC 606, are a two-course research methods sequence that should be completed by all students during the first academic year in the graduate program if possible (or within the first 12 graduate credit hours for part-time students). Exceptions are made for students who must take prerequisite courses before enrolling in this sequence.

Electives (18 hours for thesis option and 21 hours for non-thesis option; for the specific requirements for the Anthropology Area of Emphasis see below)

The department offers a variety of electives which are bundled in four disciplinary focus areas and an area of emphasis in anthropology. Graduate level courses from other departments may be taken with approval from the Director of Graduate Studies and the course instructor.

To guarantee breadth of education, courses from more than one focus area have to be taken. Note that some classes contribute to more than one focus area; a student can count such classes in more than one focus area for this requirement, but must of course still meet the requirement for the total number of credit hours. To guarantee depth, students also have to take more courses of a particular focus area, declare a minor, or opt for the area of emphasis in anthropology as described below:

Breadth:
Non-thesis option: One courses from each focus area 1 thru 4 (12hrs)

Thesis option: Thesis related to one focus, one course from each of the three remaining focus areas (9hrs)

Depth:
Additional courses from one focus area or a Minor (9hrs).

Focus area 1: Organizations and Institutions

SOC 508	The Family
SOC 533	Sociology of Work
SOC 550	Sociology of Religion
SOC 564	Complex Organizations
SOC 580	Special Topic (dependent on content)
SOC 668	Seminar (dependent on content)

Focus area 2: Stratification and diversity

SOC 523	Social Class, Power and Conflict
SOC 525	Race and Ethnicity
SOC 532	Sociology of Appalachia
SOC 555	Sociology of Sex and Gender
SOC 655	Feminist Social Theory
SOC 580	Special Topic (dependent on content)
SOC 668	Seminar (dependent on content)

Focus area 3: Demography, health, and human environments

SOC 501	Population and Human Ecology
SOC 528	Medical Sociology
SOC 532	Sociology of Appalachia
SOC 540	Introduction to Sociology of Aging
SOC 542	Urban Sociology
SOC 552	Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 640	Problems and Prospects for an Aging Society
SOC 580	Special Topic (dependent on content)
SOC 668	Seminar (dependent on content)

Focus area 4: Social problems and collective behavior

SOC 513	Social Movements and Social Change
SOC 520	Criminology
SOC 535	Juvenile Delinquency
SOC 560	The Holocaust and Genocide
SOC 602	Contemporary Social Change
SOC 620	Criminology
SOC 640	Problems and Prospects for an Aging Society
SOC 580	Special Topic (dependent on content)
SOC 668	Seminar (dependent on content)

Anthropology Area of Emphasis (12 credit hours)
The requirements for the Area of Emphasis include:
ANT 600 Ethnographic Methods
ANT 567 Culture through Ethnography or ANT 591 Theory in Ethnology
An additional two classes (6 credit hours) of courses at the 500- or 600-level in Anthropology as approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and included in the Plan of Study mentioned above.

Students who opt for the Anthropology Area of Emphasis have to choose courses from two out of the four sociology focus areas if they write a thesis *or* from three out of the four sociology focus areas if they write a problem report to comply with the breadth requirements discussed above.

Sociology Minor
A minor in sociology is earned by taking at least 6 credit hours in courses at the 500- or 600-level in Sociology as approved by the student’s advisor and the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Anthropology Minor
A minor in anthropology is earned by taking at least 6 credit hours in courses at the 500- or 600-level in Anthropology as approved by the student’s advisor and the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.