

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Department of Sociology to the Department of Sociology and Criminology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Recommendation: The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this change.

Reason for change: Beginning in fall 2017, the Department of Sociology launched a new undergraduate major entitled Criminology, Law and Justice. Therefore, the department is now home to two undergraduate majors. Both majors confer a broad base of knowledge about human behavior, social environments and public policy, as well as offering training in critical thinking, research design and data analysis. The Criminology, Law and Justice major is more focused on the study of the causes, consequences, prevention and control of crime. The faculty would like the department name to reflect its current composition, which includes students and faculty in the fields of both sociology and criminology. The faculty voted 14-0 in favor of changing the department title at the March 1, 2019 faculty meeting.

Impact on Students: Incorporating criminology into the department title will be helpful to current and future students. Comments from undergraduate students in the past indicate that a lack of criminology in the department name is confusing to them as they searched for a major. The Criminology, Law and Justice major is popular, and outreach to new students will be facilitated by a name change. Letters of recommendation from a Department of Sociology and Criminology may prove helpful for Criminology, Law and Justice majors when applying to graduate school. For graduate students, the department name may help attract students interested in graduate studies in the area of sociological criminology.

Relationship to accreditation: There are no known accreditation issues for this name change.

Date of implementation: August 2019