

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY: FROM  
SOCIOLOGY TO SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to change the department name from Sociology to Sociology and Criminal Justice in the Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Agriculture & Life Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

**Background:** Beginning in Fall 2016, the Department of Sociology at Iowa State University launched a new undergraduate major in Criminal Justice, becoming one of three distinct majors in the department (Sociology, Criminal Justice, Agriculture and Society). Eight of the 21 tenured/tenure-track faculty in the department (38%) identify criminology or criminal justice as their major research focus.

Fall 2019 undergraduate enrollments (first majors only)

- Criminal Justice = 376
- Sociology = 61
- Agriculture & Society = 23

Among the 26 current PhD/MS students, nine (35%) identify criminology/criminal justice as their primary area of interest.

**Reason for proposed change:** The faculty would like the department name to reflect its current composition, which includes students and faculty in the fields of both sociology and criminal justice. The faculty voted 20-1 in favor of changing the department title following the February 5, 2020 faculty meeting.

Therefore, the intent of this proposal is to:

- Better reflect our current curriculum and the current and future research of department faculty, which includes criminal justice.
- Better recruit and retain undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty interested in this discipline.

Given the national and state trends, the department name change at ISU will be in keeping with those at other Regents institutions and at other similarly-situated institutions (University of Iowa, Department of Sociology and Criminology; University of Northern Iowa, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology).

**Effect on program configuration:** There are no changes to the program configuration. This name will better reflect the existing program configuration.

**Effect on students:** There is no impact on current students. All programs offered in the department will continue.

**Effect on resources:** The proposed change will not require new resources.

**Date of implementation:** July 2021.