

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Science in Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The Department of Sociology and Criminology administers a BA and a BS in Sociology. Sociology provides a broad foundation for a number of careers that require a deep understanding of human interactions and behaviors. Though broad in scope, sociology can be broken down into many marketable specializations, including family and health services, human relations and business, social psychology, and social and political organization.

Reason for proposed termination. The BS degree was designed to be a statistics-intensive program for undergraduates that included an introductory graduate-level statistics courses. However, the demand for this degree has been low: of 96 sociology majors, only five students are currently enrolled in the BS track (5.3%). In addition, the department has had difficulty screening students to ensure that they are fully prepared for the rigorous math requirements of the upper-level courses. This is creating additional hurdles for some of the students who opt for the BS.

Effect on current students. Students who are currently enrolled will be allowed to complete their degree requirements. Of the five students in the BS, four are third-year students and the fifth is a first-year student. The undergraduate courses necessary for degree completion will still be offered, and the department will arrange for these students to be allowed to enroll in the required graduate statistics courses (SOC:6170 and SOC:6180).

For future students who are interested in additional quantitative training, the department will ensure that students have access to needed courses through the certificate program in Social Science Analytics (which is currently offered to both BA and BS students).

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends. Enrolled students do not need to separately apply for this major. List below are enrollments and completions only.

	Enrollment	Completions
2022	2	1
2021	2	1
2020	4	3
2019	3	0
2018	3	1

Impact on resources. There should be no loss of enrollment in the sociology major due to this change; the same courses will be available and the BS does not offer advantages over the BA in the relevant job markets. There will be an opportunity for cost savings as teaching resources are reallocated to courses that better serve the much more popular and larger BA major.

Impact on workforce. Given the low enrollment and graduation rates in this degree, UI does not anticipate any effect on workforce needs. The BS does not offer advantages over the BA in the relevant job markets.

Alternative programs. Currently Iowa State University also offers a BS in Sociology. All other programs in the state offer a BA.

Iowa State	BA, BS, and minor
University of Northern Iowa	BA
Central College	BA
Clarke University	BA
Coe College	BA
Cornell College	BA
Drake University	BA
Grinnell College	BA
Loras College	BA
Luther College	BA
Mount Mercy University	BA
St Ambrose University	BA
Simpson College	BA
University of Dubuque	BA
Upper Iowa University	BA
Wartburg College	BA
William Penn University	BA

Effective date of termination. August 2023.