Memo to the CEP

From: David Hess, DUS, Sociology, and Katharine Donato, Chair, Sociology

Date: December 21, 2012

Rationale: The Sociology Department is requesting some changes in its curriculum based on the fact that the concentration clusters have not been changed for many years, and they no longer reflect the current teaching and research strengths of the department. All changes are underlined. All changes were voted on with unanimous support of the department (16-0) in the department meeting of December 6, except #4 and #5, which were approved with unanimous support of the department (16-0) in the department meeting of October 8.

The changes are as follows.

1. HOD double majors have pointed out that there is an overlap with Soc 211. We have reviewed both courses carefully after receiving requests for a variance to allow HOD 1700 to count as Soc 211, and we have decided to make this a permanent change. We want to preserve the option for students to take both Soc 211 and HOD 1700, so they are not “anti-requisites.”

2. Independent Research 295a and 295b are redundant with independent studies and the honors courses, and they are no longer used, so we are deleting them from the catalog. The deletions have been submitted through ORCA.

3. We have updated the honors curriculum to reflect the actual experience and to clarify the requirements.

4. We have specified that the advanced electives can only include one 100-level course.

5. We have added a recommendation that the advanced electives be taken in a concentration cluster. The concentration clusters will be available from the DUS, on the departmental web site, and in the advising handout. The undergraduate committee discussed making the clusters a requirement and decided that it would not be the best option for all students. These are recommendations, with full information to appear on the departmental web site.
The following will be advising clusters available on the departmental web site and in the department’s undergraduate handbook. The department will recommend, but not require, that students take their three electives in a way that constitutes a subfield specialty. Unlike the four core areas, these are non-exclusive, so a course may be listed more than once.

**Cultural Sociology:** Soc 204, 218, 219, 227, 228, 229, 246, 248  
**Environmental Sociology and Demography:** Soc 206, Soc 220, 221, 270, 274; ENVS 278  
**Medical Sociology:** Soc 205, 237, 264, 268; MHS 231, MHS 240  
**Legal-Political Sociology & Criminology:** Soc 216, 224, 225, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 240, 244, 247, 249, 251, 270, 277, 279  
**Sociology of Ethnicity, Gender, and Race:** Soc 204, 205, 207, 239, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 268, 272, 274, 277, 279; Jewish Studies 155, 158
PROPOSED CATALOG CHANGES.

Program of Concentration in Sociology
Students majoring in sociology are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of work in sociology. The major consists of five types of courses: introduction to sociology; a course in theory; courses that emphasize research skills; courses that familiarize students with core areas of the field; and electives. The statistics course must be taken prior to Sociology 212.

Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

*Introduction*: Sociology 101, 101W, or 102, or 102W 3

*Theory*: Sociology 201 3

*Research Skills*: (3 courses)
Sociology 127 or Economics 150 or 155 or Math 127b or 218 (or PSY 209 or PSY 2101 (Peabody) for those students who double major in sociology and Psychology or in sociology and the Peabody majors in human and organizational development, child development, cognitive studies, or child studies) followed by or concurrent with 3

followed by or concurrent with

Sociology 211 (or HOD 1700 for students who double major in sociology and HOD) 3

followed by

Sociology 212 (or 6 credits two semesters of Sociology 296 (Honors Research); or at least three credit hours of Independent Research 299 with and the approval of the chair or director of undergraduate studies) 3-6

*Core Areas*: (3 courses)
Students must take at least one course in three of the four core areas listed below 9

*Culture, Institutions, and Socialization*
Sociology 214, 218, 219, 227, 228, 229, 230, 246, 248, 254, 277, 279

*Health, Environment, Population, and Migration*
Sociology 205, 206, 220, 221, 237, 264, 268, 270, 274; ENVS 287; MHS 231, 240

*Politics, Law, and Conflict*
Sociology 204, 216, 224, 225, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 240, 244, 247, 249, 251; Jewish Studies 252

*Race, Ethnicity, and Gender*
Sociology 204, 239, 247, 250, 251, 253, 255, 256, 257, 272; Jewish Studies 155, 158

*Electives*: (3 courses)
Any 3 sociology courses not used to satisfy the above requirements. They may include only one of the following 100-level sociology courses: Sociology 104, 104W, or 115F. The Sociology Department advises students to group their three elective sociology courses in a cluster of advanced concentration electives
to be selected with the student’s adviser. See the DUS or the departmental web site for suggested clusters (http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sociology/VDOS_Undergraduate.shtml).

Total credit hours: 33-36

Comprehensive Exam

In order to graduate with a sociology major, students must take a comprehensive exam during their senior year. The exam is not graded, and no grade will appear on the student’s transcript. The purpose of the exam is to test the extent to which sociology majors are retaining core aspects of the sociology curriculum.

The Honors Program

The Honors Program offers superior majors in sociology the opportunity to pursue intensive work through an independent research project. Students interested in pursuing the honors program in sociology should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies for more information. To be considered for the Honors Program in Sociology, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and a minimum GPA of 3.3 for courses that count toward the sociology major. Students who meet the College of Arts and Science requirements and are recommended for the program by the Director of Undergraduate Studies will typically begin the program in the fall of their junior or senior year.

Students who complete the honors sequence take a minimum of 36 credit hours to complete the requirements for the major in sociology. The first semester of 296 (Honors Research) is a 3-credit hour seminar in which students develop the literature review and research plan for the honors thesis. In the second semester of 296 (Honors Research), also for 3 credit hours, students must complete the research and data collection, data analysis, and initial write-up of results of the thesis. Students may elect to take a third or fourth semester of 296 during their senior year, when they may, for example, work on revisions of the project and/or on publication. Students who begin the honors program in their senior year may also take more than 6 credit hours of 296, up to a maximum of 12 credit hours.

The Honors program in Sociology requires:

- Successful completion of at least two semesters of 296 (Honors Research).
- Successful defense of the completed thesis through an oral defense attended by the chair and reader of the thesis; this oral defense typically takes place during the second semester of the student’s senior year. In order to earn honors in sociology, students must successfully complete and defend an honors thesis before graduation.
PROPOSED CATALOG CHANGES.

Program of Concentration in Sociology
Students majoring in sociology are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of work in sociology. The major consists of five types of courses: introduction to sociology; a course in theory; courses that emphasize research skills; courses that familiarize students with core areas of the field; and electives. The statistics course must be taken prior to Sociology 212.

Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

Introduction: Sociology 101, 101W, 102, or 102W 3

Theory: Sociology 201 3

Research Skills: (3 courses)
Sociology 127 or Economics 150 or 155 or Math 127b or 218 (or PSY 209 or PSY 2101 (Peabody) for those students who double major in sociology and Psychology or in sociology and the Peabody majors in human and organizational development, child development, cognitive studies, or child studies) followed by or concurrent with

Sociology 211 (or HOD 1700 for students who double major in sociology and HOD) 3

followed by

Sociology 212 (or two semesters of Sociology 296 (Honors Research); or at least three credit hours of Independent Research 299 and the approval of the chair or director of undergraduate studies) 3-6

Core Areas: (3 courses)
Students must take at least one course in three of the four core areas listed below 9

Culture, Institutions, and Socialization
Sociology 214, 218, 219, 227, 228, 229, 230, 246, 248, 254, 277, 279

Health, Environment, Population, and Migration
Sociology 205, 206, 220, 221, 237, 264, 268, 270, 274; ENVS 287; MHS 231, 240

Politics, Law, and Conflict
Sociology 204, 216, 224, 225, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 240, 244, 247, 249, 251; Jewish Studies 252

Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
Sociology 204, 239, 247, 250, 251, 253, 255, 256, 257, 272; Jewish Studies 155, 158

Electives: (3 courses)
Any 3 sociology courses not used to satisfy the above requirements. They may include only one of the following 100-level sociology courses: Sociology 104, 104W, or 115F. The Sociology Department advises students to group their three elective sociology courses in a cluster of advanced concentration electives.
The curriculum.

Students may, for example, complete a thesis; this oral defense typically takes place during the second semester of the student’s senior year. In order to earn honors in sociology, students must successfully complete and defend an honors thesis before graduation.

The Honors Program

The Honors Program offers superior majors in sociology the opportunity to pursue intensive work through an independent research project. Students interested in pursuing the honors program in sociology should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies for more information. To be considered for the Honors Program in Sociology, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 and a minimum GPA of 3.3 for courses that count toward the sociology major. Students who meet the College of Arts and Science requirements and are recommended for the program by the Director of Undergraduate Studies will typically begin the program in the fall of their junior or senior year.

Students who complete the honors sequence take a minimum of 36 credit hours to complete the requirements for the major in sociology. The first semester of 296 (Honors Research) is a 3-credit hour seminar in which students develop the literature review and research plan for the honors thesis. In the second semester of 296 (Honors Research), also for 3 credit hours, students must complete the research and data collection, data analysis, and initial write-up of results of the thesis. Students may elect to take a third or fourth semester of 296 during their senior year, when they may, for example, work on revisions of the project and/or on publication. Students who begin the honors program in their senior year may also take more than 6 credit hours of 296, up to a maximum of 12 credit hours.

The Honors program in Sociology requires:

- Successful completion of at least two semesters of 296 (Honors Research).
- Successful defense of the completed thesis through an oral defense attended by the chair and reader of the thesis; this oral defense typically takes place during the second semester of the student’s senior year. In order to earn honors in sociology, students must successfully complete and defend an honors thesis before graduation.