



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Julio Frenk  
University President

**From:** Linda L. Neider  
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is placed over the 'From' field.

**Date:** October 29, 2020

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-11(B) – Revise the Master of Arts (M.A.) in  
Sociology Program, College of Arts and Sciences.

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The Faculty Senate, at its October 28, 2020 meeting, had no objections to the proposal to revise the Master of Arts in Sociology Program for the College of Arts and Sciences to streamline the curriculum and embed it with the PhD program. Please note this is not a standalone program.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/rh/vpa

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Alexis Piquero, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology  
John W. Murphy, Professor, Director, Sociology Graduate Program

**CAPSULE:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-11(B) – Revise the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Sociology Program, College of Arts and Sciences.

**PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: 11/18/20  
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY  
(pending any additional approval by the Board of Trustees)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/03/20 2:01 pm

Viewing: **M.A. in Sociology : SOCL\_MA**

Last edit: 03/09/20 4:11 pm

Changes proposed by: Patty Murphy (pxm491)

Catalog Pages Using  
this Program

[M.A. in Sociology](#)

## In Workflow

1. PG Assessment and Accreditation
2. PG SOC GR Director
3. PG SOC Chair
4. PG AS Assoc Dean
5. PG AS GR Sr Assoc Dean
6. PG AS Dean
7. PG University Accreditation
8. PG GR School
9. PG Graduate Council
10. PG GR Dean
11. PG FS Office for GWC
12. PG FS GWC
13. PG Faculty Senate
14. PG FS Office for President
15. PG Registrar

## Approval Path

1. 02/06/20 12:41 pm  
Patty Murphy  
(pxm491): Approved  
for PG Assessment  
and Accreditation
2. 02/06/20 3:41 pm  
John Murphy  
(j.murphy):  
Approved for PG  
SOC GR Director
3. 02/06/20 3:48 pm  
Maria Stampino

- (mgstampino):  
Approved for PG  
SOC Chair
4. 02/20/20 10:23 am  
Charles Mallery  
(cmallery):  
Approved for PG AS  
Assoc Dean
5. 02/20/20 1:15 pm  
Kenneth Voss  
(voss): Approved for  
PG AS GR Sr Assoc  
Dean
6. 09/01/20 5:57 pm  
Leonidas Bachas  
(l.bachas):  
Approved for PG AS  
Dean
7. 09/03/20 2:27 pm  
Patty Murphy  
(pxm491): Approved  
for PG University  
Accreditation
8. 09/08/20 1:31 pm  
Tiffany Plantan  
(tplantan):  
Approved for PG GR  
School
9. 09/16/20 9:27 am  
Tiffany Plantan  
(tplantan):  
Approved for PG  
Graduate Council
10. 09/16/20 10:33 pm  
Guillermo Prado  
(gprado): Approved  
for PG GR Dean

*Please list the authors of this proposal including name, rank/title, program/department, and school.*

Proposer(s) Name

John W. Murphy  
 Professor of Sociology  
 Director of the Sociology Graduate Program

Change Type All Other Changes

Provide a brief  
 summary of the  
 change

1. Eliminate SOC 615 and SOC 616 as required and make them elective courses at both the MA and the Ph.D. level.
2. Have four, rather than three, elective courses at the MA level. (These can include doctoral level courses).
3. The thesis continues to be required for the MA program.
4. Once these proposed curriculum changes are accepted at all requisite university levels, students continuing in the program will be contacted and asked to decide whether they want to operate under the existing departmental guidelines in force upon their entry into the sociology program or the new rules being implemented. Students must choose one or the other; they may not select individual items from both sets of guidelines.

Career Graduate

Academic Structure

School/ College	Department
College of Arts and Sciences	Sociology

Plan Type Major and/or Degree

Degree Type Master's

Degree Name **Master of Arts**

Proposed Plan Code

Plan Name M.A. in Sociology

Will there be any subcomponents within the program such as concentrations, specializations, thesis/non-thesis options, or tracks?

**No**

Effective Term Spring 2021

First Term Valid Spring 2021

Program Instruction Mode                      In Person

Where is the program offered?

Location	Please provide the % of instruction at each location.
Coral Gables Campus	100

Program Length (Years)                      2

Total Credits                                      31

### To Be Published in the Academic Bulletin

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Program Overview

**N/A**

Program Mission Statement

**N/A**

Program Goals

**N/A**

Student Learning Outcomes

**N/A**

Curriculum Requirements

***NOTE: All incoming graduate students are admitted to the Ph.D. program and must be committed to pursuing the Ph.D. degree. The Graduate Program in Sociology at the University of Miami does not accept students who aspire to earn a terminal M.A. degree.***

## Curriculum Requirements

<a href="#"><u>SOC 601</u></a>	Classical Sociological Theory	3
<a href="#"><u>SOC 604</u></a>	Proseminar in Sociology	1
<a href="#"><u>SOC 609</u></a>	Social Statistics	3
<a href="#"><u>SOC 610</u></a>	Advanced Research Methods	3
or <a href="#"><u>SOC 613</u></a>	Qualitative Research Methods	
<a href="#"><u>SOC 611</u></a>	Advanced Sociological Statistical Analysis I	3
<b>Select one of the following:</b>		
<a href="#"><u>SOC 615</u></a>	<del>Class Structure and Social Stratification</del>	<del>3</del>

<del>or SOC 616</del>	<del>Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives</del>	
<del>Three additional courses 1</del>		<del>9</del>
<b>Four additional courses 1, 2</b>		<b>12</b>
<u>SOC 810</u>	Master's Thesis	6

Additional Requirements

Students must submit and successfully defend a thesis in accordance with graduate school policy

Total Credit Hours 31

- 1 These electives should include anticipated Ph.D. courses.
- 2 Funded, full time students will complete 37 credits as a result of funding requirements. These should include beginning Ph.D. courses.**
- \* An M.A. in sociology is offered as the first step in the Ph.D.
- \*\* A minimum of 31 credit hours at the graduate level 600 of which 6 must be taken in thesis work. Funded full time students will complete 37 credits as a result of funding requirements.
- \*\*\* A maximum of 6 credit hours can be transferred from acceptable graduate institutions if they have not been applied to a degree at another university, and with the approval of the Graduate Committee.
- \*\*\*\* 3 credit hours of course work may be earned in a related discipline. Such course selections must have prior departmental approval.
- \*\*\*\*\*The completion of all other requirements stated in sections of the Bulletin devoted to requirements for the Master’s Degree and General Information.

## Plan of Study

## Sample Plan of Study

### Plan of Study Grid

## Year One

Fall		Credit Hours
<b><u>SOC 601</u></b>	<b>Classical Sociological Theory</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>SOC 604</u></b>	<b>Proseminar in Sociology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>SOC 609</u></b>	<b>Social Statistics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
	Credit Hours	10

## Spring

<b><u>SOC 610</u> or <u>613</u></b>	<b>Advanced Research Methods or Qualitative Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>SOC 611</u></b>	<b>Advanced Sociological Statistical Analysis I3</b>	
<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
	Credit Hours	9

## Year Two

<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
<b><u>SOC 810</u></b>	<b>Master's Thesis</b>	<b>3</b>
	Credit Hours	9
<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Elective</b>		<b>3</b>
<b><u>SOC 810</u></b>	<b>Master's Thesis</b>	<b>3</b>
	Credit Hours	9
	Total Credit Hours	37

## Admission Requirements

N/A

## Rationale



## Rationale

The External Review Report made numerous recommendations for our graduate program. Among these were revisions to the curriculum requirements to reduce time devoted to coursework. To understand better these changes, we need to think of the M.A. and Ph.D. programs as existing together and in coordination. Overall, in our proposed changes, we are seeking to streamline the program. To aid in our efforts, we examined programmatic requirements at several top sociology doctoral programs, including The Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, the University of Maryland, Indiana University, UCLA, UC-Berkeley and the University of Texas. To this end, and consistent with the External Review Report recommendation to reduce the number of required classes, we propose several changes.

## Market Demand

## Relationship to Other Programs

## Relationship to Undergraduate and Professional Programs

## Library Resources Available and Needed to Support the Program

## Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Space Available and Needed to Support the Program

## Other Resources Available or Needed to Support the Program

## Curriculum

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## Program Curriculum

### Coursework Changes:

Eliminate SOC 615 or SOC 616 as required and make them elective courses.

Have four, rather than three, elective courses. (These can include doctoral level courses).

Rationale: This streamlines the curriculum. Through advising, students will be able to complete more of the doctoral program while at the MA level.

### Changes Associated with Other Program Requirements :

Master's Thesis: The thesis continues to be required for the MA program.

The external reviewers recommended that we eliminate the thesis requirement at the M.A. level. We disagree.

The programs we consulted all required theses to complete the M.A. degree. Moreover, we view this as an extremely valuable (typically) first opportunity for students to organize and complete a substantial and independent research project. This project may well set them up for completing the publishable quality paper, the dissertation, and potentially other publications.

Upload Syllabi for Any New Courses

Proposed Schedule of Course Offerings for the First Three Years

## CIP Code

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Proposed CIP Code

## Faculty

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Program Directors

Upload CV(s)

Program Faculty

Upload CV(s) Grad

## Students

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Applicant Pool

Enrollment Projections

Teaching or Research Assistants

## Administration

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Program Administration

## Comparison

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Peer Comparisons

## Documents

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Attach Supporting Documentation

Reviewer

Comments

**Maria Stampino (mgstampino) (02/06/20 3:47 pm):** The faculty of the Department of Sociology approved these changes at meetings on October 9 and 16 and 30, 2019.

**Leonidas Bachas (l.bachas) (09/01/20 5:57 pm):** The Arts and Sciences faculty voted to approve this proposal on April 27, 2020. I support the proposed MA

**Patty Murphy (pxm491) (09/03/20 2:26 pm):** This change does not represent a substantive change and so will not require notification to or approval from SACSCOC prior to implementation. Please note that this master's program is not a standalone program. It is embedded within the PhD curriculum.

**Tiffany Plantan (tplantan) (09/16/20 9:27 am):** Notification item only. No concerns expressed by Council Members.

Key: 283